



> A FAMILIAR FACE

ROSS BARRETT

GENERAL PARTNER
LOUISIANA VENTURES, LP

Over a three-day period last October, Ross Barrett had been recognized by Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco during the Louisiana Entrepreneurship Expo as “a Louisiana success story,” was featured on the front page of the “Money” section of *The Shreveport Times* for having secured “more than \$15 million to start bankrolling Louisiana technology companies or businesses with operations in the state,” and was the subject of a *Times* “Opinion” page editorial stating that the establishment of his venture capital fund signaled “real progress in finding people willing to invest in Louisiana’s best minds and most promising businesses.”

Shreveport was one of four locations that Barrett and his partners at VCE Capital Partners considered for expanding their venture capital business. This region won out over St. Paul, MN; Pittsburgh, PA; and Oklahoma City, OK, primarily because of the infrastructure that the Biomed has worked since 1989 to develop. Barrett and his partners also picked this region because of, in his own words, “the entrepreneurial climate, the openness to change, and good, clean, honest business attitudes.”

“I am excited about Shreveport,” says Barrett. “Louisiana is rich in its cultural economies. We have learned not to sell ourselves short on what we are good at and what we know. As a region, we have begun focusing on our strengths, which include expertise in pharmaceutical production and PET scan technologies that increase our potential for attracting the best and the brightest for life science research. Louisiana can and will succeed. I have raised millions of dollars that say so.”

Dennis Lower, InterTech Science Park Director and Vice President for Planning and Development of the Biomedical Research Foundation, is excited about having Ross Barrett here. He lists a host of reasons for welcoming Louisiana Ventures, LP, to North Louisiana. It improves the competitiveness of Biomed’s InterTech Science Park by allowing Lower and his team to advertise access to seed and early stage capital, supports other efforts to grow a life science industry in Northwest Louisiana and provides an introduction to Wall Street through Louisiana Venture’s contacts.

We’re glad you’re back, Ross. Welcome home.

“I AM EXCITED ABOUT SHREVEPORT,” SAYS BARRETT.

Barrett, a native of Shreveport, came home from Manhattan to found Louisiana Ventures, LP, a company that invests in Louisiana entities that are developing promising technologies. The emphasis is on businesses that use technical infrastructure and human capital with a concentration on health care and life sciences. To date, his fund has raised more than \$18 million to meet this state’s profound need for financing its fledgling knowledge-based economy. That figure is expected to almost double before summer’s end.

What brought Barrett home, and what excites him about being here?