

First doctors graduate after Baton Rouge training

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It was a special commencement for the Tulane University School of Medicine and Baton Rouge General Medical Center. For the first time in the medical school's 177-year history, a portion of its graduating class spent clinical training years in Baton Rouge, La. Gregory Mitchell led the way as its top-performing student.



Gregory Mitchell earned the top award in the first Baton Rouge LEAD Academy graduating class of medical students who spent their hospital training years in Baton Rouge. (Photo by Candid Campus Photography)

The inaugural graduation of the Baton Rouge LEAD Academy class on May 19 was accompanied by the presentation of the first Eugene Berry, MD, Outstanding Student Award, which recognizes a medical student from the class for outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, professionalism, leadership and research. The award went to Mitchell, who plans to complete his residency training in urology at the Tulane [School of Medicine](#) in New Orleans.

Tulane and Baton Rouge General Medical Center established the LEAD (Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Discovery) [Academy](#) two years ago to allow medical

students to spend their third- and fourth-year clinical rotations based at Baton Rouge General's Mid City hospital. Experienced Baton Rouge General physicians serve as teachers, mentors and role models for students at the satellite campus.

“Working together, Tulane University School of Medicine and Baton Rouge General are committed to enhancing medical education opportunities in Baton Rouge and training our community's future physician leaders,” said Dr. Benjamin Sachs, medical school dean and senior vice president at Tulane.

As the only Tulane School of Medicine satellite campus, the Baton Rouge LEAD Academy “is an important component of expanding Baton Rouge General's role as a teaching hospital and continues the transformation of Baton Rouge into a center of medical education and leadership,” said Bill Holman, president and CEO of Baton Rouge General, a full-service community hospital with 544 licensed beds on two campuses.