

HUEL D. PERKINS PAPERS

Mss. 4155

Inventory

Compiled by
Luana Henderson

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size.	9 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana.
Inclusive dates.	1952-1990.
Bulk dates.	1978-1990.
Language.	English.
Summary.	The collection consists of correspondence, speeches, printed items and reports related to the activities of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during the tenure of Huel D. Perkins and the administration of Governor Buddy Roemer. The collection also pertains to Perkins' involvement in higher education and the study of the humanities during his tenure as professor and administrator at Southern University (1968-1978) and Louisiana State University (1979-1998).
Restrictions on access.	No restrictions on access.
Related collections.	Huel D. Perkins Oral History Interview, Mss. L:4700.0230, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Copyright.	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Citation.	Huel D. Perkins Papers, Mss. 4155, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	33A:31-35, OS:P

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Huel Davis Perkins, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and son of John E. Perkins, was born December 27, 1924. He graduated with honors from Southern University, Baton Rouge. He earned both masters and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Perkins began his academic career in 1948 as a music instructor at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. After two years, he accepted a post at Southern University as an associate professor of music. From 1968 until July 1978, he served as the University's Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. He resigned that post in July 1978 when he was appointed deputy director of education programming at the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C., serving until August 17, 1979. Perkins began his tenure with Louisiana State University in 1979, where he served as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs from 1979-1990, and as Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and Special Assistant to the Chancellor from 1990-1998. In 1988, Governor Buddy Roemer appointed him to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

In May 2005, Perkins was awarded the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from LSU for his service to education and to LSU. Additionally, a Doctoral Fellowship Program at LSU has been named in his honor. Perkins was also honored by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (Humanist of the Year); the National Conference of Christians and Jews (Brotherhood Award); the LSU Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa (Outstanding educator); the Baton Rouge Human Relations Council (Brotherhood Award); the Istrouma Area Council of Boy Scouts of America (Citizen of the Year); the Louisiana Chapter of NAACP (A. P. Turead Award); the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (Award of Merit) and received the Centennial Award given by Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He was listed in the 57th edition of Who's Who in America. Perkins served on the project advisory committee of the "Let's Talk About It" book discussion program, 1983-1984. The program was launched in 1982 by the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Humanities. He also served as president of the Capital Area United Way, 1985-1986.

Perkins had authored five books and contributed chapters to three others. Additionally, he had written more than seventy-five articles and book reviews.

Perkins married Thelma Smith, his college sweetheart, whom he met while studying music at Southern University. She was a vocalist and he played saxophone. They continued their graduate studies in music at the University of Illinois. They had one son, Huel A. Perkins. Huel Davis Perkins passed away April 15, 2013.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection documents the business of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during Huel D. Perkins' tenure on the Board. Materials consist of minutes, correspondence, reports, and printed material. Subject matter concerns state and federal regulations, changes in school curriculum, teacher certification, vocational/technical education, educational reforms, special education, and the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund, also known as the 8(g) Fund.

The collection also pertains to Perkins' involvement in higher education and the study of the humanities. A large part of the collection consists of correspondence with colleagues and materials relating to his speaking engagements, in which he addresses academic standards for student athletes, equal opportunities in higher education, and programs to advance the humanities in higher education. Papers also show his involvement in scholarly and non-profit organizations, including the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Louisiana Committee on the Humanities, and National Conference of Christians and Jews.

LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education General Files, 1983-1990, undated.

Subseries 1. Minutes, 1987-1990.

Subseries 2. Correspondence, 1983-1990.

Subseries 3. Reports and Papers, 1984-1990, undated.

Series II. Topical Files, 1973-1990, undated.

Subseries 1. Vocational/Technical and Adult Education, 1984-1989.

Subseries 2. Testing and Evaluation, 1989-1990.

Subseries 3. Education Reform, 1987-1990, undated.

Subseries 4. Special Education, 1973-1990.

Series III. General Correspondence, 1968-1987, undated.

Series IV. Printed Items, 1952-1988, undated.

Subseries 1. Ephemera, 1952-1988, undated

Subseries 2. Newspapers Clippings, 1962-1988, undated.

Subseries 3. General Printed Items, 1968-1988, undated.

Series V. Writings, 1972-1987, undated.

Subseries 1. Speeches, Papers, Reports, 1972-1987, undated.

Subseries 2. Northup, 1983.

Series VI. Organization Files, 1977-1987, undated.

Subseries 1. Humanities, 1977-1987, undated.

Subseries 2. American Library Association Program, "Let's Talk About It," 1983-1987, undated.

Subseries 3. Leadership Greater Baton Rouge, 1985-1986.

Subseries 4. Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT), 1985-1987.

Series VII. General Academic Files, 1967-1987, undated.

SERIES AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education General Files, 1983-1990, undated. **Subseries 1. Minutes, 1987-1990.**

The minutes record the proceedings of the regular meetings held by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Subseries 2. Correspondence, 1983-1990.

In this subseries, correspondents discuss church-based tutoring (1988, June 1989), legislation and regulations, teacher certification, personnel changes, public funding of private and parochial schools (July 19, 1990), and school curriculum. They discuss the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund, also known as the 8(g) Fund, and the grants awarded through that fund. A matter of concern to the Board is the reported "mis-expenditures" of funds. Correspondence discusses an audit report by the Inspector General, in which he reveals a discrepancy in funding (November 2, 1989, 1990). Also found as attachments to correspondence are the legal opinions of the State Attorney General regarding education policies (July-August 1988), and revisions to the *Policy and Procedure Manual* (October 1988-1990).

Note: Some correspondence appears within the Topical Files series.

Subseries 3. Reports and Papers, 1983-1990, undated.

Material in this group consists of reports and studies sponsored by BESE, the Louisiana Department of Education, the legislative auditor, Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana (PAR), and the National Association for State Boards of Education. A large part of this group relates to the 8(g) Fund (August 1987-1990). Material pertaining to 8(g) grants contains evaluation results for proposals (May 22, 24, 1989) grant awards (June 1, 1989), funds awarded to parishes (December 7, 1989), as well as an annual report (June 30, 1989) and budget (October 1989). Reports also address affirmative action (October 3, 1988), the East Baton Rouge Parish redesign plan (January 20, 1989), at risk students (June 1990), teacher certification (1983, 1988-1990) and evaluation (1989) and the church-based tutoring program (1989). Also present are audit reports performed by the Legislative Auditor on a tuition exception for teachers (August 10, 1990) and a professional improvement program (August 10, 1990). Preliminary draft reports conducted by PAR investigate teacher shortage issues (May 1989), at risk students (June 1989), and 8(g) funding (June 1989). This series also includes a list of BESE members (1988), and teacher salary schedules (November 1, 1988).

Series II. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Topical Files, 1973-1990, undated.

Subseries 1. Vocational/Technical and Adult Education, 1984-1989.

This series is comprised of correspondence, reports, and drafts of reports that relate to the implementation of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984 and the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The legislation was enacted by Congress to improve the quality of vocational/technical education, and to assist the economically disadvantaged. A copy of the *Carl D. Perkins Act* (1984) can be found in this subseries. Correspondence discusses funding and reports. Printed items include *Program Plan for the Administration of Vocational Education* (1985, 1988), *Performance Report for Fiscal Year 1986-87* (December 1987), *A Summary Review of the Louisiana State Plan for Vocational Education, FY 1989-1991* (April 26, 1988), *A Review of the Louisiana State Plan for Vocational Education* (May 9, 1989) and the *Annual Civil Rights Compliance Report* (June 30, 1990). Also present is *Louisiana's Vocational Education Program: An Executive Summary* (March 1989, March 1990). Job training programs that were submitted for federal grants by parish police juries around the state are also present. Additionally, there are two drafts of *Louisiana State Plan for Adult Education 1989-93* (March 10, May 5, 1989). Also present are reports by the legislative auditor for the vocational-technical centers in New Orleans, Shreveport, West Monroe, and Lafayette (June, July 1988).

Subseries 2. Testing and Evaluation, 1989-1990.

This series consists of correspondence, reports, and studies monitoring student performance. A large part of the series is comprised of printed material produced or sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Education. Material includes summary reports on the California Achievement Test for 1986 through 1989 (circa 1990), *A New Generation of Classroom Based Assessment of Teaching and Learning* (March 1990), *Louisiana Educational Assessment Program Attainment Rate Report* (April 1990), and a *Report of the Study Committee for the General Education Development (GED) Testing Program* (March 20, 1990).

Subseries 3. Education Reform, 1987-1990, undated.

This series consists of correspondence and reports sponsored by BESE and by the Louisiana Department of Education relating to the reforms promoted by the Roemer administration. These reforms affect changes in graduation requirements, academic programs, and school curriculum. Material includes a master plan for elementary and secondary education (1988) and quarterly status reports on reform initiatives (fall 1988, winter 1989). Also present in this group are the published reports, *Improvements in Educational Leadership for Louisiana's Schools* (March 1989), *Leading a New Era for Education in Louisiana* (June 1987), *Preparing Louisiana Youth for the Twenty-First Century -An Agenda for School Improvement* (August 31, 1988, fall 1989, spring 1990).

Subseries 4. Special Education, 1973-1990.

Special education files relate to state and federal regulations, federal grants, and personnel. Contents include correspondence, reports, newspapers clippings, and copies of the rules and regulations regarding the education of the disabled (1973, 1977). Four folders labeled "black binder" contain related material removed from a binder and maintained in the original order of the creator (1977-1987). Papers also reveal problems at the Louisiana School for the Visually

Impaired in Baton Rouge. An administrative review identifies the deficiencies at the school and puts forth a comprehensive plan to improve the situation (March 1988).

Series III. General Correspondence, 1968-1987, undated.

General correspondence pertains to a wide range of topics that were of interest to Perkins. They include higher education, student athletes, racial equality, and the importance of the humanities in education. The letters discuss the expansion of educational opportunities for minorities, specifically African Americans, the desegregation of higher education in Louisiana, and grade standards for college athletes. Several correspondents discuss musical performances they have attended, and Perkins suggests that LSU offer a faculty position to opera star, Leontyne Price, in the School of Music upon her retirement from the stage (undated). Letters also relate to a proposed Center for Research in Black American Music (January 11, March 2, 30, May 1, 30, 1978).

Of note is a letter to Perkins in which the writer complains of discrimination encountered in the work place (November 27, 1975). Attorney General William J. Guste, Jr., informs Perkins that his testimony may be needed in the suit of Sidney Tobin vs. the State Board of Education and Southern University (October 7, 1974). Tobin, a Southern University assistant professor, filed suit against Southern over a contract dispute. Several letters congratulate Perkins on his article, "The Education of Young Blacks: Quality Cannot Be Compromised," which was published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. A memo provides statistics on academic positions held by African Americans at LSU (October 26, 1981). Letters from Leigh M. Harris relate to the creation of a state commission on black culture in Louisiana (January 5, November 29, 1983, January 17, 1984). Another letter gives statistics on the exchange of faculty and students between LSU and Southern University as part of the consent decree (November 16, 1983).

Correspondence of the Baton Rouge chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews deals with the business of its Board of Directors (November 1983, January, March, September 1984, 1985, March 10, 1986, 1987). Additionally, Perkins was involved in the nomination of a State of Louisiana poet laureate (October 1982, March 1983).

Series IV. Printed Items, 1952-1988, undated.

Subseries 1. Ephemera, 1952-1988, undated

Ephemera consists primarily of programs for events at which Perkins was featured as a guest speaker, and programs for theater performances, musical concerts and recitals. The earliest program celebrates the 38th anniversary Founders' Day of Southern University (March 1952). The events at which Perkins spoke include commencement exercises, seminars and conferences, as well as community events. This group also includes handbills, flyers, church bulletins and brochures. A brochure produced by Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., contains an essay written by Perkins entitled, *Cultural Expressions of the Civil Rights Era* (undated). Ephemera also contains meeting programs, agenda, flyers, and handbills of the fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha (1979-1984). It was the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans in 1906.

Subseries 2. Newspapers Clippings, 1962-1988, undated.

Clippings report on the literacy rate among African Americans, educational standards for student athletes, the humanities, and musical performances. A large part of the newspapers clippings relates to Southern University and LSU. Clippings also chronicle Perkins' professional achievements.

Subseries 3. General Printed Items, 1968-1988, undated.

This subseries is comprised primarily of booklets, reports and periodicals that relate to the humanities, higher education, African Americans, Southern University students, and the non-profit organizations in which Perkins participated.

A large part of this group consists of publications produced by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Louisiana Committee for the Humanities (LCH), and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. They include reports and guidelines for libraries (1979) and education programs (1979). Periodicals include the *Humanities* (1982, 1983), *Federation Reports* (1980-1985) and *Federation Review* (1985-1986).

Material pertaining to African Americans includes booklets on prominent black individuals (April 1972, 1978, March 1988), as does *Facts about Blacks in Louisiana* (undated). Students of the Southern University History Department compiled the booklet that provides information on black citizens and politicians, and historical events. It also contains a history of Southern University. *Support Our Struggle*, a student publication, chronicles the events leading up to the death of two Southern University students during a campus protest on November 16, 1972 (1973). The student newspaper, *Southern University Digest*, reports on activities and events related to student life and the University (scattered issues 1972-1988). In a report entitled *A Study of Title III Impact on Historically Black Institutions*, Cameron Fincher examines the impact of Title III on historically black institutions (1980). The publication, *Social and Economic Status of the Black Population in the United States, 1790-1978* (1979) gives an historical view of African American social and economic conditions. The guidebook, *Northup Trail through Central Louisiana...*, by Sue L. Eakin, follows the trail taken by Solomon Northup. The booklet describes the sites along the way (circa 1984). Northup, a free man of color, who in 1841 was kidnapped in Washington, D.C., and sold into slavery in Louisiana's Rapides and Avoyelles parishes. Also found are partial issues of the *Baton Rouge News Leader*, (October 28, 1973, January 13, 1974).

Of note is a copy of *Law and Human Values* (circa 1973), which includes an introduction by Perkins, and the *Proceedings of the First Desegregation Institute ... Seminar/Workshop*. The second publication contains a paper presented by Perkins at the seminar (1981). Additionally, Perkins wrote a consultant's report, *Black American Music Symposium* (August 1985). Material distributed by the non-profit organizations includes annual reports and newsletters of the Capital Area United Way (1985-1986) and the National Conference of Christians and Jews (1983-1986).

Series V. Writings, 1972-1987, undated.

Subseries 1. Speeches, Papers, Reports, 1972-1987, undated.

This group consists primarily of speeches, conference papers, reports, but also includes grant proposals and biographical sketches of Perkins and Joseph. In his speeches, Perkins addresses issues concerning higher education, civil rights, the education of black student athletes, equality in education, and promoting the humanities. Writings also include his acceptance speech for the National Conference of Christians and Jews Brotherhood Award (1987).

Biographical sketches of Perkins, as well as a biographical sketch of Joseph Samuel Clark. Clark served as president of Southern University in Baton Rouge from 1913 to 1938. Among the reports are three status reports produced for the National Advisory Board, Center for Research in Black American Music, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (1978), and a report for the Southern Education Foundation concerning black students in higher education (November 1983). Writings include a draft of Perkins's article on Proposition 48 (August 3, 1983), which dealt with student athletes and higher education, and the *Policies and Procedures Affecting Student-Athletes* at LSU (May, August 1987).

Also found is a report by Beta Iota Lambda Chapter Education Committee of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity on a scholarship program (September 6, 1979) and a proposal by the Alpha Phi Alpha Education Foundation, Inc. to institute enrichment programs for black students (undated).

Subseries 2. Northup, 1983.

Solomon Northup, author of *12 Years a Slave*, was a free man of color born in Essex County, New York, about 1803. He became an early resident of Washington County, and married there in 1829. Both his parents, also residents of the county, were free people of color. In the winter of 1841, with his wife and children he resided at Saratoga Springs, where he was hired by two men to drive a team south. He was kidnapped in Washington, D.C. in 1841 and at some point Northup was drugged, chained and taken to New Orleans, where he was sold into slavery. He worked on plantations in the state of Louisiana for 12 years before his release. Sue Eakin co-edited the first scholarly edition of Northup's memoir with Joseph Logsdon in 1968. This subseries consists of four booklets compiled by Sue Eakin that include a musical play, *Northup*, written by Eakin, musical scores composed by Howard C. Harris, Jr., and photocopies of photographs taken of stage scenes. The fourth booklet consists of photocopies of newspaper clippings and a theater program for the presentation at the Bunkie Bailey Theater.

Series VI. Organization Files, 1977-1987, undated.

Subseries 1. Humanities, 1977-1987, undated.

This subseries pertains to grants, projects, meetings and conferences concerning the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Louisiana Committee on the Humanities and the Arts and Humanities Council of Greater Baton Rouge. Files contain correspondence, reports, and grant proposals (1977-1978), as well as providing information on conferences and workshops. A large portion of the correspondence discusses Perkins attendance and participation in conferences and workshops.

Drafts of a grant proposals presented by the Office for the Advancement of Public Negro Colleges and Southern University, with Huel Perkins and Johnny T. Hill as the project directors

(1977). Correspondence between Perkins and Dr. Johnny T. Hill, executive director of the Office for the Advancement of Public Negro Colleges, discuss grant proposals (January-June 1977, February 20, April 6, July 6, 1978)

Subseries 2. American Library Association Program, “Let’s Talk About It,” 1983-1987, undated.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), in collaboration with the American Library Association (ALA) launched a nationwide reading and discussion program, “Let’s Talk About It” in 1982. The program involves books selected by scholars for in depth discussions. Papers consist of an early grant proposal (1983) correspondence, recommendations for discussions topics, a file notebook (1983-1984), and professional profiles of workshops participants.

Note: The file notebook is arranged in the original order of the donor.

Subseries 3. Leadership Greater Baton Rouge Alumni, Inc., 1985-1986.

This subseries contains files relating the activities of Leadership Greater Baton Rouge. It consists of correspondence, meeting agenda, and employment projections and statistics. The Group's mission is to support diverse leaders who are committed to improving the quality of life through community involvement.

Note: Papers are arranged in the original order of the donor.

Subseries 4. Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT), 1985-1987.

Papers document Perkins’ service on the Steering Committee of the Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team. R/UDAT was created to study the social and economic problems in urban areas and help develop a strategy for revitalization.

Series VII. General Academic Files, 1967-1987, undated.

This series contains papers relating to students, faculty, and courses at LSU. Files include lists of African American faculty members and staff (November 12, 1982, July 7, 1986, undated), an outline for a graduate program in Humanities (1983), black student enrollment at LSU for the spring of 1983. Items relating to course work contain a list of proposed courses (1987) and course syllabuses (undated). Travel vouchers submitted by Perkins reflect his many speaking engagements at colleges and conferences. This series also contains students’ evaluations and comments on classes taught by Perkins (1978-1981). Additionally, there is a proposal and related papers of the LSU and Southern University English Departments for the selection of the Louisiana Poet Laureate (January 1985).

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

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CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
Series I. BESE General Files, 1983-1990, undated.			
33A:31	1	1-51	Subseries 1. Minutes, 1987-1990.
			Subseries 2. Correspondence, 1983-1990.
33A:32	2	1-34	Subseries 3. Reports and Papers, 1983-1990, undated.
Series II. BESE Topical Files, 1973-1990, undated.			
	3	1-28	Subseries 1. Vocational/Technical and Adult Education, 1984-1989.
33A:33	4	1-8	Subseries 2. Testing and Evaluation, 1989-1990.
		9-26	Subseries 3. Education Reform, 1987-1990, undated.
		27-38	Subseries 4. Special Education, 1973-1990.
Series III. General Correspondence, 1968-1987, undated.			
	5	1-54	1968-1985 April.
33A:34	6	1-15	1985 May-1987 December, undated.
Series IV. Printed Items, 1952-1988, undated.			
	6	16-47	Subseries 1. Ephemera, 1952-1988, undated.
		48-54	Subseries 2. Newspaper clippings, 1962-1982.
	7	1-7	Newspaper clippings, 1983-1988, undated.
		8-38	Subseries 3. General Printed Items, 1968-1988, undated.
33A:35	8	1-15	<i>Federation Reports</i> (1980-1985) and <i>Federation Review</i> (1985-1986).
OS:P	10	1	<i>Humanities</i> , 1982-1983.
		2-8	<i>Southern University Digest</i> , 1972-1988.
		9	<i>Baton Rouge News Leader</i> , October 28, 1973, January 13, 1974.
Series V. Writings, 1972-1987, undated.			
33A:35	8	16-45	Subseries 1. Speeches, Papers, Reports, 1972-1987, undated.
	9	1-4	Subseries 2. Northup, 1983.

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
Series VI. Organization Files, 1977-1987, undated.			
33A:35	9	5-21	Subseries 1. Humanities, 1977-1987, undated.
		22-36	Subseries 2. American Library Association Program, "Let's Talk About It," 1983-1987, undated.
OS:P	10	1	Broadsides, 1979, 1984 1984.
33A:35	9	37-41	Subseries 3. Leadership Greater Baton Rouge, 1985-1986.
		42-44	Subseries 4. Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT), 1985-1987.

Series VII. General Academic Files, 1967-1987, undated.

OS:P	9	45-54	Faculty evaluation daily reports, spring 1974, spring 1976.
	10	1	Faculty evaluation daily reports, spring 1974, spring 1976.