The SHAPE America Southern District is excited to co-host the 2017 conference with the Louisiana AHPERD in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Our 2017 conference theme is “We are Family!”

If you know anything at all about Southern District, you know that we are indeed a huge family of professionals, friends and colleagues from across our 13 states. Think of the January 2017 conference as one big family reunion!

Over 200 program proposals were reviewed for the upcoming conference and several pre-conference workshops will also take place. Jim Deline, Physical Education Teacher at Highland Park Elementary in Austin, Texas will present a pre-conference workshop as well as breakout session.

Other pre-conference workshops include “Advocacy that Works”, “Social Media: What’s the Newest and Latest?”, and “Implementing a Health or Physical Education Program Effectively”.

The General Session speaker will be Dr. Robert Murray from The Ohio State University. Dr. Murray will deliver his remarks on “Nutrition, Activity, the Brain, and Learning.”

New research has shown that the key factors that shape brain development in childhood are: quality nutrition, regular physical activity, social play, exploration, and emotional support. This session will examine what we know about the role of each in building and maintaining the brain to promote optimal learning. Dr. Murray will also speak on “The Crucial Role of Recess” in a breakout session.

Our Scholar Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Xiaofen Keating from the University of Texas. There are also sessions scheduled for our Future Professionals, including the annual SuperStars Competition. “Louisiana Night” will feature a buffet dinner and Mardi Gras party for all conference goers. Let the good times roll with your friends and family!

I look forward to welcoming you to Southern District at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge, January 9-12, 2017 for our SHAPE America Southern District/ Louisiana AHPERD conference. And, as always, remember, We are Family!