

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **First Lady Sharon Landry and LDEQ Secretary Aurelia Giacometto Tour BASF Facility**

**GEISMAR** – The employees at the BASF Facility were excited to receive a visit from the First Lady Sharon Landry at the invitation of Secretary Aurelia Giacometto, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) for a tour of industry. The tour was themed - Industry... Feeds Louisiana, Fuels this Nation, and Funds Paradise for Sportswomen and men. This invite was an opportunity to introduce the First Lady to LDEQ, its mission, and its operations in regulating a variety of industries.

BASF has been operating in Louisiana for 60 years. BASF's Geismar site is a world-class chemical manufacturer with 32 production units, whose components are used in hundreds of everyday consumer items such as vehicles, tractor seats, memory foam pillows, air filter gaskets, and many more. BASF provided a visit of its Acetylene Plant and Minor Family Cemetery, and discussed its MDI expansion, which is a \$1 billion investment. One of the highlights was BASF's Female Leaders Advancing Manufacturing Excellence (FLAME) Program, where the First Lady and the Secretary met with 20 females in the Master Workshop. FLAME is career development opportunity for females within BASF.



***First Lady Sharon Landry, LDEQ Secretary Aurelia Giacometto, and Assistant Secretary Dr. Amanda Vincent tour BASF.***

“Workforce development is more than a goal; it's a movement,” First Lady Sharon Landry stated. “When I visited BASF, I witnessed firsthand how their program, FLAME seeks to increase the retention, engagement, and advancement of aspiring women in manufacturing roles.”

Secretary Giacometto highlighted the transformation the agency is taking to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including attracting new talent, streamlining permitting, and addressing legacy environmental projects.

Giacometto introduced the First Lady and BASF to the LDEQ Louisiana Environmental Ambassadors Program (LEAP), in which the first class consists of 12 students representing seven of Louisiana's higher education institutions, from undergraduate students to Ph.D. candidates. This paid summer internship matched students with programs throughout LDEQ to have first-hand experience in the various disciplines of environmental stewardship.

“LDEQ is essential in its role of clean and healthy environments, while enabling the growth of business. Science shows that these can co-exist. BASF is one great example of that, and to bring creative ideas and innovative products to be manufactured here in Louisiana,” she said.

“BASF was honored to host First Lady Sharon Landry and LDEQ Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto at our site,” said Jerry Lebold, Senior Vice President and General Manager of BASF’s site in Geismar, La. “The Geismar site has a long and distinguished history of serving the community and creating chemistry that benefits Ascension Parish, the State of Louisiana and our nation. We are proud to showcase BASF, the chemical manufacturing industry and the many talented people who work hard to make essential products we use every day.”



*Jerry Lebold, Senior VP of BASF Geismar Site welcomes everyone to BASF.*

**About Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality:** The mission of the Department of Environmental Quality is to provide service to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection in order to promote and protect human health, safety and welfare.

**About BASF:** With nearly 1,900 employees at BASF Geismar, it is now among one of the largest employers in Louisiana and is the company’s largest manufacturing facility in North America. BASF Louisiana sites have announced new projects yielding more than \$1 billion in new capital investment.