

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

A PUBLICATION OF THE RAPIDES AMERICAN JOB CENTER

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A Message from the Director

On behalf of all the staff and partners of the Rapides American Job Center, I want to wish every board member, valued employer and community partner, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We look forward to another year of providing a full array of employment and training related services for Adults, Dislocated Workers and Youth. The Rapides American Job Center and our partners are committed to serving the needs of our workforce in Rapides Parish. If you are a job seeker or an employer with questions, please contact the center at (318)767-6030.



Elaine Morace
Rapides WDB Director

Unemployment Rates Fall Over the Year in all MSA's for 7th Straight Month

Louisiana's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2021 is 4.3 percent, a decrease of 3.2 percentage points from the October 2020 rate of 7.5 percent. The rate also shows a decrease of 0.6 percentage points from the September 2021 revised rate of 4.9 percent. The not seasonally adjusted preliminary unemployment rate in all nine of Louisiana's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) decreased over the year for the seventh consecutive month. Among the MSA's, Lake Charles showed the largest unemployment rate decline from October 2020, dropping by 5.7 percentage points.

Since October 2020, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 39,119 from 1,936,242 to 1,975,361 in October 2021. This is the seventh consecutive month with an over-the-year gain. When compared to September 2021, the number of not seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 24,264.

Since October 2020, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 67,753 from 156,155 to 88,402 in October 2021. This is the seventh consecutive month with an over-the-year decrease in the number of unemployed. When compared to September 2021, the number of not seasonally adjusted unemployed individuals decreased by 13,040.

The October 2021 not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force, or the number of people employed or looking for work, is 2,063,763, a decrease of 28,634 from the October 2020 figure of 2,092,397. The series added 11,224 individuals from the September 2021 revised figure of 2,052,539.

Continued on page 3





318.487.5532

CLECO Power of a Promise Scholarship 2022

Cleco announced on November 18, 2021 that applications are being accepted for its Power of a Promise Scholarship which includes full tuition, books, a stipend for incidentals and a paid internship at the company's Brame Energy Center near Boyce, Louisiana.



The Power of a Promise Scholarship, which was established last year, is part of Cleco's \$1.0 million corporate contribution to Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC) to help fund training, curriculum development and scholarships.

The scholarship is designed to support economically disadvantaged, female and minority high school juniors and seniors who have excelled academically and who plan to attend CLTCC in Alexandria and pursue a diploma in industrial manufacturing technology.

"This annual scholarship is an opportunity for under-represented populations in our communities to become a part of the energy industry, and it supports our commitment to create an inclusive work environment and build a diverse workforce," said Normanique Preston, chief human resources and diversity officer.

CLTCC will accept applications through Jan. 31, 2022, and the scholarship recipient(s) will be announced by April 1, 2022.

Students can apply in-person or by mail: CLTCC Alexandria Campus, Attn: Cleco Power of a Promise Scholarship
516 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA 71301
By Email: powerofapromise@cltcc.edu

For more information about the eligibility requirements, click [here](#).

To learn more about the Power of a Promise Scholarship, contact **Shannon Senviel**, Cleco recruiter at (318) 484-7670.

Visit [CLECO](#)

Orchard Foundation CLIP Program

CLIP (Central Louisiana Instructional Partnership) is a teacher residency program focusing on developing middle school Math and Science teachers in high-needs schools in Central Louisiana. Applications are being accepted for the Central Louisiana Instructional Partnership program 2022 cohort. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2022, and the program will run from June 2022 through August 2023.



The goal of the (CLIP) project is to improve student achievement in nine rural, school districts in up to 70 high-needs schools in Central Louisiana by preparing highly qualified educators to teach in critical shortage areas – middle school math and science. CLIP will address the high teacher turnover and shortages facing rural schools by developing and implementing this innovative teacher residency program with integrated professional development and induction support. In turn, CLIP is expected to produce measurable positive impacts on the academic achievement of low-performing rural Central Louisiana students in grades 6-8.



To qualify for CLIP, applicants must have earned an undergraduate degree, must not have a teacher certification, and must meet Northwestern State University's Master of Teaching graduate school requirements. Applicants selected for the CLIP program will complete a 15-month accelerated graduate program of study culminating in a Master of Arts in teaching degree from Northwestern State University and a professional teaching certification. CLIP residents will receive a stipend to cover the expense of tuition, as well as an annual stipend of \$36,000 during their residency. While completing their graduate coursework, CLIP residents will be immersed in an academic year school-based residency in a high-needs school identified by the nine partner public school districts.

For more information, contact CLIP Field Coordinator **Lindlay Howell** at 318-767-3017.

[Click here to learn how to apply for CLIP](#)

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 links.



Continued from page 1

Not seasonally adjusted October 2021 unemployment rates for Louisiana's nine MSA's are as follows:

Alexandria: 3.2% down from 3.4% in September and down from 5.3% in October 2020.

Baton Rouge: 3.7%, down from 4.2% in September and down from 6.4% in October 2020.

Hammond: 5.0%, down from 6.0% in September and down from 8.1% in October 2020.

Houma: 4.5%, down from 5.8% in September and down from 6.3% in October 2020.

Lafayette: 3.8%, down from 4.3% in September and down from 6.7% in October 2020.

Lake Charles: 4.2%, down from 4.7% in September and down from 9.9% in October 2020

Monroe: 3.7%, down from 4.1% in September and down from 6.4% in October 2020

New Orleans: 5.1%, down from 6.2% in September and down from 9.1% in October 2020.

Shreveport: 4.2%, down from 4.6% in September and down from 7.3% in October 2020.

Source: Louisiana Workforce Commission

LSUA College of Business Recognizes Leadership Cenla Graduates



The Leadership Cenla has successfully completed its 2021 eight-month leadership series. Thirty-four participants earned Certificates of Completion from LSUA's College of Business. Dr. Randall Dupont, Dean, College of Business, along with Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Deborah Randolph presented the awards during the Rotary Club of Alexandria meeting on November 23, 2021.

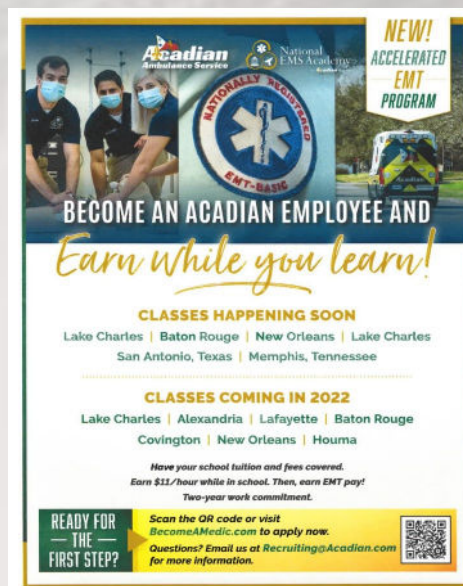
The thirty-four participants represented a diverse cross-section of the local community, including business owners, non-profit administrators, financial managers, and many more. The guest speakers for the leadership series are from across the state with expertise in management, education, workforce development, crime management, finance, human resources and other topics relevant to community leaders.

This year's 2021 Leadership Cenla graduates are: Lindsey Bertrand, Joseph Borne, Toby Brazzel, Shondria Cheatam, Robin Cosenza, Jennifer Cowley, Brandi Dubea, Stephen Fontenot, Melynda Gremillion, Andre Guillory, Mandi Guillory, Charles Jones, Jaimie Lacombe, Leisa Lawson, Sekou Ma'at, Titan Marler, Liz Milesenko, Dawn Rabalais Olinde, Jeffrey Pogue, Michelle Purl, Ryan Riche, Grace Semones, Benjamin Smith, Courtney Squyres, Thelma Sumbler, Sarah Swain, Deron Thaxton, and Justin Whitcher.

Organizations are invited to support Leadership Cenla 2022 by submitting candidate(s) for application and/or becoming a sponsor for the series.

For more information, visit lsuacontinuingeducationCenla, email leadershipcenla@lsua.edu or call (318) 427 - 4441

Earn While You Learn at Acadian



NEW! ACCELERATED EMT PROGRAM

BECOME AN ACADIAN EMPLOYEE AND Earn while you learn!

CLASSES HAPPENING SOON
Lake Charles | Baton Rouge | New Orleans | Lake Charles
San Antonio, Texas | Memphis, Tennessee

CLASSES COMING IN 2022
Lake Charles | Alexandria | Lafayette | Baton Rouge
Covington | New Orleans | Houma

*Have your school tuition and fees covered.
Earn \$11/hour while in school. Then, earn EMT pay!
Two-year work commitment.*

READY FOR THE FIRST STEP? Scan the QR code or visit becomeamedic.com to apply now.
Questions? Email us at Recruiting@Acadian.com for more information.

The National EMS Academy and Acadian Ambulance Service are working together to train and hire individuals who are interested in becoming an Emergency Medical Technician. The accelerated program is an advanced, seven to eight-week course.

The class registration in Alexandria and surrounding areas begin in January and February. Classes starts in April 2022.

Continued on page 4

DID YOU know?

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) is an organization that assists persons with disabilities in their desire to obtain, maintain or advance in competitive integrated employment and achieve independence in their communities by providing rehabilitation services and working cooperatively with business and other community resources.

Programs & Services

- ◆ Independent Living Program
- ◆ Blind Services
 - Randolph-Sheppard Business Enterprise Program
 - Older Blind/Visually Impaired Program
- ◆ Vocational Rehabilitation Services Employer Services

To learn more, visit [LRS](https://lrs.org).

COVID-19 Vaccine & Booster Shots Locations

**Rapides Regional
Medical Center**
211 4th St. Alexandria, LA
(318) 769 - 3000

**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

**East Grant Community
Health Center**
9465 US-165 Pollock LA
(318) 310 - 2510

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

**South Grant Elementary
School Based Health Center**
1000 La-1241, Dry Prong LA
(318) 640 - 5487

**Rapides Primary
Health Care**
1217 Willow Glen River
Rd.,
Alexandria, LA
(318) 487 - 4400



Vaccine availability is
subject to change.

Appointments are
required at most locations.
To stay updated with
vaccine locations and
availability, click the
CDC logo.

Good Jobs Challenge Program

EDA's American Rescue Plan Good Jobs Challenge is a federal competitive grant program seeking applications to "Get Americans back to work" by establishing or strengthening regional workforce training systems to train workers with in-demand skills that directly result in job placement or wage gain through sectoral partnerships and stakeholder commitments.



These systems and partnerships will create and implement industry-led training programs, designed to provide skills and connect unemployed or underemployed workers to existing and emerging job opportunities. A sectoral partnership is a group of employers from the same industry who join with strategic partners to developed workforce solutions within a regional labor market.

The EDA is allocating \$500 million to collaborative skills training systems and programs. Below are the key grant information.

- EDA encourages efforts to reach historically underserved populations and areas, communities of color, women, and other groups facing labor market barriers (e.g., SNAP, TNAF and WUC Programs).
- There are three funding phases: System Development, Program Design, Program Implementation. Applicants may apply for all three phases, program implementation and one other phase, or just program implementation. Program implementation is a requirement.
- Period of performance is 24-36 months with priority to create jobs in 12-18 months.
- Up to \$25 million funding available per application.
- Application due January 26, 2021

For more information about the program, contact Susie Schowen,
Susana.schowen@la.gov

Continued from page 3



Qualified individuals will be paid to attend the class. Once the course is completed, the individuals will be hired as full-time employees through Acadian Ambulance Service.

Visit BecomeAMedic.com to apply. For more information, email Recruiting@Acadian.com

RoyOMartin, Roy O. Martin III & Kathy Martin Gifted LSUA \$2 Million



Martin Sustainable Resources LLC and Martco LLC d.b.a. RoyOMartin and LSU alumni Roy O. Martin III and Kathy Kilpatrick Martin have committed \$3.5 million to advance top capital priorities on three LSU campuses: LSU of Alexandria's Student Success Center, the LSU Interdisciplinary Science Building on the flagship campus in Baton Rouge and LSU Health Shreveport's Center for Medical Education.

Martin Sustainable Resources LLC and Martco LLC d.b.a. RoyOMartin, the premier manufacturer of wood products in the Gulf South, has committed \$2 million to complete funding for the LSUA Student Success Center, which is the campus's top Fierce for the Future Campaign priority. The \$10 million center, slated to break ground in spring 2022, will be a central hub for student services that will serve as a front door to the university while ensuring that each LSUA student receives the level of individual support needed for success.

Construction of this dedicated student space, which is a public-private partnership with the State of Louisiana, responds to the ongoing expansion of LSUA's student body and pool of academic offerings – growth that has accelerated a need to make improvements to the campus's overall appearance and add new facilities. Further, the services offered within the Student Success Center – spanning Admissions & Recruiting, Financial Aid, Advising, First-Year Experience, and a Career Development Center – will bolster LSUA's retention efforts and connect students with career placement opportunities upon graduation.

View the full story [here](#).



318.487.5532

Largest Employers in Alexandria LA, MSA

- Pinecrest Development Ctr.
- Rapides Women's—Children's Hsp.
- Rapides Regional Medical Ctr.
- CHRISTUS St Frances Cabrini Chief of Staff
- Alexandria VA Hsp. Medical Ctr.
- Sheriff's Department
- Walmart Supercenter - Monroe Hwy
- Walmart Supercenter-N Mall Dr
- Sheriff's Department-Jail
- Central LA State Hospital
- Crest Industries
- Cleco Corporate Holdings LLC
- Boise Cascade Co.
- Walmart Supercenter - Coliseum Blvd.
- Westside Habilitation Ctr Inc.
- Procter & Gamble Co.
- Plasticpak Packaging Inc.
- Transportation & Development
- St. Mary's Residential Training
- Central LA State Hosp.
- Hunt Forest Products
- Huey P Long Medical Ctr.
- USPS
- Ditto Apparel of California
- Dubuis Hospital
- Longleaf Hospital
- Louisiana Special Edu. Ctr.
- Dis-Tran Steel Fabrication
- Town Talk
- Afco Industries Inc.
- Kroger
- Alexandria Police Dept.
- T&D Solutions Ltd.
- Crest Operations, LLC.
- Quality Fabrication
- Dis-Tran Steel Fabrication
- Encompass Health Rehab
- Pecan Grove Training Ctr.
- Sam's Club Failover Lines
- Brame Energy Ctr.
- Aca Mechanical/Indl Design
- Target
- LA Community Care Inc.
- Lowe's Home Improvement
- Dillard's
- Pineville City Management
- Lafargue Special Ed.
- Kisatchie National Forest
- Lowe's - Monroe Hwy

Employer information is provided by Data Axle®, Omaha, NE, 800/555-5211. Data extracted from LWC website: 12.13.21

Energy Assistance Program



Cenla Community Action Committee (Cenla CAC) is currently accepting applications for the 2022 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills.

Funds are administered by the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) and distributed by community action agencies. The LIHEAP program may provide bill payment assistance and/or energy crisis assistance.

Check the eligibility requirements [here](#).

To schedule your appointments for application, call Cenla CAC at 318-416-8281.

Job Opportunities at Rehab Services of Louisiana



Rehabilitation Services of Louisiana is a mental health rehabilitation provider, offering quality mental health care for members with varying diagnoses. With offices in Alexandria, Oakdale, Marksville, Leesville, and Natchitoches they provide a range of mental health services to individuals in need throughout CENLA.

Rehab Services is looking to hire motivated individuals with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in a social services-related field (psychology, social work, and counseling).

If you are interested in working in a team-based, client-focused environment, apply [here](#).

CLTCC is Hiring!



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

City of Alexandria Homebuyer's Assistance Program

Are you shopping for your...

The City of Alexandria is offering a **Homebuyer's Assistance Program (HAP)** of up to **\$25,000** to provide financial assistance through approved private lenders to assist first time home buyers with mortgage principal reduction, closing costs and/or up to 50% of down payment assistance when purchasing a new home within Alexandria!

Eligible household:	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
Maximum Income:	\$17,000	\$20,000	\$24,000	\$28,000	\$32,000	\$36,000	\$40,000	\$44,000

Residents who have a gross annual income of 80% AMI or less are eligible to apply!

Call your preferred bank or lender to start the application process to owning your new home for the holidays!

Call Shirley at 318-449-5070 or cda@cityofalex.com for more information!



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For more information, call Shirley at 318-449-5070 or email cda@cityofalex.com



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](#).

Labor Market Information

Latest Unemployment Rates

	October	September	August
Rapides Parish <small>(not seasonally adjusted)</small>	3.2%	3.4%	3.8%
Louisiana <small>(seasonally adjusted)</small>	5.4%	5.8%	6.2%
United States <small>(seasonally adjusted)</small>	4.6%	4.8%	5.2%

Source: LWC Monthly Employment Bulletin

Job Openings in Alexandria, LA MSA		
Rank	Industry	No. of Job Openings
1	Health Care and Social Assistance	893
2	Retail Trade	196
3	Management of Companies and Enterprises	158
4	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	132
5	Accommodation and Food Services	127
6	Public Administration	127
7	Educational Services	111
8	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	97
9	Manufacturing	70
10	Unclassified	929

The table above shows the top ten job openings advertised online for the industries selected in Alexandria, LA Metropolitan Statistical Area on December 13, 2021. Source: Online advertised jobs data.

We thank and acknowledge the Contributors:

Orchard Foundation - Tammy Moreau	CLECO - Jeff Ryan
Acadian Ambulance - Paul Fuselier	Rapides AJC - Elaine Morace
LED - Susie Schowen	LSU of Alexandria
Rehab Services of LA - Cody Cloud	Cenla CAC - Sally Cowan
Louisiana Rehabilitation Services	LA Dept. of Health
LSUA CoB - Dr. Randall Dupont	CLTCC - Lisa Doney
City of Alexandria - Shirley Branham	LWC

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 Dejoie, 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

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LSUA - SBDC Coordinator
Rapides American Job Center
One-Stop Operator

