

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

A PUBLICATION OF THE RAPIDES AMERICAN JOB CENTER

A proud partner of the  network

A Message from the Director

Rapides Workforce Development Board

Elaine Morace, WDB Director
Rose Killion, Chairperson
Connie Baker, Vice-Chair



The Rapides Workforce Development Board is continuously working towards adapting how we do business to ensure we are meeting the needs of job seekers and businesses. As the region continues to recover from the pandemic, RWDB 61 has remained determined in our mission to help Rapides Parish residents get back to work by providing funding and support for classroom training, on-the-job training, along with paying for supportive services and hosting frequent hiring events in collaboration with local business and community partners.

If you are interested in learning more about any of our Business Services, please contact our Business Services Representative, Eric Irby at (318) 487-5547. This newsletter continues to serve as an important collaboration tool among the community. If you have news and information about your organization, please do send it to nhill@lsua.edu.

*Elaine Morace, Director
Rapides American Job Center*

Cynthia Baker
Karyn Barrett
Cyndi Szczepanski
David Broussard
Chad Bynog
Sally Cowan
Marianne Dore'
Leona Venson
Tim Dousay
Rich Dupre
Paul Fusilier
Larry George
Bill Higgins
Ginger Humbles
Paula Johnson
Kashawna Jones
Jeff Johnson
Haywood Joiner
Toni Johnson
Steve Bryant
Julie Bonial
Gary Nugent
Kevin Hood
Lloyd Price
Jeff Ryan
Jimmy Sawtelle
Nolan Spillers
Sara Stokes
Cindy Sayes
Shanna Worth
Justin Giallonardo
Deborah Randolph
Valerie Aymond Long

Louisiana Workforce Commission Virtual Statewide Job Fairs

The Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) is an aggressive advocate for a trained, viable workforce and is committed to employment strategies for Louisiana residents that respond to business and industry's workforce demands. The LWC is dedicated to working closely with employers, employees and job-seekers to meet their employment and training needs. Below are LWC free hiring events.

Statewide Holiday Hiring Event: September 29th | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

This event will feature employers with full-time and part-time jobs in the manufacturing, transportation, retail and health care industries. Meet with employers from across the state and get hired for the holidays. To register for the virtual fair, click [here](#).

If you're an employer hiring for the holidays, register [here](#). There is no cost to employers to participate. More information can be viewed [here](#).

DISABILITY Inclusion Job Fair: October 12th | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) helps individuals with disabilities to obtain, maintain or advance in competitive integrated employment and achieve independence in their communities. If you or someone you know has a disability, this statewide event is a must! To register for LRS virtual fair, click [here](#).

Interested employers for this job fair may contact Shelli White at SWhite@lwc.la.gov or may call at (318) 487-5344.

To view more job fairs and events throughout the State, check out the [LWC Job Fairs & Events Calendar](#).







318.487.5532

LSUA and CLTCC receive Donations from Alexandria Business Foundation

The Alexandria Business Foundation has awarded LSU of Alexandria \$600,000 toward funding an endowed chair of Accounting and Central Louisiana Technical Community College \$300,000 toward funding student scholarships, their first-ever Endowed Business Professorship, professional development, and more resources bolstering CLTCC's Business Program and partnerships.

 Since 2017, the Accounting program at LSUA has grown by 644%, from 59 students in 2017 to 441 students this fall. The rapid growth of the program is evidence of the high demand for accountants in the regional economy. The endowment will allow the LSUA College of Business to attract and retain quality accounting faculty.


An endowed chair of Accounting will be a crucial step toward addressing the critical shortage of accountants. Additionally, the investment provides funding to propel research, experiential learning, and professional development for LSUA faculty and students.

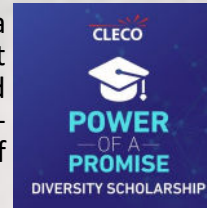
 "CLTCC is very grateful to the Alexandria Business Foundation for their generous investment in the future of business students and professionals," said CLTCC Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle. "We are also grateful for the partnership with LSUA. Hundreds of thousands of dollars will go towards scholarships for students, especially those who are making the bridge from CLTCC to LSUA in a two-year-to-four-year partnership."

Funds from the Alexandria Business Foundation investment will go toward student scholarships for general business students, students participating in the 2+2 bridge program between CLTCC and LSUA, and for recruitment of first-semester Business students.

Sources: Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle & Adam Lord

Power of a Promise Scholarship Program

 Do you know a CLTCC student who you believe would be a deserving recipient of Cleco's Power of a Promise Scholarship?



This year's application period starts October 1, 2022. The scholarship recipient will receive full tuition, books, a stipend for incidentals and a paid internship at Cleco's Brame Energy Center.

Below are the eligibility requirements:

- Resident within a 50-mile radius of the CLTCC Alexandria Campus.
- Admitted to CLTCC's Alexandria campus (admission application must be on file with CLTCC, and you must be admitted prior to receiving funds).
- Interested in pursuing a Career & Technical Education in the Industrial Manufacturing Technology Program.
- Female and minority students (i.e., African American/Black, Hispanic American, Asian American or Native American) whose total household income is at or below the poverty level for the State of Louisiana.
- Eligible to work in United States (an active work visa is acceptable).
- Classified as a high school junior or senior in the State of Louisiana during the scholarship application year.
- On track to earn a high school diploma with a minimum 2.7 GPA and provide transcript and/or proof of diploma.
- Have a combination of attributes: High academic performance, financial need, personal accomplishments, ACT WorkKeys, extracurricular activities, awards and recognition, community service, work history, desire to seek a Career & Technical Education from CLTCC and acceptance into the Industrial Manufacturing Technology Program

Click [here](#) for more information.

Community Partners



**Rapides Parish
Police Jury**
(318) 473-6660



**Louisiana Workforce
Commission**
(318) 487-5532



**Louisiana Technical
& Community
College System**
(318) 487-5443



**Louisiana
Rehabilitation
Services (on site)**
(318) 487-5335



**National
Association for
Hispanic Elderly**
(318) 221-7611



**Alexandria
Housing Authority**
(318) 442-8843

Helpful Organizations for Employers



**US Department
of Labor**



**Louisiana Workforce
Commission**



**Cenla Regional
Chamber of
Commerce**



**Louisiana
Small Business
Development Center**



Secretary of State



**Rapides Sales & Use
Tax Department**



Employer.gov

Click the logos to access the organization's website.



10th Annual Women in Business Conference



Make plans to join The Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce and RoyOMartin on October 13th - 14th for this year's Women In Business Conference.

The Chamber's Women In Business Conference is one of the most dynamic, engaging, and exciting events in the central Louisiana region. This is the 10th year of bringing together regional executives and young professionals to convene for two days of informative presentations from influential speakers, encouragement, and celebration.

Gain valuable business insights to further your professional growth, foster relationships with other businesswomen in the community, and more.

This year, the keynote speaker is Sally B. Rinehart, President of Louisiana CAT in Reserve, Louisiana. She is the 4th generation at Louisiana Machinery, a family-owned CAT dealer with a history dating 90 years to a humble beginning in 1933. She has the responsibility for the Machine Division, which includes four divisions: new, used, and rental machine sales, Business Development, Product Support - Machine, and Product Support - Engine. Sally is a member of numerous outside boards, including ABC, VISTAGE, Friends of City Park, and Second Harvest Board of Directors.

The opening speaker is Dr. Markey W. Pierre', Author, motivational speaker, board-certified life coach, adjunct professor, visionary, motivated, versatile, and well-respected business executive with expertise across multiple industries, including higher education, K-12 education, construction, healthcare, maritime and municipal government.

Click [here](#) to register. For more information, you may contact Cindy Cespiva at (318) 442-6671 or email ccespiva@cenlachamber.org.

Become a Chamber Member [here!](#)

Acadian Ambulance and Acadian Health hosting Webinar: Treat in Place Best Practices



Join subject matter experts from Acadian Ambulance and Acadian Health for a webinar discussing home-based care initiatives focused on reducing ER use by 911 callers, covering best practices, lessons learned, and the benefits to patients, providers, and health plans. The webinar will be held on Zoom on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 2 p.m.



Acadian Ambulance Chief Medical Officer Dr. Chuck Burnell, Physician Assistant Aaron Webb, Acadian Health Director Benjamin Swig, and Operations Director Richard Belle will serve as the webinar's speakers.

Leveraging care coordination with providers, EMTs and paramedics are able to treat in place or provide alternative destination transportation, allowing crews the ability to offer alternative solutions to best meet patients' needs. Both models provide cost savings to the patient and their insurers, reduce provider panel medical loss ratios (MLR), and offer quicker, more convenient care.

The programs are ever expanding, with an additional point of care diagnostics, advanced formularies, and the inclusion of behavioral health telehealth services being rolled out in parts of Acadian's service area.

Acadian Ambulance Chairman & CEO Richard Zuschlag said, "Acadian Ambulance has been a leader in mobile healthcare. We continue to invest in innovation to ensure Acadian remains an industry leader in the next generation of EMS. By continuing to develop meaningful partnerships with health plans, health systems and providers, we continue to improve patient care while reducing costs for all."

Register at acadian.com/TIPwebinar. A recording of the webinar will be available to registrants.

Visit the [Acadian Ambulance Service](#).



318.487.5532

COVID-19 Vaccine & Booster Shots Locations

Rapides Regional Medical Center
211 4th St. Alexandria, LA
(318) 769 - 5931

Christus St. Francis Cabrini Hospital
3330 Mansonic Dr.,
Alexandria, LA
(318) 487 - 1122

LSU of Alexandria
8100 Highway 71 S.,
Alexandria, LA
(318) 427 - 4468

Boyce Pharmacy
513 Ulster Ave., Boyce, LA
(318) 793 - 2400

Ray's Pharmacy
5822 Monroe Hwy, Ball, LA
(318) 640 - 1174

Rapides Parish Health Unit
5604 Coliseum Blvd.
Alexandria, LA
(318) 487 - 5282

Woodworth Community Health Center
9375 Hwy 165 S,
Woodworth, LA
(318) 484 - 9588

East Grant Comm. HC
9465 Us-165, Pollock, LA
(318) 310 - 2510

Super 1 Pharmacy 609
Cottingham St, Pineville LA
(318) 640 - 0145

Pearson Drugs #7
1806 Water St.,
Lecompte, LA
(318) 776 - 5649

Premier Urgent Care
3601 Jackson St Ext., Alex-
andria LA (318) 787 - 6877



Vaccine availability is subject to change.

Appointments are required at most locations.

To stay updated with vaccine locations and availability, click the CDC logo.

Louisiana Central Regional Economic Development Summit



Louisiana Central is hosting The Big Idea Playbook: Get in the Game, a regional economic development summit. The event is scheduled for October 4th-5th in Downtown Alexandria.



This will be an opportunity to be part of important and vibrant presentations, and a chance to join fellow leaders. Innovative keynote speakers include Todd Henry of Cincinnati, Ohio, who positions himself as the “arms dealer for the creative revolution,” President and CEO at Economic Alliance Snohomish County, Washington, Garry Clark, as well as the Executive Director for the Department of Public Transformation, Ashley Hanson of Minnesota will share their perspectives and insight during this 2-day event. Speaker topics and discussions include Business Growth, Quality of Life, Business Opportunity, and Trained and Motivated Talent.

The Big Idea Playbook: Get in the Game will be fun and informative. Participants will learn how to use place-based strategies to make the Cenla region more attractive for those who may move or invest here, and - even more importantly - for those who live here and now. There will be deep-dive discussions on workforce collaboration initiatives, opportunity-rich learning environments, population growth challenges, and opportunities, and successful and emerging entrepreneurship efforts. Participants will also learn about the outdoor economy revolution, capitalizing on the unique ability to grow living things, and ending the digital divide.

More information about the summit including sponsorship opportunities, tickets, and event speakers, can be found at [here](#).

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation awards NSU \$1.8M to address regional nursing shortage



Northwestern State University is expanding two programs that will make it easier for paramedics, military medics and people with undergraduate science degrees to transition into high-paying nursing jobs. The program, which will help fill critical roles in northwest and Central Louisiana’s rapidly shrinking healthcare workforce, is funded in part by a \$1.8 million grant from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation.

NSU hosted a program Sept. 14 to announce the grant and thank the Blue Cross and Blue



Photo credit: NSU

Shield of Louisiana Foundation, as well as participating partners. NSU faculty and administrators, area legislators and representatives from the University of Louisiana System and the Board of Regents were on hand for the announcement.

The grant will be matched with \$1.2 million in private support from several partners, as well as \$2 million from NSU. Partners include Christus Bossier Emergency Hospital, Christus Coushatta Health Care Center, Natchitoches Regional Medical Center, Christus Highland Medical Center, Christus St. Frances Cabrini, RoyOMartin, Rapides Regional Medical Center, Willis-Knighton Health System and the NSU Foundation. The partners are not only providing financial resources, but also space in their facilities for use as clinical sites.

As many as 30 percent of Louisiana’s nurses are projected to leave the profession over the next 10 years due to retirements, burnout, and other reasons. Fewer nurses means that those still working are stretched thin — which can affect the quality of healthcare patients receive.

View the full story [here](#). Log on to [NSU](#).

www.laworks.net



318.487.5532

Benefits to Employers

Work Opportunity Tax Credits (WOTC)

WOTC is one tool in a diverse toolbox of flexible strategies designed to help move people into gainful employment and obtain on-the-job experience. It joins other tax credits, education, and workforce training and development programs that help American workers with barriers to employment prepare for good jobs; ease their transition from job to job; benefit from the creation of effective regional economic development strategies; and create high performance workplaces.

For more information, [click here](#).

Fidelity Bonding

The Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) offers bonding services for hard-to-place job seekers under the Fidelity Bonding Program. The federal bonding program provides insurance to employers that protects against employee dishonesty and acts as an incentive to hire at-risk applicants, including Returning Citizens (ex-offenders). Fidelity Bonding covers theft, forgery, larceny and embezzlement. Bond insurance issued ranges from \$5,000 - \$25,000 for a 6-month period with **no deductible**. The bond can be issued to employers once the applicant has received a job offer with a scheduled start date.

For more information, [visit here](#).

LWC's "Tech Ready Louisiana" Program Brings Free Career Courses to Thousands



The Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) launched "Tech Ready Louisiana,"

a program that will bring free online learning to thousands of people across the state. LWC is partnering with Coursera to offer Louisianians access to thousands of courses to help them develop new skills and increase their career readiness.

Coursera is one of the world's largest online learning platforms, offering over five thousand courses. They work with over 250 top universities and companies including Yale University, Columbia University, Microsoft, and Google to provide training for in-demand skills that employers want.

"Tech Ready Louisiana will take people from courses to careers," said LWC Secretary Ava Cates, "Everything from learning Microsoft Office, to skills in the IT or healthcare industries. This is about giving Louisianians the opportunity to learn new, marketable skills to advance in their current job or get the career they've always wanted."

Tech Ready Louisiana aims to provide all Louisianians with accessible education and training to help them reach their career goals. Louisianians will have free access to more than 5,000 courses that will help them develop the knowledge and skills needed to find meaningful employment, including in areas such as career readiness, digital skills, data analytics, hospitality and tourism, and healthcare.

All courses are fully online and self-paced to work around busy schedules. Learners can earn a certificate in three to six months.

View the full details [here](#).



RoyOMartin Summer Intern Program



RoyOMartin interns delivered their end-of-summer presentations to the company's executive team and their supervisors on Friday, August 5, the 2022.



Photo credit: RoyOMartin

The students spent the summer learning the practical application of their chosen fields of study while troubleshooting and completing projects as assigned. The presentations were an overview of the assignments each student completed.

The 12 interns representing Louisiana Tech University, LSU, LSU-Alexandria, McNeese State University, and Northwestern State University worked across company locations throughout the summer. They worked in the fields of human resources, communications, supply chain, health services, engineering, and land and timber. More of the Summer Intern photos can be viewed [here](#).

RoyOMartin grow trees and people! Human Resource representatives can tell you all about the great career opportunities that are available. Check it out the calendar of job fairs and hiring events on the RoyOMartin website [here!](#)

DID YOU know?



For more than 30 years, the Food Bank of Central Louisiana has been working towards their mission of alleviating hunger in Central Louisiana.

According to the recent Map the Meal Gap Study, 59,690 individuals in Central Louisiana are food insecure.

The Food Bank has grown since its inception, adding member agencies and programs. Member agencies are other nonprofits that serve as point-of-distribution for the Food Bank. The Food Bank of Central Louisiana has seven signature programs (BackPack Program, Good Food Project, Mobile Food Pantry Program, Partner Agency Program, School Food Pantry Program, Senior Program, and Summer Food/After School Service Program) to provide food for those in need across our community.

Log on to [The Food Bank of CenLa!](#)



318.487.5532

**Unemployment Data
By Parish**

- Allen Parish - 5.4%
- Avoyelles Parish - 5.1%
- Catahoula Parish - 4.7%
- Concordia Parish - 5.9%
- Grant Parish - 3.9 %
- La Salle Parish - 2.9%
- Natchitoches Parish - 4.9%
- Rapides Parish - 3.5%
- Vernon Parish - 4.3%
- Winn Parish - 4.6%

Unemployment Data by Parishes for August 2022. Not seasonally adjusted. Source: LWC - Louisiana Occupational Information System (LOIS)

Job Openings Advertised online in Cenla by Parishes

- Allen Parish - 142
- Avoyelles Parish - 260
- Catahoula Parish - 26
- Concordia - 115
- Grant Parish - 62
- La Salle Parish - 136
- Natchitoches Parish - 350
- Rapides Parish - 3,104
- Vernon Parish - 463
- Winn Parish - 67

This data above shows the distribution number of job openings advertised online in Central Louisiana by parishes on Sept. 20, 2022 - Source: LWC-Online advertised jobs data

Occupations with the Highest Number of Job Openings Advertised in Alexandria, MSA

- Registered Nurses - 502
- Physicians, All Other - 134
- LPN & LVN - 76
- Critical Care Nurses - 69
- Respiratory Therapists - 46
- Customer Service Rep - 43
- Retail Salespersons - 38
- Medical & Health Services Managers - 35
- Physical Therapists - 33
- Nursing Assistants - 32

Source: Online advertised jobs data. Sept. 20, 2022

Labor Market Information

Latest Unemployment Rates

	August 2022	July 2022	June 2022
Rapides Parish (not seasonally adjusted)	3.5%	3.5%	3.6%
Louisiana (seasonally adjusted)	3.5%	3.6%	3.8%
United States (seasonally adjusted)	3.7%	3.5%	3.6%

Source: BLS & LWC-Louisiana Occupational Information System

Industries with Highest Job Openings Advertised Online in Alexandria, LA MSA

Rank	Industry	Job Openings
1	Health Care and Social Assistance	843
2	Retail Trade	243
3	Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	163
4	Accommodation and Food Services	134
5	Public Administration	138
6	Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	98
7	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Svcs	103
8	Educational Services	95
9	Manufacturing	81
10	Unclassified	1,049

The table above shows the top ten job openings advertised online for the industries selected in Alexandria, LA Metropolitan Statistical Area on Sept. 20, 2022. Source: LWC Online advertised jobs data.

We thank and acknowledge the Contributors:

- Rapides American Job Center - Elaine Morace
- LSU of Alexandria - Adam Lord
- CLTCC - Dr. Jimmy Sawtelle
- Acadian Ambulance - Paul Fuselier
- RoyOMartin - Amanda Guillot
- Louisiana Central - Javonti Thomas
- CLECO, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Louisiana Workforce Commission
- Northwestern University - Leah Jackson
- The Food Bank of Central Louisiana - Lisa Hutson
- Cenla Regional Chamber of Commerce - Deborah Randolph

WIOA Mandated Partners (on-site)

Cenla Community Action Committee, Inc.
318-314-3480

CLTCC
318-487-5443

Job Corps Center Alexandria
318-487-6773 x102

Louisiana Workforce Commission-Employment Services
318-487-5532

National Farm Worker Program
318-435-8885

Native American Programs
985-851-5408

Trade Adjustment Assistance
318-487-5539

Unemployment Insurance
1-866-783-5567

Wagner-Peyser
318-487-5532

WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker & Youth
318-767-6030

WIOA Mandated Partners (off-site)

AYUDA & Institute for Indian Development
318-767-6040

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services
318-487-5335

Louisiana State University Alexandria
318-427-4441

National Association for Hispanic Elderly
318- 221-7611



Ava Cates, Secretary

Rapides American Job Center

5610 - B Coliseum Blvd.
Alexandria, LA 71303

(318) 487-5532

Mon -Thurs - 7:00 am - 5:30 pm • Friday - 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

@RapidesAmericanJobCenter



Craig Smith, President

Media Contact
Nannette Hill-nhill@lsua.edu
LSUA - SBDC Coordinator
Rapides American Job Center
One-Stop Operator

