Mr. Mark Romero, Chair
Board of Supervisors - University of Louisiana System
627 North 4th Street, Suite 2-203
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Letter of Interest – President of Louisiana Tech University

Dear Mr. Romero and Esteemed Members of the Presidential Search Committee:

As a native of North Louisiana, a graduate of Louisiana Tech University, a veteran of the United States Navy, and a current Senate-confirmed member of the President's Administration, I submit my application to serve as the next president of Louisiana Tech to this committee with great humility and professional enthusiasm. I maintain a clear understanding of the institution's distinct culture, history of academic excellence, and role as an economic and intellectual engine for North Louisiana. I bring the academic and organizational management experience necessary to lead Louisiana Tech into the future.

Louisiana Tech shaped the foundation of my professional and private life. From serving as student body president, being recognized as the Young Alumnus of the year in 2010, and addressing graduates as the commencement speaker in 2024, my heart has always been with Tech. It would be a privilege to return home and lead the university into its next chapter—honoring Louisiana Tech's past while boldly leading towards a stronger future.

Academically, I have pursued a foundation in science and engineering, combining this technical knowledge with advanced education in policymaking. I hold a Ph.D. from The George Washington University in public policy and public administration with a concentration in science and technology policy, a MS in engineering science (mechanical engineering) from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a BS in mechanical engineering from Louisiana Tech University, as well as a national security fellowship from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

My executive experience provides me with an unmatched skillset and the crucial decision-making abilities to lead Louisiana Tech. Currently, I serve as the Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation at the National Nuclear Security Administration within the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. In this capacity, I manage a budget of over $2 billion and lead approximately 400 highly specialized federal employees and contractors with the primary mission to deny, detect, and deter America's adversaries from acquiring nuclear and radiological weapons.

I have dedicated my life to service of our great nation, and I am excited for the opportunity to bring my unique experience and life lessons home to Louisiana. My view is that

Louisiana Tech is not only a regional institution, but a national and global institution. I strive to advance the university beyond its current boundaries and expand opportunities for the student body, exemplary graduates, and prestigious faculty, while maintaining deep roots in the local Ruston community and the great state of Louisiana.

My professional career – serving in the U.S. Navy, as a foreign policy expert within the Department of Navy, and as a Presidentially appointed government official – shows what is possible with a degree from Louisiana Tech, and I stand ready to be a guiding light for the students as they seek to reach their goals and aspirations.

I am drawn to Louisiana Tech's pioneering academic programs; world class research and development enterprise; and nationally competitive athletic program. I am proud of Louisiana Tech's ongoing commitment to student success and empirical learning, and I am encouraged by the distinct relationship between Louisiana Tech, the Ruston community, and local industry.

The next president must preserve Louisiana Tech's culture and heritage, while being a visionary, innovative, and trusted leader to accelerate basic and applied research, expand public-private partnerships, enhance economic development contributions, increase investment in the Louisiana Tech's endowment, and ensure that every student realizes their maximum potential.

My background in leading large and complex organizations; investing in the recruitment, retention, and advancement of a highly skilled workforce; and forging valuable international and industrial collaborations, combined with my deep political experience at the highest levels of the U.S. Government, position me to advance every aspect of Louisiana Tech. This endeavor will only be successful through close partnership with the faculty, staff, students, athletic institutions, alumni, Board of Supervisors, University of Louisiana System, the State Government, and the City of Ruston.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss how my professional and political experience, military service, Louisiana heritage, and long-standing personal commitment to this world-class institution can contribute to a bright future for Louisiana Tech. Thank you for your consideration. I have enclosed my curriculum vitae and a list of professional references, and I look forward to the possibility of serving as the next president of Louisiana Tech.

Ever Loyal Be,

Matthew C. Napoli, Ph.D.
Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation
U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration - Department of Energy

MATTHEW CLARK NAPOLI, Ph.D.

Alexandria, Virginia | (318) 614-4104 | matt.c.napoli@gmail.com
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/matt-c-napoli

EDUCATION

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY – Washington, D.C.
Doctor of Philosophy – 2019
Public Policy and Public Administration – concentration in Science and Technology Policy

NAVAL POST GRADUATE SCHOOL – Monterey, CA
Master of Science – 2006
Engineering Science – Mechanical Engineering

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY – Ruston, LA
Bachelor of Science – 2004
Mechanical Engineering

WORK HISTORY

U.S. NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION – DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Deputy Administrator (Assistant Secretary) for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation
(October 2025 – Present)

Senate-confirmed executive leading the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation. Mission encompasses denying, detecting, and defeating adversarial acquisition of nuclear and radiological weapons; managing all international nuclear cooperation agreements and nuclear technology export licensing for the Department of Energy; and partnering with U.S. industry to advance American energy competitiveness through security, safeguards, and proliferation resistance by design. Instituted a cultural shift toward urgency, decisive action, and balanced risk management while preserving technical excellence, efficiency, and accountability. Roles, responsibilities, and accomplishments include the following:

- Oversight of the Offices of Research and Development, Global Material Security, Material Management and Minimization, and Nonproliferation and Arms Control.

- Oversight of approximately 400 highly specialized federal employees and contractors; annual operating budget of approximately $2.4 billion, including approximately $900 million in research and development.

- Lead expert on Iran denuclearization and Russia/China strategic stability and arms control.

- Lead representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (Vienna) and lead U.S. delegate to the United Nations First Committee (New York).

- Oversight of the largest High Assay Low Enriched Uranium acquisition in NNSA history (in cooperation with the Government of Japan) to accelerate U.S. nuclear energy and security objectives.

- Lead negotiator for the U.S. – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia nuclear cooperation agreement and principal Department representative to Congress for the joint congressional review supporting entry into force.

- Oversight of successful cooperation with the new Venezuelan government, in partnership with the United Kingdom and International Atomic Energy Agency, to remove all remaining highly enriched uranium to the U.S., strengthening energy and security policy.

- Oversight of a multi-year, highly sophisticated scientific experiment at the Nevada National Security Site to enhance national capabilities for detecting covert underground nuclear explosions.

- Oversight of improved performance metrics that increased export-controls division output by more than 500 percent, significantly expanding Departmental support to U.S. industry.

U.S. NAVAL NUCLEAR PROPULSION PROGRAM
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF NAVY AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Executive Director of Foreign and Public Affairs
(April 2017 – October 2025)

The Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program is a joint military/civilian organization with total design, regulatory, and operational responsibility for nuclear propulsion plants of U.S. nuclear-powered warships (all submarines and aircraft carriers), approximately 50 percent of major naval combatants. Executive leader with oversight of all Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program headquarters foreign policy, public affairs, and interagency policy. Roles, responsibilities, and accomplishments include the following:

- Lead foreign policy advisor to the Director of Naval Reactors, a four-star Admiral.

- Lead policy representative to the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense and Royal Navy for executive management of the 1958 U.S./UK Mutual Defense Agreement on naval nuclear propulsion.

- Lead diplomatic representative to the Government of Japan in support of the forward-deployed nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in support of the U.S./Japan Alliance. Served as a first responder in support of Operation Tomodachi, providing U.S. assistance to the Government of Japan during the Fukushima Dai'ichi nuclear accident.

- Chief Architect of the Australia–United Kingdom–United States (AUKUS) cooperation agreement on naval nuclear propulsion termed AUKUS.

- Management of the public affairs division, including strategic communications, media engagements, social media, state and local outreach, annual publications, and nuclear emergency response communications.

- Executive representative to the National Security Council for Interagency policy matters, including uranium enrichment, international nuclear treaties, military cooperation, and arms control.

- Lead spokesperson for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program with responsibility for press conferences and media engagements during international and domestic exercises.

- Senior policy official for U.S. nuclear-powered warship port entry world-wide, over 150 ports in over 50 nations, negotiating and maintaining port access with senior government officials in coordination with the U.S. Embassies, the U.S. Interagency, and U.S. military commanders.

U.S. NAVAL NUCLEAR PROPULSION PROGRAM
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF NAVY AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Director of Foreign Affairs
(May 2009 – April 2017)

Senior manager of foreign and Interagency policy for the U.S. Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program headquarters. Roles and responsibilities include the following:

- Management of export licenses of Department of Energy Part 810 Nuclear Technology Regulations, State Department International Traffic in Arms Regulations, Commerce Department Export Administration Regulations, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission Part 110 Nuclear Hardware/Material Regulations.

- Lead policy, security, and intelligence oversight for the technology exchange with the United Kingdom under the auspices of 1958 U.S./UK Mutual Defense Agreement on naval nuclear propulsion.

- Lead policy representative to the Government of Japan with oversight of port entry policy for the forward-deployed nuclear powered aircraft carrier to Yokosuka, Japan.

- Representative to the National Security Council for Interagency policy on nuclear matters.

- Lead Instructor of foreign policy lectures for nuclear-powered warship Prospective Commanding Officers within the Department of Navy and for Defense/Naval Attachés at the Defense Intelligence Agency - Joint Military Attaché School.

U.S. NAVY
Active Duty Naval Officer – Lieutenant
(May 2004 – May 2009)

Management of the research, design, construction, testing, operation, maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion components, providing senior programmatic direction to defense contractors, two national laboratories, a dedicated engineering services corporation, and field offices at six naval shipyards. Roles and responsibilities include the following:

- Oversight of numerous first-of-a-kind component procurements for USS Gerald R. Ford class aircraft carrier, modernization efforts for the VIRGINIA Class submarine, initial design efforts for the COLUMBIA Class next generation ballistic missile submarine, as well as maintenance activities of nuclear propulsion plant components for NIMITZ Class aircraft carriers, ex-USS ENTERPRISE, LOS ANGELES Class submarines, OHIO Class submarines, and SEAWOLF Class submarines.

PUBLICATIONS

Napoli, Matthew C. (2019). Naval Nuclear Propulsion Proliferation: An Analysis of the Factors Impacting State Decision Making. ISBN: 978-1-392-08897-5. A dissertation for The George Washington University.

PRESENTATIONS

Commencement Address: Louisiana Tech University, 2024 (Ruston, LA)

Keynote Address: Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, 2026 (Austin, TX)

Keynote Address: Nuclear Deterrence Summit, 2026 (Washington, D.C.)

Keynote Address: International Atomic Energy Agency Cybersecurity Conference, 2026 (Vienna, Austria)

Keynote Address: Multilateral Senior Leaders Symposium, 2026 (Seoul, Korea - virtual)

Keynote Address: Los Alamos National Laboratory Safeguards Symposium, 2026 (Los Alamos, NM)

Keynote Address: Core Power Symposium – New Nuclear for Maritime: A New Era for the United States, 2026 (Washington, D.C.)

Keynote Address: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – The Future of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, 2026 (Washington, D.C.)

Lead Panelist: Sandia National Laboratory, 2026 (Livermore, CA)

Lead Panelist: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, 2026 (Livermore, CA)

Lead Panelist: Argonne National Laboratory, 2026 (Lemont, IL)

Lead Panelist: International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference, 2026 (Vienna, Austria)

Lead Panelist: United Nations – Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference, 2026 (New York City, NY)

Lead Panelist: International Atomic Energy Agency - Atomic Technologies Licensed for Applications at Sea Ministerial, 2026 (Washington, D.C.)

HONORS AND AWARDS

U.S. Navy – Navy Marine Corp Commendation Medal

U.S. Navy – National Defense Medal

U.S. Navy – Meritorious Unit Commendation

U.S. Navy – Global War on Terrorism Medal

Department of Navy – Cooperation with the Government of Japan

Department of Navy – Establishment of the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia Agreement, AUKUS

Secretary of Energy – Cooperation with the United Kingdom

Secretary of Energy – Cooperation with the Australia

Secretary of Energy – Cooperation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Secretary of Energy – Cooperation with the Venezuela

Secretary of Energy – Cooperation with the Government of Japan

Secretary of Energy – Cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Louisiana Tech University – Young Alumnus of the Year, 2010

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (Boston, MA)
Fellowship on National Security and Foreign Policy (Seminar XXI), 2020

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (New York City, NY)
Lifetime Member, 2020