



Craig Smith, President

# IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

## A PUBLICATION OF THE RAPIDES AMERICAN JOB CENTER

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### A Message from the Director

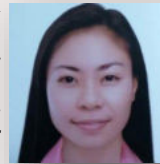


The Rapides Workforce Development Board (WDB) is committed to be the driving force within the local workforce area. Rapides WDB shall assist in leading the local workforce area by promoting a qualified workforce and economic growth to meet the industry demand. Rapides WDB supports an integrated system approach to address workforce development challenges. In order to address the challenges within our local area, it is imperative for partnering agencies and community agencies to collaborate and be a vital part of the integrated system that delivers services effectively and efficiently. As the Rapides Workforce Development Board Director, I am fully devoted to lead efforts to ensure such collaboration exist and strategically approach the workforce and industry needs by collectively creating solutions. This newsletter will 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](mailto:nhill@lsua.edu).

**Elaine Morace**  
Rapides Workforce Development Board Director

### Greetings, from the One-Stop Operator

*Hello*, my name is Nannette Hill, and I serve as Rapides American Job Center's Interim One-Stop Operator, under the supervision of Dr. Randall Dupont, Dean, College of Business, Louisiana State University of Alexandria. I am so honored for the opportunity to work with all of you. My goal as One-Stop Operator is to facilitate the integration of partner services to better serve the community and to improve the way they are offered to the community. With all your help and support, anything is possible. Thank you very much.



**Nannette Hill**  
Rapides American Job Center

### Welcome Paul Fuselier: Rapides Workforce Development Board 2021 One-Stop Operator Monitor

Paul Fuselier serves as the Business Development Director for Acadian Ambulance's Western La. region. Paul has been in EMS since August of 1981, all of that time with Acadian Ambulance. Paul started out on the ground level and over the years has held many positions in ambulance operations, EMS education, community and governmental relations and still holds his Paramedic certification to date. Paul also serves on numerous committees and boards in which he works hard to strengthen Acadian's partnerships with healthcare, community and governmental agencies. Those partnerships can positively affect the health and welfare of the citizens of every community. Paul enjoys family time, being outdoors, camping, fishing and hunting. He is also a member of the Rapides Parish Workforce Development Board 61. Paul will meet quarterly, with our One-Stop Operator, to monitor the progress of initiatives to integrate partner services.



### LED Annual Report Highlights P&G Plastipak Project in Central Louisiana

Louisiana Economic Development has unveiled its annual report documenting investments in Louisiana amid a year of historic public health and natural disaster responses. "Against great odds, LED continued its core mission of increasing economic opportunity for our people," said Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards. "That work yielded 58 new economic development projects representing over 11,000 new jobs and more than \$12 billion in new capital investment.

In Central Louisiana, the LED reported that P&G and supplier Plastipak moved forward with new projects that will retain over 800 workers and result in 30 new jobs. Procter & Gamble awarded Plastipak the P&G Supplier of Excellence Award in 2020. Plastipak supplies P&G with rigid plastic packaging for a wide range of products. Plastipak's partnership with P&G is a long standing relationship.

Plastipak Packaging, Inc. is a global leader in plastic packaging and recycling solutions. In addition to its Pineville, Louisiana location, Plastipak operates over 40 production sites in the United States, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia, with more than 6,000 employees. Its customers include some of the world's most recognized consumer brands. Plastipak is a leading innovator in the packaging industry, holding more than 500 U.S. patents for its state-of-the-art package designs and manufacturing processes. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Plastipak Holdings, Inc. and headquartered in Plymouth, Michigan.

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318.487.5532

### COVID-19 Community Testing Sites

**Rapides Urgent Care**  
6515 Coliseum Blvd.,  
Alexandria, LA  
Mon—Sat., 8am-8pm  
318-442-9634

**Rapides Urgent Care**  
3800 Jackson St., Ext.,  
Alexandria, LA  
Mon—Sat., 8am-8pm  
318-767-9015

**Premier Urgent Care**  
3601 Jackson St.,  
Extension, Alexandria, LA  
Open 7 Days/Week  
8am-8pm

**Premier Urgent Care**  
2709 Hwy 28 E, Pineville,  
LA  
Open 7 Days/Week  
8am-8pm

**Woodworth Community Health Center**  
9372 Hwy 165 S,  
Woodworth, LA  
7am-11am Tues.  
7am-10:30am Fri  
Antibody testing ONLY  
Call for screening at  
318-484-9588

### Walgreens Testing Sites

Appointments are required:  
make yours at  
[walgreens.com/  
covid19testing](https://www.walgreens.com/covid19testing)

Bring personal I.D. and/or  
health insurance information.

[https://ldh.la.gov/  
index.cfm/page/3934](https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3934)

### COVID-19 Relief Efforts

**CENLA Community Action Committee**  
318-314-3480  
2011 MacArthur Dr.  
Fireside Plaza Bldg.1  
Alexandria, LA 71301  
<https://www.cenlacac.org/>

**Louisiana Department of Health**  
Phone: 225-342-9500  
Fax: 225-342-5568  
[https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/  
page/3937](https://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3937)

### Free Trainings Offered by Louisiana Small Business Development Center

Employment in the Alexandria metropolitan statistical area is highly dependent on small businesses. Fifteen thousand of the 45,000 employed in the private workforce in the Alexandria MSA are employed by small businesses, according to the latest census data. Small businesses are defined as those with less than 50 employees. Furthermore, small businesses with less than one-year of operation accounted for 1,440 jobs in 2019.

Training employees can be a significant cost of operations. The Louisiana Small Business Development Center has a number of training workshops being offered each month. Most originate in Louisiana and are offered online due to Covid restrictions. Upcoming training topics include the following and reoccur periodically:

- LinkedIn for Business Engagement
- Starting & Financing a Small Business
- DBE, SBE, & ACDBE Certifications
- Veteran Owned Certification
- Business Resiliency Planning for Entrepreneurs
- Small Business Accounting with a CPA

To register for the trainings and stay updated, log on to <https://www2.lsbdc.org/events.aspx?layout=3>

### Rapides Parish School Board to Hold Job Fair



The RPSB is holding a job fair for high school seniors on May 5, 2021 from 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM at the Alexandria Mega Shelter, located at 8125 Hwy 71. Employers wishing to participate should contact **Larunda Pierce** at (318) 449-3198 or [larunda.pierce@rpsb.us](mailto:larunda.pierce@rpsb.us).

**- Continued from Page 1**

Other central Louisiana activities mentioned in the LED report was Cabot's announcement of a \$90 million reinvestment in its carbon-black facility in Ville Platte, retaining 90 jobs and resulting in over 60 new direct and indirect jobs. Other Acadiana highlights included SchoolMint's corporate headquarters relocation from Silicon Valley to Lafayette (397 total new jobs) and Amazon's \$100 million fulfillment center in Carencro (nearly 1,500 new direct and indirect jobs).

### Assistance for Venue Operators Hit by Covid-19

#### Shuttered Venue Operators Grant



For more information log on to <https://www.svograntportal.sba.gov/s/>

### Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) Program Now Accepting Applications

Northwestern State University & Central Louisiana Technical Community College are now accepting applications for the AMT Program Fall 2020 class. The AMT curriculum implements the multidisciplinary, multi-skilled model with courses in electricity, fluid power, mechanics, fabrication, troubleshooting, problem solving, etc. Students attend class full-time two days a week and work at a sponsoring manufacturer three days.

Students learn essential manufacturing principles and develop productive work behaviors for excellent self-development skills. In addition to gaining skill mastery in the education portion of the program, students learn about the culture of manufacturing through workshops such as safety culture, visual workplace organization, lean manufacturing, problem solving, and machine reliability.

Students participating in the Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) Program will earn an Associate of Science Degree in Engineering Technology from Northwestern State University (NSU). This degree combined with additional technical courses through the Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC)—Natchitoches Campus will result in an AMT Certificate from CLTCC. For more information and program eligibility, go to <https://nca-la.com/workforce-ready/amt/>.

### Income Tax Assistance Provided by Cenla Community Action Committee

#### What is VITA?

#### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The VITA program offers free tax return preparation for eligible taxpayers who generally earn \$57,000 or less. **Tax Counseling for the Elderly:** TCE is mainly for people age 60 or older but offers service to all taxpayers.



Clients are seen by appointment **only**. For more information, contact **Cenla Community Action Committee:** Phone: (318) 314-3480 Fax: (318) 487-5858 Email: [info@cenlacac.org](mailto:info@cenlacac.org) Log on to [www.cenlacac.org](http://www.cenlacac.org)







318.487.5532

## Community Outreach COVID Vaccine Clinics to Open in Pineville and Alexandria

CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Health System announced a partnership with the City of Alexandria, the City of Pineville and Rapides Regional Medical Center to open two new Community Outreach COVID vaccine clinics. These clinics are in addition to the hundreds of vaccinations Cabrini has been donating to the Central Louisiana Department of Health.



"As a leader in health care, we feel a tremendous responsibility to make this valuable vaccine resource available to the communities we serve in an easy and convenient setting close to home so we can reach as many people as quickly as possible," said Monte Wilson, president, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Health System. "Our partnership with the Cities of Alexandria and Pineville, and Rapides Regional Medical Center speaks loudly to the importance of the vaccine's ability to save lives."

The Community Outreach COVID vaccine clinics are located at the Main Street Community Center in Pineville and the Bolton Avenue Community Center in Alexandria. Below are the available dates and times for scheduling appointments:

### Main Street Community Center

708 Main Street, Pineville  
 3/4/21-1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
 3/11/21-1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
 3/25/21-1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
 4/1/21--1 p.m.-5 p.m.

### Bolton Avenue Community Center

315 Bolton Avenue, Alexandria  
 3/9/21-1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
 3/16/21-1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
 3/30/21--1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
 4/6/21-1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Vaccines are given by appointment only and can be made by using the CHRISTUS chat bot, Christy online at <https://vaccinate.christushealth.org/louisiana>. For those who don't have the ability to register online, appointments can also be scheduled by calling 877-335-5746.

<https://www.christushealth.org/st-frances-cabrini/about/news/covid-vaccine-clinics>



To register for the classes, log on to <https://registration.xenegrade.com/cltcc/search.cfm>

## Technology Job Opportunities with Avant Organics

Crest Industries are expanding their family of businesses and has launched a completely new company in a platform all its own—Avant Organics. Avant Organics will combine advanced biology and chemistry research to help its customers create sustainable products. The company will serve multiple industries and manufacture a variety of renewable goods such as flavors to be used in foods and medicine, as well as fragrances, and other components used in our everyday life.



Avant Organics plans to collaborate with Louisiana's universities and its rich agricultural industries to drive further research and develop emerging world-class separation technologies. Because of this strong devotion to innovation, Avant Organics will be an agent of change within its industries and advance traditional organic industrial chemistry in manufacturing using biology.

Fontenot says he is excited about this venture and the opportunity to strengthen Crest Industries partnership with the Central Louisiana Regional Port. The Port's available space is ideal for Avant Organic's business to business manufacturing model as it has the advantage of multimodal transportation. The Port also offers the additional benefit of scalability giving Avant plenty of room to grow.

Avant Organics will create good paying technology jobs so that Louisiana students with S.T.E.M. degrees do not have to leave the state upon graduation to find employment. Avant Organics expects to begin production by late summer or early fall. You can search for available positions within Crest Industries and submit your resume in consideration for future jobs at [www.crestoperations.com/careers](http://www.crestoperations.com/careers). Visit their website at <https://www.crestoperations.com/>

## Community Partners

Rapides Parish Police Jury  
 (318) 473-6660

<http://www.rppj.com/workforce-operations-Department>

Louisiana Workforce Commission  
 318-487-5532

<http://www.laworks.net/>

Louisiana Technical & Community College System  
 318-487-5443

<https://www.lctcs.edu/>

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

[http://www.laworks.net/WorkforceDev/LRS/LRS\\_Main.asp](http://www.laworks.net/WorkforceDev/LRS/LRS_Main.asp)

National Association for Hispanic Elderly (on site)  
<http://aginginmotion.org/members/national-association-for-hispanic-elderly/>

Alexandria Housing Authority  
 318-442-8843

<http://www.alexhousing.org/>

## Helpful Links for Employers

US Department of Labor  
<https://www.dol.gov/general/forms>

Louisiana Workforce Commission  
<http://www.laworks.net/>

Chamber of Commerce  
<http://www.cenlachamber.org/>

Louisiana Small Business Development Center  
<https://www.louisianasbdc.org/>

Secretary of State  
<https://www.sos.la.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Rapides Sales & Use Tax Department  
<https://www.rppj.com/sales-use-tax-department>

Employer.gov  
<https://www.employer.gov/>



[www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net)

## Struggling to Pay Rent Due to COVID?

The State of Louisiana is launching the U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide emergency rental assistance to Louisiana residents who are at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is funded through the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (H.R. 133). The Louisiana Housing Corporation, in partnership with the Louisiana Office of Community Development, will administer the state program.



The state-administered program will focus on paying rental arrears, or past-due rent, and up to three months of future rent for eligible applicants. Priority will be given to households where at least one member has been unemployed for more than 90 days due to COVID-19, and to households earning less than 80 percent of the Area Median Income, as required by the law.

Louisiana renters may be eligible for assistance from the state-administered program if they meet all of the following criteria:

\*They qualify or previously qualified for unemployment benefits, or experienced an income reduction or other financial hardship due to COVID-19.

\*They are not current on rent payments or at risk of eviction.

\*Their total household income is at or below 80 percent of the area median income (AMI). For Rapides Parish, the 80% level of AMI for qualifying depends on household size in accordance with the following table.

| 80% OF THE AREA MEDIAN INCOME IN RAPIDES |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| TOTAL # OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD          |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 1  | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      |
| 32,700                                   | 37,400 | 42,050 | 46,700 | 50,450 | 54,200 | 57,950 | 61,650 |

To learn more or to apply for the state program, tenants and landlords can visit [www.LAStateRent.com](http://www.LAStateRent.com). For questions about the program or assistance with the application process, renters or landlords can call 877-459-6555.

**Dr. Randall Dupont, D.B.A.**  
 LSUA, Chair and Professor of Mgmt.  
 Department of Business Admin.

## Connecting Businesses w/Contracts - Business Development Procurement Conference Offered by Southern University

The Annual "Connecting Businesses with Contracts" Conference will be virtual and held on April 6 – 7, 2021 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. The conference will have an opportunity for Federal, State, and Municipal procurement agents, Prime Contractors and small businesses to be exhibitors. Throughout the day, the participants will be able to engage with exhibitors in their respective rooms.

This matchmaking and business development conference enables Federal Agencies, State and Municipal Agencies, and Prime Contractors to strengthen their commitment to the small business community. For small businesses, especially Small Business Enterprise (SBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), 8 (a) certified firms, Hub Zone, Woman and Veteran Owned businesses, this event affords them an opportunity to meet with various procurement officials, receive business development training and assistance, as well as network with other small businesses to expand their client base. This is a no cost online conference; however, registration is required. To learn more, go to <https://www2.lsbdc.org/workshop.aspx?>

## SBDC + Workforce = OPPORTUNITIES

Learning how to pivot due to the aftershocks of COVID-19 has proven to be quite challenging, however, these challenges have created many opportunities for partnerships and collaboration. It takes multiple partnerships working together to make things happen.

The Small Business Development Center in Alexandria is an additional local tool that can help with economic growth and make central Louisiana the best place to get a job or grow a business. The Center is a resource hub that not only provides one-on-one consulting and online workshops, but also provides coaching and guidance to new and existing businesses and organizations.

One part of the CARES Act that is not well known is the expansion of specialized SBDC consulting for existing businesses and even non-profit organizations that were impacted by the pandemic. These additional consultants are on hand to provide guidance, at no cost to the organization. Specialized technical assistance is now available in the following areas: finance management, e-commerce, web development, I.T. management, cyber-security, HR management and non-profit guidance.

To learn more about the specialized CARES Act consultants or any other services provided by the SBDC, call Evelyn Jones at 318-545-5077 or send an email to [ejones@louisianasbdc.org](mailto:ejones@louisianasbdc.org). For overall information about the SBDC, log on to [louisianasbdc.org](http://louisianasbdc.org). For information about SBA programs go to [sba.gov](http://sba.gov) or [covid-sb.org](http://covid-sb.org). The Louisiana SBDC is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Louisiana Economic Development (LED), and LSUA.

*Evelyn Jones, Business Consultant*



## LEADERSHIP CENLA 2021



Louisiana State University of Alexandria College of Business and the Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce have partnered again to host the 2021 Leadership CenLA.

Leadership CenLA is a community-wide leadership series designed for emerging leaders from Central Louisiana who want to enhance their leadership skills. Participants will attend eight one-day sessions from April 2021 to November 2021, including Legislative Day at the Capitol.

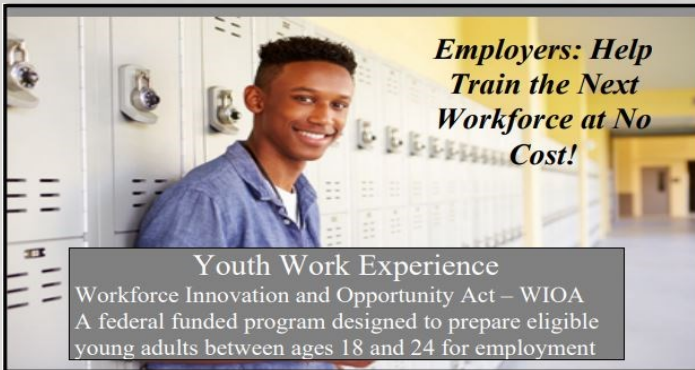
"Leadership CenLA seeks to identify and empower emerging leaders who can influence the future of central Louisiana. Participants will get a behind-the-scenes look at issues impacting CenLA and the opportunity to engage with business and community thought leaders," said Dr. Randall Dupont, Dean of the LSUA College of Business.

"Leadership CenLA provides a unique opportunity for emerging professionals to gain a deeper understanding of the region and the state and to sharpen leadership skills," said Deborah Randolph, President, Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce. "The chamber board and I are pleased to partner with the LSUA College of Business on Leadership CenLA and believe it offers the strongest curriculum to date. We encourage businesses and industries in the region to nominate their emerging leaders to participate."

Organizations are invited to support Leadership CenLA this year by submitting candidate(s) for application and/or becoming a sponsor for the leadership series.

A single participant cost is \$1,500 which includes all 8 sessions which include breakfast and lunch. For more information, visit <http://www.lsua.edu/continuingeducation/leadershipcenla>





**Youth Work Experience is :**

- An opportunity for young adults to develop. Good work habits and basic employment skills.
- Provides an opportunity to explore. Occupations firsthand and gain limited job experience.
- A chance to develop and reinforce soft skills.
- Opportunity to build responsibility and confidence.
- A means of promoting a stronger workforce.

Youth Work Experience is not intended to displace or replace current employees or seasonal workers.

**Snapshot for Employers:**

- **You** interview the WIOA applicant for a good fit.
- **We** complete the necessary paperwork.
- **We** pay for up to 1,040 hours of work-based learning
- **We** cover the workers compensation.
- **We** cover the “employer,” but you call the shots.
- There is no obligation to hire at the end.

**Your Role is to:**

- Provide a learning-rich job description.
- Provide skills training, mentoring, and supervision.
- Track hours and submit weekly timesheets to the Workforce Operations Department.
- Complete an employee evaluation.
- Communicate with the Youth Workforce Professionals often to ensure success.

For more information and/or to sign up for the program, contact the local Rapides American Job Center Youth Program @ MAIN: (318) 487-5532 or DONNA: (318) 767-6019 or THERESA: (318) 484-4721

This WIOA Title 1 Financially Assisted Program or Equal Opportunity Employer/Program Auxiliary Aids and Services are available Upon Request to Individuals with Disabilities LRS # 1-800-846-5277 (TDD) LRS # 1-800-947-5277 (Voice)



**Acadian Works with the Military to Provide Career Options for Soldiers**



Acadian’s recruiting team has been working to put their company at the forefront of military recruitment. By partnering with the Army National Guard, Acadian's team has been getting full-time employment for 68W combat medics, who are now working on their ambulances and helicopters. The recruiting team is also partnering with the Army to create opportunities for active-duty personnel through the Cohort Program and the Career Skills Program.

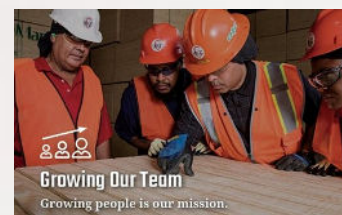


The Career Skills Program allows Acadian to hire active-duty military members who are within their last six months of military service and are leaving under honorable conditions. These soldiers are able to train to become EMTs, regardless of what jobs and training they received in the military.

As a new Army cohort, Acadian is working to gain approval to help soldiers acquire EMT certification. Through this program, active servicemen and women can gain EMS training through Acadian and NEMSA that will help them in their military careers. By partnering with the military, Acadian is able to hire qualified candidates, right out of service. Acadian is proud to be able to offer an education and career path for the veterans who have served our country.

Learn more at <https://acadian.com/careers/military-opportunities/>  
Website: <https://acadian.com/>

**RoyOMartin Career Fair (Chopin Plywood Plant)**



RoyOMartin’s plywood-manufacturing plant in Chopin, LA, will hold a special, COVID-compliant drive-through hiring event for production team members on Thursday, April 15, 2021, in the parking lot of Pineville Community Center in Pineville, Louisiana. Jobseekers may drive through anytime between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. Company representatives will be on hand to collect resumes and provide details about upcoming interviews.

This career fair is for potential production team members. Upon hire, all positions will be located at RoyOMartin-Plywood in Chopin, LA. The starting pay for production team members at RoyOMartin-Plywood is \$14.50 an hour, with the potential to earn up to \$22.50 an hour through on-the-job training. Jobseekers should bring a resume with them to the drive-through hiring event.

To view the job description and pay range for production team members at RoyOMartin-Plywood, log on to <https://royomartin.com/career/productionteammember-chopin/> For more information, contact 800-299-5174. You may also visit their website at <https://royomartin.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, visit <https://www.laworks.net/wotc/>.

### 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 <http://www.laworks.net/Downloads/WFD/>.

## A Few Tips for Recruiting Talent in a Covid Environment

As the number of Covid cases decreases in our state and our business reopen, many companies struggle to locate and hire talent. We have spoken with some of these businesses and would like to provide a few tips that may help you in this effort.

1. Social Media can be your friend. If you aren't already on multiple social media platforms, you may be losing great candidates to companies who are. Many job seekers are spending their free time scrolling through social media. This is a great opportunity to connect with them. To give a frame of reference to those who are like me and have more than a little gray in your beard, this is today's version of word of mouth. It is still a powerful tool. Use it to your advantage.
2. Online job boards are a great way to go. Many job seekers are hesitant to drive around looking for work, but they are not shy about cruising the internet. There are several tools available and one of the biggest in Louisiana is [www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net). You can post job listings, search our resume database and take advantage of other resources such as labor market data all at no cost. In addition to the online listing, when you post your positions on Laworks, recruiters will review your posting and reach out to potential applicants to encourage them to apply.
3. Don't be afraid to think out of the box. One thing we have learned from the pandemic is how to get creative. We have companies now who use virtual platforms to interview and onboard candidates and even hold job fairs. Locally, Roy O Martin has had great success with drive thru job fairs. Two years ago, when someone said job fair, it meant a large room, lots of tables and a big crown of people. That is not possible in the current environment, but you can still get good results with other types of events.

If you would like to learn more about how the Rapides American Job Center may be able to help with your recruitment needs, please contact us at 318-487-5531.

**Chad Bynog**  
Louisiana Workforce Commission  
Industry Sector Program Manager

### DISLOCATED WORKER COVID-19 DISASTER GRANT (DWG) UPDATE:

In 2020, RPPJ was awarded National Dislocated Worker Covid-19 Disaster Recovery Grant (DWG). Covid-19 Disaster DWGs provide funding to create temporary employment opportunities to assist with the pandemic recovery efforts. The grant expands access to temporary employment for individuals who have been laid off, unemployed, and/or unable to find employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic economic shutdown. We are currently employing Rapides Parish residents with temporary employment in positions to assist in the humanitarian, preventative, and sanitation needs of the community during this pandemic. As of March 2021, we have been able to serve the following agencies in their recovery efforts by providing temporary employees; The Food Bank of Central Louisiana, United Way-Central LA Inc., Fostering Community Organization, Rapides Parish Health Unit, CLTCC, LSUA, and CenlaCAC. All agencies have expressed appreciation and have had positive feedback on the temporary employees. In fact, we have had one participant who was offered a full-time position by one of the agencies listed. This participant's promotion into full-time permanent employment, opens the door for another grant applicant to secure employment.

Workforce Development Board Staff

### 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



Louisiana Workforce Commission  
Ava Dejoie, Secretary

## Rapides Parish 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



[Facebook.com/rapidesamericanjobcenter](https://www.facebook.com/rapidesamericanjobcenter)

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