

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

A PUBLICATION OF THE RAPIDES AMERICAN JOB CENTER

A proud partner of the **americanjobcenter** network

Rapides Workforce Development Board

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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.

What is WIOA? WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Over its lifespan, national data reveals that for every dollar spent on WIOA services, \$10.00 have been received in wages. Workforce development is a worthy goal and a good investment. 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.

Furthermore, the Rapides American Job Center continues to assist businesses with their recruitment needs. We recently hosted the Back to Work Louisiana Job Fair at the Randolph Riverfront Center. There were 62 companies in attendance recruiting for over 1900 openings in Central Louisiana. We currently have over 580 recruiting announcements and work to help companies find the qualified staff they are seeking. As the labor market continues to change, employers sometimes find it difficult to identify candidates with the right skill set. The Rapides American Job Center has pre-employment assessments that can help you identify the right person for your positions.

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.



Introducing the New Mobile Workforce Center!



The Louisiana Workforce Commission's MWC delivers workforce resources and services to individuals and businesses throughout the state. The MWC is equipped with broadband satellite, 4G LTE WiFi, 13 computer stations, and printing/scanning capabilities. Some of the services offered on board include, resume-writing and posting, job search and online applications, pre-employment testing, skills assessments, links to training classes and more!

Join the MWC Roadshow: Alexandria Ribbon Cutting on September 29, 2021, 10am to 12pm at Rapides American Job Center, 5610 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Mobile Workforce Center!





318.487.5532

COVID-19 Vaccine 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

Kroger Pharmacy
1422 Macarthur Dr., Alexandria, LA
(318) 442 - 0512

CVS Pharmacy, Inc.
443 Jackson St., Alexandria, LA
(318) 448 - 1683

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

Riverside Hospital of Louisiana
13 Heyman Ln., Alexandria, LA
(318) 767 - 2900

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.

COVID-19 Relief Efforts



Online Career Training and Skills Courses at LSUA!

LSU of Alexandria Online Learning
anytime, anywhere... just a click away!

<p>ADVANCED CAREER TRAINING</p> <p>6-18 Month Format Prepare for Certification All Materials Included Student Advisers</p> <p>Categories Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certified Wedding Planner Optician Certification Training CompTIA Certification Training: A+, Network + Security + (Vouchers included) Web Design Professional Digital Game Artist Certificate Administrative Professional w/ MS Office Specialist 2016 Mobile and Desktop Web Developer Medical Billing & Coding <p>Visit our website for program details! careertraining.ed2go.com/lsua</p>	<p>FUNDAMENTALS COURSES</p> <p>6 Week Format Monthly Start Sessions Discussion Areas Expert Instructor</p> <p>Categories Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed Spanish Accounting Fundamentals A to Z Grant Writing Grammar Refresher Basic CompTIA A+ Certification Prep Creating WordPress Websites Medical Terminology: A Word Association Approach Introduction to SQL Secrets to Better Photography Real Estate Investing <p>Visit our website for program details! ed2go.com/lsua</p>
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LSUA Continuing Education offers online open enrollment programs designed to provide the skills necessary to acquire professional level positions for many in-demand occupations.

Our programs are designed by a team of professionals from each respective field, providing you with effective web-based learning programs. Instructors/mentors are actively involved in your online learning experience.

Check out our [Online Career Training Programs](#).

You can also explore a wide range of highly interactive noncredit courses. All of our courses are led by expert instructors, many of whom are nationally known authors. Our online courses are affordable, fun, fast, convenient, and geared just for you.

Ready to explore our catalog?
Browse our [Catalog](#) or check out our [Popular](#), [New](#), and [Featured](#) Courses.

Workforce Opportunity Grant Available



The Rapides Foundation's Workforce Opportunity Grant provides up to \$75,000 to support collaborations between industry and postsecondary institutions to offer training for high-wage occupations for which there is demonstrated unmet employer demand. Grants will be awarded to accredited, nonprofit, postsecondary institutions to provide short-term trainings (up to twelve months) to benefit businesses and employees located within The Rapides Foundation's nine-parish service area (Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parishes).

Industry partners will be responsible for: 1) identifying qualifications, skills, certifications and credentials needed for high-wage jobs; 2) identifying a postsecondary partner to implement trainings for those skills; 3) a commitment to hire training participants or moderately increase the wages of existing employees that are trained; and 4) providing at least a 10% cash match for the total cost of the training.

The grant opportunity is part of the Foundation's Economic Development Initiative.

For more information on the Workforce Opportunity Grant, visit [The Rapides Foundation's website](#) and click on the "Grants" tab, or contact **Matt LaBorde, Program Officer**, at matt@rapidesfoundation.org.



318.487.5532

COVID-19 Community Testing Sites

Rapides Parish Health Unit

5604 Coliseum Blvd.
Ste A, Alexandria, LA
M-F 8am-4pm
Pre-register [here](#)
(318) 487 - 5282 Ext 253

Premier Urgent Care

2705 Hwy 28 E
Pineville, LA
Open 7 Days/Week
8am-8pm
Rapid testing available
(318) 740 - 4770 option 8

Premier Urgent Care

3601 Jackson St., Ext
Alexandria, LA
Open 7 Days/Week
8am-8pm
Rapid testing available
(318) 740 - 4770 option 8

Rapides Urgent Care

2389 La Hwy. 28 East,
Pineville, LA
Mon - Sat, 8am - 8pm
(318) 487 - 1925

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

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

To make an appointment, click [here](#)

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



CAREER COMPASS Beyond Graduation

Beyond Graduation is a project designed to address the gap between high school seniors that graduate and apply to postsecondary institutions and those that enroll in their first fall semester. It is funded by a grant from The Rapides Foundation.

Beyond Graduation will fund trained career coaches to assist high school students with successfully transitioning to a local two-year or four-year university or technical community college. Initially, the project will work with students in three school districts (LaSalle, Natchitoches and Rapides), with future plans to expand to all nine Cenla school districts (Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon, and Winn) depending on the success of the two-year pilot program. The project will fund staff at participating post-secondary institutions to provide ongoing services to Beyond Graduation students during their college tenure to ensure that they continue to progress towards completion. Participating Colleges/Universities: Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC), LSU of Alexandria (LSUA) and Northwestern State University (NSU).

Eligible students from LaSalle, Natchitoches or Rapides parish who plan to attend CLTCC, LSUA or NSU and meet ONE of the following criteria: First-generation college student (parent did not graduate from college); Economic hardship; Academic record and related factors (including attendance and disciplinary referrals).

For more information on Benefits/Enhanced Services, and the Participants Requirements, contact the Beyond Graduation coach at your high school, or **Dr. Chris Maggio, Beyond Graduation Project Manager,** cmaggio@careercompassla.org

October is Manufacturing Month in Louisiana Central



Each year, **Louisiana Central** works with local industry and education partners to promote manufacturing careers during the month of October. During the entire month, various events and tours will be conducted to showcase manufacturing careers available in this area. Over the next decade, 4 million manufacturing jobs will need to be filled in the US. Local and regional manufacturers need to fill many current positions and begin to build talent pipelines to fill future demand.

In conjunction with the local efforts, Manufacturing Day (MFG Day) – organized nationally by the Manufacturing Institute - is held on the first Friday in October in order to show students, parents, and the public what modern manufacturing is all about. Although many events will look differently this year, due to the pandemic, local partners are already at work on a full schedule. This year, Manufacturing Month includes a strong emphasis on engaging digital and virtual events.

Local manufacturers are encouraged to participate with onsite and virtual events that will be promoted to area high school, community and technical college, and university students, in addition to the general public.

For additional information about participating, Contact **Lafe Jones, Executive Director of Industry Relations at Louisiana Central.**

Email: ljones@louisiana-central.com.

[Visit Louisiana Central](#)





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U.S. Department of Commerce Invests \$1 Million In Cares Act Recovery Assistance to Establish Resiliency Center in Alexandria, Louisiana



The Department’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$1 million CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to the Kisatchie-Delta Regional Planning and Development District in Alexandria Louisiana to create a new Resiliency Center that will support economic development in the region. This EDA grant is anticipated to maintain 891 jobs.

“This EDA investment in the Kisatchie-Delta Regional Planning and Development District will support business development and growth, creating a more resilient regional economy,” Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo, said.

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, Alejandra Y. Castillo, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, also said that, “The Resiliency Center to be established with the assistance of this EDA investment will serve as a multi-regional, multi-faceted resilience and capacity-building facility supporting economic development in Central Louisiana.”

[View the full story](#)

[U.S. Economic Development Administration](#)

Course starts on September 25th
8am - 4pm
Call (318) 487 - 5443



DCFS Available Programs in Rapides Parish

—DCFS Workforce Development

Last summer, DCFS created a Workforce Development section dedicated to developing services and opportunities to engage, train and employ participants receiving FITAP (Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program) and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

—Work-eligible FITAP recipients and SNAP recipients are provided services through STEP (Strategies to Empower People) and SNAP E&T. Expansion of DCFS portfolio to include the Child Support Enforcement Employment and Training (CSE E&T) Program.

—**SNAP E&T** initiative offers SNAP recipients in Louisiana the opportunity to gain skills, training and work experience.

- Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition.
- The program is provided at no cost to SNAP recipients.
- Employment and Training providers are eligible for federal reimbursement.
- If your organization serves SNAP clients, or provides Employment and Training Opportunities in the area, you may be able to partner with DCFS.

—The **CSE E & T** (Child Support Enforcement Employment and Training) initiative provides non-custodial parents with employment and training services utilizing Community Based Organizations (COBs) for employment services and case management.

Funded by Child Support Enforcement Incentive Funds; Help non-custodial parents receive job placement; Ensure timely Income With holding Orders; Increase in child support payments
For more information, send them an email at SNAP&T.dcf@la.gov.

[Click here](#) to visit their website.

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 Links 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.



318.487.5532

Cenla Regional Chamber of Commerce 9th Annual Women In Business Conference



The Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce's Women In Business Conference is consistently one of the most dynamic, engaging, and exciting events in the central Louisiana Region. The Conference marks their 9th year, bringing together regional executives and young professionals who will convene for a day of celebration, encouragement, and critical thinking with influential speakers and leaders. RoyOMartin is this year's Event Sponsor.



The event begins on Thursday, October 21 with the Pre-Conference Reception at CLECO Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at Central Louisiana Technical Community College. The Conference begins Friday at 8:00 a.m. at the England Airpark Community Center. The 2021 program will focus on the resurgence, reinvention, and resiliency of women.

For more information contact: **Cindy Cespiva**
(318) 442-6671; ccespiva@cenlachamber.org

Want to earn your high school equivalency diploma?

WorkReady U is an adult education and career readiness program for adult learners who want to earn their high school equivalency diploma, improve their literacy, learn English as a second language, and transition to college, with the goal of finding a job earning a family sustaining wage. It is no longer just about obtaining your high school equivalency diploma. It's also about acquiring the means to improve your circumstances and obtaining the skills you need for a good-paying job.



Currently, adult education classes are offered in four locations in Rapides Parish: CLTCC Alexandria Main Campus, Boyce Library, Rapides American Job Center, and Pineville Elementary.

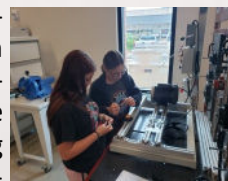
For more information, contact
Elizabeth Allen – Site Coordinator/Instructor
Phone: (318) 487-5443, ext. 1125
Email: elizabethallen@cltcc.edu

RoyOMartin WoodWorks Program

Developed by RoyOMartin in 2007, WoodWorks is an industry-based curriculum offered in select high schools throughout Central Louisiana and East Texas. Many of these graduates have gone on to enjoy full-time employment with our organization. In this program, students receive a basic knowledge of interview and production processes, math skills, safety awareness, and are made aware of opportunities in manufacturing and forestry industries.



This year's graduates of the WoodWorks program, who were hired in July, recently attending Central Louisiana Technical Community College as part of their on-the-job training to help prepare them for a successful career. Part of their instruction included hands-on exercises using mechanical trainers. In recent weeks, they learned about mechanical transmission by assembling belt drives, chain drives, and couplings, including alignment and tensioning procedures.



[RoyOMartin website](http://RoyOMartin.com)

GeauxFAME

Advanced Manufacturing Technician

For Successful Candidates

- NSU awards the Associate of Science degree in Engineering Technology with a concentration in Advanced Manufacturing
- CLTCC awards the Certificate of Technical Studies
- GeauxFAME awards the AMT Certificate

www.GeauxFAME.com

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III NORTHWESTERN STATE
Jafar F. Al-Sharab, PhD
jafar@nsula.edu | 318.357.6751

CENTRAL LOUISIANA TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Laurie Morrow
lauriemorrow@cltcc.edu | 318.357.3162

Some of the participating manufacturers include:

INTERNATIONAL PAPER

Boise Cascade

RoyOMartin

Stella-Jones

Weyerhaeuser

Alliance COMPRESSORS

AFCO Industries, Inc.



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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](#).

DID YOU know?

- There were 61,950 employed in the Alexandria metro area in July 2021, an increase of 1,295 from June. July 2021 recorded the highest employment level since July 2016.
- At 4.3%, the Alexandria MSA had the lowest rate among state's major metro areas for the 15th straight month, down 0.8% from the previous month.
- Statewide average weekly initial unemployment claims filed in August fell to 2,260 from 4,134 in July, a -45% decrease.
- After Hurricane Ida, initial claims rose from 2,061 on August 28 to 14,056 on September 11, up to 582%.

Latest Unemployment Rates			
	July 2021	June 2021	May 2021
Rapides Parish	4.3%	5.2%	4.6%
Louisiana	5.5%	7.4%	6.7%

Source: [LSUA CENLA Economic Dashboard](#)

Job Openings in Alexandria, LA

- Health Care and Social Assistance — 1,624
 - Admin. and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Serv. — 395
 - Retail Trade — 364
 - Management of Companies — 253
 - Public Administration — 221
 - Educational Services — 220
 - Manufacturing — 157
- Accommodation and Food Services — 155
- Prof., Scientific, & Technical Serv. — 130
- Transportation and Warehousing — 114

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

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

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

