



# Rapides Workforce Development Board e-Bulletin



A proud partner of the **americanjobcenter**® network

## *In This Issue*

### Workforce News

Louisiana's unemployment rate

Louisiana Central - Ucore North America to invest \$75M and create 100 new direct jobs in Alexandria

Rapides Parish Police Jury to hold clean up event

### Upcoming Career Fairs

RoyOMartin Career Fair

Home Builders Association of Central Louisiana

Rapides Parish Schools

Central Louisiana SHRM

Second Chance Job Fair

### Community Events

Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce 2023 Business Expo

Louisiana Central Big Idea Luncheon

CLHSD Your Community, Your Connections

### Job Opportunities & Education

Rapides Parish Police Jury

Central Louisiana State Hospital

Acadian Ambulance Services

City of Alexandria

RPSB - Affordable Connectivity Program



### Unemployment Rate



## Louisiana's unemployment rate has declined for two years

Data released on March 24, 2023, by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that Louisiana's seasonally adjusted number of employed is approaching historic levels. The number of employed for February 2023 was estimated to be 2,021,759, the eighth highest figure in the history of the series and the second highest figure for the month of February. The series saw a gain of 6,339 employed individuals from the January estimate of 2,015,420. Compared to February 2022, the number of seasonally adjusted employed individuals increased by 9,455.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2023 is 3.6 percent. The rate is tied for the second lowest rate in series history and is the lowest rate for the month of February. This shows an increase of 0.1 percentage points from the January rate of 3.5 percent. From February 2022, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has declined by 0.3 percentage points. The rate has declined over the year for 24 consecutive months

[\*full story here\*](#)

# Ucore North America to Invest \$75 Million and Create 100 New Direct Jobs in Alexandria

Ucore North America, a subsidiary of Halifax, Nova Scotia's Ucore Rare Metals, Inc., announced it is investing \$75 million to establish North America's first modern technology rare earth element separation and purification facility in Alexandria, LA. England Airpark, a 3,000-acre master-planned industrial park in Alexandria, and Louisiana Central, the region's economic development organization, hosted the announcement event today at Alexandria International Airport. The project will create 392 direct and indirect jobs and bolster Central Louisiana's role in the electric vehicle supply chain.



The Louisiana Strategic Metals Complex (SMC) will be located at England Airpark and establish a U.S.-based supply chain of rare earth oxides required to manufacture electric vehicle (EV) motors, wind turbine generators, and a variety of consumer goods including smart phones, televisions, and power tools.

[\*full story here\*](#)

## Rapides Parish Police Jury to Hold Cleanup Event

The Rapides Parish Police Jury will host a Cleanup event on April 22, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. as part of Love the Boot Week, Louisiana's largest litter cleanup effort was held in conjunction with Earth Week, April 17-23, 2023. Love the Boot Week is organized by Keep Louisiana Beautiful and supported by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.



The Rapides Parish Police Jury in conjunction with the City of Pineville plan to start the cleanup event at 9:00 a.m. by picking up trash along the Pineville Expressway, outside the city limits. The Rapides Parish Police Jury encourages all neighborhood watch groups and the citizens of Rapides Parish to join together and help make Rapides Parish Beautiful.

We look forward to organizing more cleanup events to engage our employees and citizens to work together and improve the quality of life we experience in our community. Litter is not a new problem for Louisiana's 64 parishes.

[\*full story here\*](#)



# Upcoming Job Fairs



**Starting at \$16.74/hr. plus signing bonus!**

**RoyOMartin CAREER FAIR**

**Make a GREAT START with RoyOMartin**

When your strengths meet our opportunities, great things can happen. Join us for a career fair for **PRODUCTION TEAM MEMBERS** and **TRUCK DRIVERS** at RoyOMartin's plywood and timbers manufacturing plant in Chopin, La. Bring your resume! Company representatives will be conducting onsite interviews.

- Competitive Wages**  
Starting pay is \$16.74/hr., with the potential to earn up to \$24.80/hr. through on-the-job training. Plus a \$1,500 signing bonus!
- Exceptional Benefits**  
Enjoy terrific medical benefits, including a health clinic, as well as life insurance, retirement, wellness program, and a variety of training and advancement opportunities. We also offer a weekend-only work schedule.
- A Commitment to Safety**  
Employee safety and wellbeing are our top priorities. Our award-winning safety program begins on Day 1 with new-hire orientation.

**Upcoming Career Fair:** **Wednesday, April 19, 2023 | 8:00 am - Noon**  
Louisiana Workforce Commission  
5610-B Coliseum Blvd. | Alexandria, La.

**LOUISIANA WORKFORCE COMMISSION**  
The Department of Labor

Scan the QR Code for more information about production team member and truck driver jobs.

[royomartin.com/careers](https://royomartin.com/careers)

**SECOND CHANCE JOB FAIR**

**CRIMINAL RECORD?  
NO PROBLEM. EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**April 21, 2023 | 11 am - 7 pm**

**Alexandria Mall**  
3437 Masonic Drive  
Alexandria, LA 71301

For more information, please contact Carmen at [carmen.coutee@la.gov](mailto:carmen.coutee@la.gov) or Katherine at [katherine@uwcl.org](mailto:katherine@uwcl.org)

**United Way**  
United Way of Central Louisiana



**HBACL**  
Home Builders Association of Central Louisiana

**JOB FAIR AND CAREER EXPO 2023**

Are you looking for a new and exciting career? Come join us and start your new career today!

**APRIL 26, 2023 / 10 AM - 2 PM**  
**LOCATION : PINEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER, KEES PARK LOCATION**  
**2450 HIGHWAY 28 E. PINEVILLE, LA 71360**

Pre-Registration is required to attend this event. Scan the QR code to register for your free ticket for the Job Fair!

**Rapides Parish Schools**  
ENGAGE EMPOWER ELEVATE

**District-Wide Career Fair**

**Saturday, April 29**  
9 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**RPSB Media Center and Board Room**  
619 6th St, Alexandria, LA 71301

**Remember To Bring Your Resume**

We are looking for positions to be filled including teachers, speech therapists, occupational therapists, professional support services, paraprofessionals, transportation, food service, and so much more.

Scan the QR code to register for the career fair.

Contact Glenda Vanlangendonck at 318-449-3165 or [g.vanlangendonck@rpsb.us](mailto:g.vanlangendonck@rpsb.us) for more information.



# Job Fair

*You're Invited!*

**May 23, 2023**  
10am - 2pm

Randolph Riverfront Center  
707 2nd St, Alexandria

**Come Meet Us**

- Boise Cascade
- Christus Health
- AFCO Industries
- RoyO'Martin
- Crest Industries
- Rapides Regional Medical Center
- Manchac Technologies
- WNTZ Fox48TV

AND MANY MORE....

**WE WANT YOU!**

Bring copies of your resume or contact information and meet with potential employers.

www.clshrm.org  
pr@clshrm.org

**CENTRAL LOUISIANA SHRM**

**2023 JOB FAIR**

**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO ATTEND**

# Community Events

**YOUR Community, YOUR Connections!**

Would you know who to call for help with substance abuse or mental health?

- Find out who can help—Numerous service agencies will be on hand to provide information on how they can assist in the work that you do.
- Narcan - Naloxone available on site
- COVID-19 and Flu Vaccines available on site.
- Bring your unused or unwanted medications to be destroyed on site.

**CLHSD**

**Friday, April 21, 2023**  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Central Louisiana Human Services District  
Back Lot  
5411 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria, LA  
Contact: Claire Hetherwick at [Claire.Hetherwick@la.gov](mailto:Claire.Hetherwick@la.gov) for more information.

**See what Cenla has to offer**

**APRIL 29, 2023**

**FREE**

Bring your friends and family to visit with local vendors and businesses from Central Louisiana for shopping, services, raffles and family entertainment in one location.

**RANDOLPH RIVERFRONT CENTER**  
707 2nd Street • Alexandria, Louisiana  
**9AM - 5PM**

Raffle tickets will be sold at the door for the many door prize drawings that will be held throughout the day. The grand prize will be announced at 4:45 p.m. The winner must be present to win.

**REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS FOR A BOOTH:**  
Mary Byrd, Event Chair  
Cindy Cespiva, Event Coordinator: 318.446.0000  
[ccespiva@cenlachamber.org](mailto:ccespiva@cenlachamber.org)

**Register here!**

**A LOUISIANA CENTRAL BIG IDEA LUNCHEON**

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN**  
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

**THE STUDENT TO CAREER HIGHWAY: INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK**

**April 27, 2023**  
**11:30am - 1pm**  
**The Community Center at England Airpark**

**LOUISIANA CENTRAL**

**SCAN FOR INFO & TO REGISTER**

Louisiana Central is hosting another Big Idea Luncheon on April 27, 2023! This time the program will focus on The Student to Career Highway: Industry Partnerships that Work!

More information can be found **here!**  
**Register here!**

# Education & Job Opportunities



**Acadian Ambulance Service** | **National EMS Academy** | **TEN-DAY EMR PROGRAM**

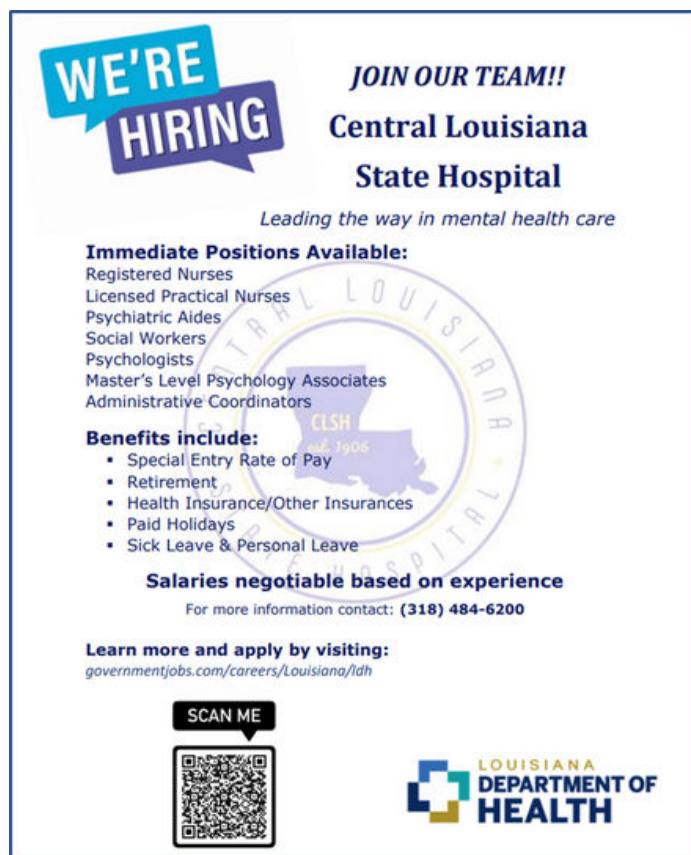
**BECOME AN ACADIAN EMPLOYEE AND**  
*Earn while you learn!*

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER PROGRAM**  
*Become an Acadian Ambulance Service EMR employee IN ONLY TEN DAYS.*

**CLASSES COMING SOON**  
Lake Charles | Alexandria | Lafayette | Baton Rouge  
Covington | New Orleans | Houma | Monroe

Get paid while in school. Then, earn EMR pay!  
Course work held online with one 8-hour skills session day at the end.

**GETTING STARTED** Scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/zknzetz7> to apply now.  
Questions? Email us at [Recruiting@Acadian.com](mailto:Recruiting@Acadian.com) for more information.



**WE'RE HIRING** **JOIN OUR TEAM!!**  
**Central Louisiana State Hospital**  
*Leading the way in mental health care*

**Immediate Positions Available:**  
Registered Nurses  
Licensed Practical Nurses  
Psychiatric Aides  
Social Workers  
Psychologists  
Master's Level Psychology Associates  
Administrative Coordinators



**Benefits include:**

- Special Entry Rate of Pay
- Retirement
- Health Insurance/Other Insurances
- Paid Holidays
- Sick Leave & Personal Leave

**Salaries negotiable based on experience**  
For more information contact: (318) 484-6200

**Learn more and apply by visiting:**  
[governmentjobs.com/careers/Louisiana/ldh](http://governmentjobs.com/careers/Louisiana/ldh)

**SCAN ME**



**WE'RE HIRING**

**Part-Time Positions Available**

- Truck Drivers
- Grass Cutters
- Laborers

Hourly pay rate between \$14.00 - \$16.00

**Qualifications**

- Valid Louisiana Driver's License
- High School Diploma or GED
- CDL Required for some positions

Please contact Rapides Parish Public Works at 318-473-6603 for more information and an application for employment.  
Employment Applications are also available at [www.rppj.com](http://www.rppj.com).



**Alexandria Louisiana**

**NOW HIRING**

Apply Today!



**MULTIPLE POSITIONS AVAILABLE!**

The City of Alexandria is  
NOW HIRING for various positions.  
To view the complete list of career opportunities  
and how to apply, [click here!](#)



# Affordable Connectivity Program for Rapides Parish Students

Public Wireless, in participation with the Rapides Parish School Board and Director of C&R Mentors Pastor Clarence Reed, is providing free tablets and 4G LTE internet access to thousands of students within the Rapides Parish School System. With Public Wireless, students in Rapides Parish are eligible for a free-no-cost internet and tablet program called Affordable Connectivity. With the Affordable Connectivity Program, students can receive a 10.1-inch-high definition tablet, which includes free-no-cost 4G LTE monthly internet service. Students can connect to the internet with a premium device, which will allow the students to maintain the ability to complete class assignments from anywhere.



Photo credit: RPSB

“We understand that broadband and technology capabilities within households have been a major issue within Rapides Parish for a while,” said Superintendent of Rapides Parish Schools Jeff Powell. “With the Affordable Connectivity Program through Public Wireless, we are able to help supply free tablets and high-speed internet services for our students and families of the Rapides Parish School System. Our goal is to give every child an equal opportunity to succeed in our education system and the ability to have reliable internet and technology is one way to achieve that goal. With this program through Public Wireless, we can help show the world that Rapides Parish is truly better together.” Public Wireless is providing free tablets and 4G LTE internet access to thousands of students within the Rapides Parish School System.

Most Rapides Parish students qualify for this program because Rapides Parish participates in the Community Eligibility Program, which allows the nation’s highest-poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. “The Affordable Connectivity Program will cover over 20,000 students with a tablet free of charge and 4G LTE internet access through AT&T or T-Mobile service, and I can’t wait to see the results of this program,” said Reed.

A student must be registered via an online application. For a student to register, [visit here](#). For more information about the program, [click here](#). “I’m truly excited for Rapides Parish students to participate in this program,” said Retired Dallas Cowboy and Coordinator for Affordable Connectivity Program Through Public Wireless Bashir Yamini.

*This information is provided by the Rapides Parish School Board*

## We thank and acknowledge our Contributors!

RPSB - Brendan Walls  
LWC - Regine Williams  
CLSH - Celeste Gauthier  
CLHSD -Claire Hetherwick  
RoyOMartin- Amanda Guillot  
Louisiana Central - Britni Lilley  
United Way - Katherine Jennings  
Central Louisiana SHRM - Jeff Ryan  
Acadian Ambulance Services - Paul Fuselier  
The City of Alexandria  
Rapides Parish Police Jury  
Rapides Parish School Board  
Home Builder's Association of CenLA  
Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce



p. 318-767-6030  
e. [info@cenlaworks.org](mailto:info@cenlaworks.org)  
w. [laworks.net](http://laworks.net)  
a. 5610-B Coliseum Blvd.  
Alexandria, LA 71303

**Sharon Neal**  
Rapides American Job Center &  
Rapides WDB Executive Director

**Rose Killion**  
Rapides WDB Chairperson

**Media Contact**  
**Nannette Hill** - [nhill@lsua.edu](mailto:nhill@lsua.edu)  
LSUA - SBDC Coordinator  
Rapides American Job Center  
One-Stop Operator