



## GRADUATE COLLEGE

### **Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Ph.D., Dean, Graduate College and Professor, History University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

**Interview:** Arrive on Wednesday, February 28 through Friday, March 1

**Campus Forum:** Thursday, February 29, 3:30 – 4:30 PM, 010 Willard

**Reception:** Immediately following

**Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser** is a professor of History at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where she has served as Dean of the Graduate School since 2013.

The second-largest university in the state, UL recently earned the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning prestigious R1 designation and, as reported in the most-recent NSF HERD Survey, is among the nation's top 100 public research universities. Graduate education and its growth have played an instrumental role in these institutional achievements.

Graduate education has provided a rich space for Farmer-Kaiser to develop and to lead as an engaged teacher, mentor, colleague, and administrator. She has served as graduate coordinator, chaired the Graduate Council, chaired committees, cultivated gifts to support grad education, and more prior her appointment as dean. She now engages daily with scholars from 31 departments and seven academic colleges, in addition to collaborating broadly across all university units to build both relationships and strengthen graduate education.

Her leadership benefits greatly from an extensive network of colleagues and experience in graduate education. Farmer-Kaiser presently serves as the president of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) and is an elected member of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) Board of Directors. Her service as an advisory board member for the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Program and ex-officio member of the Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools (CHBGS) Executive Committee informs and reinforces her commitment to an inclusive graduate education community. She also has served as president of the Louisiana Council of Graduate Schools, a state organization that brings together the graduate education leadership from 16 incredibly diverse institutions. This community has provided much opportunity to learn from and with leaders from other institutions—large and small, public and private, HBCU, MSI, and PWI—to move metrics essential both to achieving institutional priorities and to strengthening graduate education at and beyond her own campus.

Championing access and inclusion in education is a personal and professional priority for Farmer-Kaiser. She is a first-generation college student who benefited from the education, opportunity, and sense of belonging afforded to her by the faculty at public research universities like Oklahoma State University. She also is a historian whose research is grounded in understanding the meaning of freedom and citizenship in our nation. What she knows to be true—personally and professionally—is that accessible, high-quality education is transformative to individuals, families, and communities.

Farmer-Kaiser earned her B.A. in History from Kansas State University; M.A. in History from Clemson University; and Ph.D. in History from Bowling Green State University.