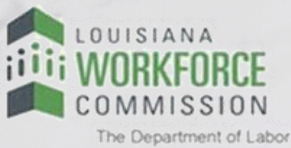


Rapides Workforce Development Board e-Bulletin



A PUBLICATION OF THE RAPIDES AMERICAN JOB CENTER

A proud partner of the americanjobcenter®network

In This Issue

Workforce News

Initial unemployment insurance claims drop for week ending March 23

Applications Now Open for Fourth Annual Rural Entrepreneurship Program

Job Fairs and Resource Fair

Know Your District Job Fair & Open House

UTLX Job Fair

United Way of Cenla Job & Resource Fair

Veterans Job Fair

Elevate Your Future Job Fair

Cenla SHRM Career Fair 2024

Rapides Parish Schools District Job Fair

Job Opportunities

LSU of Alexandria

RoyOMartin

Central Louisiana State Hospital

DISTRAN-Steel

Express Employment Professionals

AmeriCorps - Food Bank of Cenla

Pineville Police Department

Local Events

Relay for Life 2024

Cruizzin on the Red

Clean Alex

Programs & Services

Manufacturing Camp 2024

Free EMT Class

Line Worker Training Program

Super Saturday Tax Blitz

Healthy Lifestyle Program - Prevent T2

Funding Opportunity

The Rapides Foundation Workforce Opportunity Grant

Success Story


LSUA Earns 2024-2025 Military Friendly® School Gold Level Designation



Rapides Workforce
Development Board

Sharon Neal, Director
Rose Killion, Chairperson
Connie Baker, Vice-Chair
Cynthia Baker
Karyn Barrett
Cyndi Szczepanski
David Broussard
Chad Bynog
Sally Cowan
Marianne Dore'
Leona Venson
Tim Dousay
Rich Dupre
Paul Fusilier
Larry George
LaRunda Pierce
Valerie Aymond
Ginger Humbles
Paula Johnson
Kashawna Jones
Jeff Johnson
Haywood Joiner
Twanda Hamilton
Steve Bryant
Donald LaCombe
Gary Nugent
Kevin Hood
Lloyd Price
Jeff Ryan
Jimmy Sawtelle
Nolan Spillers
Sara Stokes
Cindy Sayes
Shanna Worth
Jessica Paul
Deborah Randolph

Initial unemployment insurance claims drop for week ending March 23

 The initial unemployment insurance claims for the week ending March 23, 2024, dropped to 1,512

from the week ending March 16, 2024, a total of 1,519. For a comparison, during the week ending March 25, 2023, 1,562 initial claims were filed.

The four-week moving average of initial claims increased to 1,554 from the previous week's average of 1,532.

The unemployment insurance continued claims for the week ending March 23, 2024, increased to 11,056 from the week ending March 16, 2024, a total of 11,049. The continued claims were below the comparable figure of 11,190 for the week ending March 25, 2023.

The four-week moving average of continued claims decreased to 11,153 from the previous week's average of 11,301.

Source: Regine Williams, LWC

[full report here](#)



Applications Now Open for Fourth Annual Rural Entrepreneurship Program

Louisiana Economic Development is now accepting applications for its fourth annual Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative, the small business program that helps local companies overcome challenges unique to rural communities.

Program participants must be second-stage businesses, which typically have 5 to 99 employees and are poised for further growth, often spurred by expansion to out-of-state markets. The initiative, conducted in partnership with the Edward Lowe Foundation, is designed to address issues that are common to all small businesses but often magnified in rural areas, such as targeting new opportunities, sustaining growth, expanding a team and marketing digitally.

“Supporting small businesses in rural areas of Louisiana is not just about bolstering local economies but investing in the heart of our communities, preserving our cultural heritage and empowering individuals to achieve their entrepreneurial goals,” LED Assistant Secretary Brenda Guess said. “By providing targeted resources, infrastructure and opportunities, we can cultivate sustainable growth, create jobs and foster resilience in these vital regions. I encourage rural second-stage businesses in every corner of our state to apply for this unique program.”

Source: Mark Lorando , Louisiana Economic Development

[full story here](#)

Know Your District Job Fair and Open House

The Know Your District event, spearheaded by the Rapides Parish Police Jury (RPPJ) and the Louisiana Workforce Commission Business Services offers a unique opportunity for local job seekers to connect directly with businesses within the community.

The first Know Your District event features District D, headed by RPPJ District D Representative, Ernest Nelson. Several local businesses within District D will be present during the job fair. This Open House event facilitates meaningful conversations between applicants and businesses, allowing candidates to explore job openings and assess how their skills align with local opportunities.

Hosted at the Rapides American Job Center, the event underscores a commitment to community collaboration. By providing funding for training programs, offering supportive services, and organizing hiring events, the center aims to address the needs of both job seekers and businesses in Rapides Parish. Through initiatives like Know Your District, the center fosters economic development by facilitating connections between talent and local employment opportunities, ultimately strengthening the workforce and enhancing community prosperity.




“Know Your District” Job Fair and Open House

We hope you will join us to explore new employment opportunities within District D at our first “Know Your District” Open House event.



During the Open House event, hosted by the Rapides Parish Police Jury District D Representative and the Louisiana Workforce Commission business services representative, applicants will have the chance to engage in meaningful conversations with local businesses regarding the openings they are actively attempting to fill, while gaining insights and discovering how the applicants’ skills align with the local businesses within the districts of Rapides Parish.

It is our goal at the Rapides American Job Center to work collaboratively as a community to address the needs of job seekers and businesses. We are committed to our mission of assisting Rapides Parish residents in finding employment by providing funding for classroom and on-the-job training, as well as offering supportive services and organizing hiring events in partnership with local businesses and community organizations.

Ernest Nelson
Rapides Parish Police Jury, District D Representative
Workforce Development and Grants Committee, Chairperson

To view upcoming events, visit us on Facebook:



Wednesday, April 24, 2024
10am - 2pm

Rapides American Job Center
5610 Coliseum Blvd STE B
Alexandria, LA 71303

For questions contact
(318) 767-6030

Businesses, scan here if you're interested in participating in this or a future event.



Partner Organizations

On-site

LCTCS - Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
(318) 487-5443

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services
(318) 487-5335

National Association for Hispanic Elderly
(318) 221-7611

Institute for Indian Devt., Inc.
(985) 851-5408

Job Corps Center Alexandria
(318) 487-6773 x102

LWC- Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSIG)
(225) 342-7679

LWC - Wagner-Peyser
(318) 487-5532

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

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

Off-site

LTCCS - Career & Technical Education Programs
(225) 922-2809

LWC - Trade Adjustment Asstc. (TAA)
(318) 487-5539

Alexandria Housing Authority
(318) 442-8843
Rapides Housing Authority
(318) 793-4751

LWC - Unemployment Insurance
(225) 342-2905

Native American Programs
(985) 851-5408

DCFS - Temporary Assistc. for Needy Families (TANF)
(318) 362-3471

National Farm Worker Program
318-362-3024; 318-435-8885
1-844-385-1919 ext: 7020

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; case 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 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 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, [click here.](#)



JOB FAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024
From 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

UTLX Plant
6325 Hwy 1, Alexandria, LA

COME JOIN OUR TEAM!! UTLX Manufacturing is the nation's leader in the railcar industry for over 130 years. Our state-of-the-art facility is in Alexandria, LA directly off I-49. There is no better time than now to join us. Due to increased production, we have many welding positions!!

We are looking for:

- **Welders:** Stick, Mig and Fluxcore with gouging experience
- **Tack Welders:** Stick and Fluxcore
- Must be able to pass weld test and drug screen
- Must be available to work any shift
- **Recent weld school graduates are encouraged to attend**

UTLX Provides:

- Excellent wages
- Health, Dental and Vision insurance that begins on Day 1
- Vacation
- Paid Paternity Leave
- Short-term and Long-term disability
- 401K(k) and retirement contribution
- Paid holidays
- Much more!

UTLX Manufacturing LLC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

April 13, 2024
7:00 am - 12:00 pm
UTLX Plant, 6325 Hwy 1
Alexandria, LA



United Way of Central Louisiana

JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR

Join us to explore new job opportunities and community resources!

Who Should Attend? This event is geared towards second chance candidates, but it is open to all job seekers in the community, and those interested in accessing community resources.

Featuring:

- **Employers from Various Sectors:**
 - Manufacturing
 - Technology
 - Healthcare
 - Education
- **Community Service Providers:**
 - Showcasing services benefiting the community

10am - 6pm
APRIL 17TH, 2024

Job fair Location
ALEXANDRIA MALL

For more information
318-321-0033 OR
318-542-8245
Visit our website
WWW.UWCL.ORG/LAPRI


REGISTER NOW



LaPRI GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED



April 17, 2024
10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Alexandria Mall
3437 Masonic Dr Alexandria, LA



Job Fair

For Veterans
Hosted By Health Care For Homeless Veterans
Community Employment Program
Alexandria VA Hospital
2495 Shreveport Highway, Pineville, LA 71360
Building 8, Auditorium

April 26, 2024 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

Employers that are interested please
Contact Rodney McNeal,
Community Employment Coordinator
(318)466-4241
rodney.mcneal@va.gov

April 26, 2024
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Alexandria VA Hospital
2495 Shreveport Hwy
Pineville, LA



Rapides Parish Schools
ENGAGE EMPOWER ELEVATE
DISTRICT JOB FAIR

Join us for the a district-wide job fair!
Meet with leaders face-to-face and learn about job openings
across all departments of the Rapides Parish School Board.

 **Saturday, April 27**
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

 **School Board Office**
619 6th St.
Alexandria, La. 71303

MORE INFORMATION:  rpsb.us
 **318-487-0888**

April 27, 2024
8:30 am - 11:30 am
School Board Office
619 6th St., Alexandria, LA



Rapides Parish Schools
Presents
ELEVATE YOUR FUTURE
JOB FAIR

Monday, April 29, 2024
Alexandria Mega Shelter
8125 U.S. Hwy. 71, Alexandria, LA 71302
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

April 29, 2024
8:00 am - 2:00 pm
UTLX Plant, 6325 Hwy 1
Alexandria, LA



CENLA CAREER FAIR 2024
" Find your dream career "

MAY 21
10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Randolph Riverfront Center
707 2nd Street
Alexandria, LA 71301

Booth & Sponsor Registration Online
www.clshrm.org/events

May 21, 2024
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Randolph Riverfront Center
707 2nd St., Alexandria, LA

Community Resources

Food Assistance

Cenla Community Action
Committee
(318) 314-3480

The Food Bank of Central Louisiana
(318) 445-2773

First Baptist Church Pineville
(318) 448-8221

Louisiana Housing Assistance
Corporation
The Child and Adult Care Food
Program
(318) 623-0795; (337) 298-5666

Rapides Parish Food Stamp Office
(318) 487-5111; 1-888-524-3578

The Salvation Army Alexandria
(318) 442-0445

Housing Services

Alexandria Housing Authority
(318) 442-8843 Ext 214

Central Louisiana Homeless
Coalition
(318) 443-0500

Pineville Housing Authority
(318) 473-9729

Rapides Parish Housing Authority
(318) 793-4751

Utility Assistance

Cenla Community Action
Committee
(318) 314-3480

Philadelphia Baptist Church
(318) 443-3692

Employment Training Services

Rapides American Job Center
(318) 767-6030

The Orchard Foundation –
Cenla Work Ready
(318) 767-6560

[Click here](#)

to view more list of
community resources

Community Partners

Louisiana Workforce
Commission
(318) 487-5532

Rapides Parish Police Jury
(318) 473-6660

LSU of Alexandria
(318) 473-6417

Central Louisiana
Community College
(318) 487-5443

The Rapides Foundation
(318) 443-3394

Central Louisiana Regional
Chamber of Commerce
(318) 442-6671

Rapides Parish School Board
(318) 487-0888

Dept. of Veterans Affairs
(318) 466-2429

LA Youth Challenge
(318) 290-5487

Rapides Federation of Teachers
(318) 442-2727

Helpful Organizations for Employers

US Department
of Labor

Louisiana Workforce
Commission

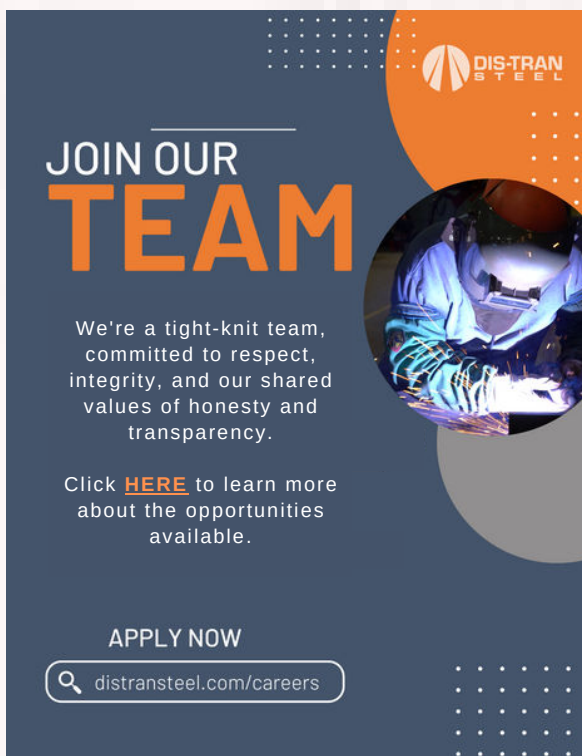
Central LA Regional
Chamber of Commerce

Louisiana
Small Business
Development Center

Secretary of State

Rapides Sales & Use
Tax Department

Employer.gov



JOIN OUR TEAM

We're a tight-knit team, committed to respect, integrity, and our shared values of honesty and transparency.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the opportunities available.

APPLY NOW

distransteel.com/careers



JOIN OUR TEAM!

LSUA
LSU of ALEXANDRIA



Central Louisiana State Hospital

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Immediate Openings For:
Direct Care Staff and Supervisors
Psychologists
Associate 4 to Psychologist

Salaries Negotiable Based on Experience
Benefits Include: Retirement, Health Insurance/Other Insurances, Paid Holidays, Sick and Personal Leave

Apply online now!

For more information contact: (318) 484-6200
Learn more and apply by visiting:
governmentjobs.com/careers/Louisiana/ldh



We're HIRING!

You deserve a career where talent is recognized and rewarded. When your strengths meet our opportunities, great things can happen. Work and learn from the best in the industry, in a fulfilling career with exceptional benefits at RoyOMartin.

Current Opportunities

- Help Desk I (Full Time) - Alexandria, LA
- Systems Administrator (Full Time) - Alexandria, LA
- Purchasing Specialist (Full Time) - Chopin, LA
- Production Team Member (Full/Part Time) - Chopin, LA
- Truck Driver (Full Time) - Chopin, LA
- Industrial Electrician (Full Time) - Chopin, LA
- Technical Manager (Full Time) - Corrigan, TX
- Production Team Supervisor (Full Time) - Corrigan, TX
- Millwright (Full Time) - Corrigan, TX
- Industrial Electrician (Full Time) - Corrigan, TX
- Forester (Full Time) - Zwolle, LA
- Forest Technician (Full Time) - Zwolle, LA

RoyOMartin
Since 1923

If you are interested in any of these positions, scan the QR code to apply.

SCAN ME

!TOP JOB TUESDAY!
Full-time Positions Available!

- *HOUSEKEEPERS
- *AUTOCAD DRAFTER/DESIGNER/DETAILER
- *PRODUCTION TECHNICIANS
- *FORKLIFT DRIVERS
- *MOTORCYCLE MECHNIC
- *MAINTENANCE WORKERS
- *KENNEL TECHNICIANS

Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

318-416-8100
3601 North Blvd., Ste B
Alexandria, LA 71301

Join AmeriCorps for a season and your impact could last a lifetime.

Join the Team!
Summer 2024 Term:
May 20
through
August 15

**Meet new people.
Get paid.
Make a difference.**

AmeriCorps Members are vital to the Food Bank.
As part of the team, you will...

- ⇒ Distribute food across eleven parishes
- ⇒ Pack and sort food in our warehouse
- ⇒ Help alleviate hunger for thousands in need.

Learn more at fbcenla.org/ameri-corps

Benefits of Service

- ✓ Paid living allowance
- ✓ Education Award
- ✓ Student loan deferment
- ✓ Skills training

AmeriCorps is National Service

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. It provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities.

APPLY NOW!

Questions?
Call us at:
Food Bank of
Central Louisiana
318-445-2773

AmeriCorps
Louisiana

Supported by a grant from the Volunteer Louisiana Commission in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

PINEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

\$5000 SIGNING BONUS
Provided to officers 27% of the 2023 LS

**BE PART
OF OUR
TEAM**

NOW HIRING POLICE OFFICER

UNITY • INTEGRITY • LOYALTY
CITY OF PINEVILLE
LOUISIANA
POLICE

PROVEN CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGIES | MEDICAL, VISION, DENTAL & RETIREMENT | COMPETITIVE PAY

EXTRA DUTY OPPORTUNITIES | 100% MEDICAL PAID FOR EMPLOYEE | TECHNOLOGY FOCUSED



RELAY FOR LIFE 2024

April 12, 2024
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Downtown Alexandria



CRUZZIN ON THE RED

April 20, 2024
starts at 8:00 am
Pineville Riverfront



CLEAN ALEX

April 27, 2024 I 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Register here!
Registration deadline:
Friday, April 12, 2024



Manufacturing Career Camp 2024
Now accepting Applications!
Hosted by Louisiana Central & CLTCC

Application required.

Apply here:

https://bit.ly/MFG_careercamp_2024

For more information, contact Program Coordinator, Keisha Hamilton at 318-441-3423 or khamilton@louisiana-central.com



Are you thinking about becoming an EMT?
Here's your opportunity! The EMT class in Alexandria is being offered TUITION-FREE!
Enrollment is open now and class begins on May 27.

Visit www.BecomeAMedic.com to learn more and begin the enrollment process.



Find out what it takes to train to become a lineworker and play a vital role in supporting our community.

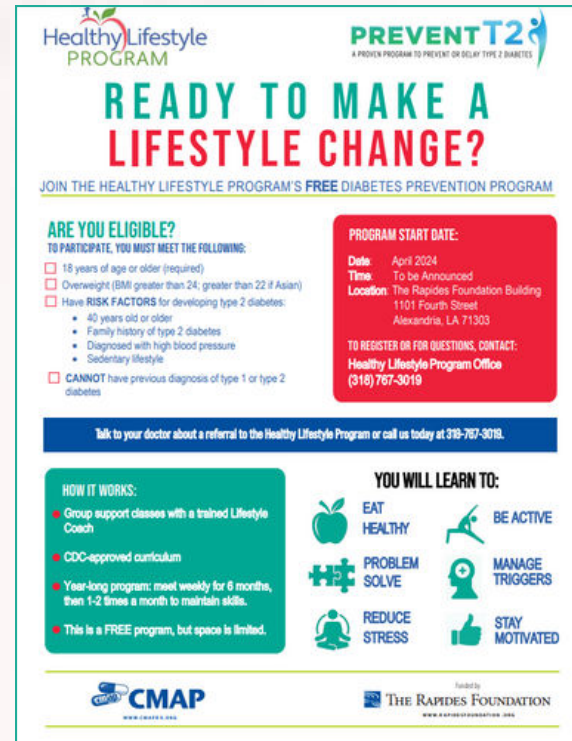
Lineworker Informational Meeting
Thursday, April 25 at 5pm
Alexandria Campus Multipurpose Room,
Murray Street, Alexandria

For more information, contact David Bernard at davidbernard@cltcc.edu or 318-704-7979



CENLA CAC SUPER SATURDAY TAX BLITZ


April 13, 2023 I 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
No appointment needed.
Bring the requirements listed on the flyer.



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAM Free Diabetes Prevention Program

For more information and to register, contact 318-767-3019

Workforce Opportunity Grant Announced

 **THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION** The Rapides Foundation has released the 2024 Workforce Opportunity Grant, a funding opportunity that supports collaborations between industry and postsecondary institutions to offer training for high-wage occupations for which there is demonstrated unmet employer demand.

The goal is to increase skills and knowledge of potential employees or existing employees that will require higher wages and to increase the production capacity of business or industry partners.

The Workforce Opportunity Grant provides up to \$75,000 for up to a 12-month period. A 10% cash funding match will be required by the employer(s) for the total cost of the training. (Note: While in-kind matches are welcomed, a 10% cash match will be required from participating employers.)

This funding opportunity is limited and offered on a competitive basis; therefore, it is possible not all applicants will receive funding. We reserve the right to award less than the amount requested.

Applications are being accepted from accredited, nonprofit, postsecondary institutions. Trainings must benefit businesses and employees located within The Rapides Foundation's nine-parish service area.

The deadline for submitting an application is 4 p.m. CT on Monday, August 5, 2024.

[more details here](#)

Source: The Rapides Foundation

LSUA Earns 2024-2025 Military Friendly® School Gold Level Designation

LSUA LSUA announced today that it has earned the 2024-2025 Military Friendly® School Gold level designation.

The 2024-2025 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in the May and October issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and can be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2024-2025 survey, with 537 earning special awards for going above the standard.



Photo credit: Mira Parks, LSUA

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Viqtory with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for Student Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Loan Repayment, Persistence (Degree Advancement or Transfer), and Loan Default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

Lacey Caillier, LSUA Student Involvement Coordinator, said, "Louisiana State University of Alexandria (LSUA) is deeply honored to receive the prestigious Military Friendly Gold Designation as an affirmation of our ongoing dedication to serving our military students on campus.

Source: Adam Lord, LSUA

[full story here](#)

We thank and acknowledge our Contributors!

LED - Mark Lorando
LWC - Regine Williams
Rapides AJC - John Depril
Louisiana Central -
Britni Lilley
RoyOMartin - Amanda Guillot
DIS-TRAN Steel - Shelby Green
United Way of Cenla
UTLX - Cyndi Szczepanski
RPSB - LaRunda Pierce
Cenla SHRM - Jeff Ryan
LSUA Human Resources
CLSH - Celeste Gauthier
City of Alexandria
City of Pineville
Pineville Police Dept.
The Food Bank of Cenla -
Linda Hutson

LSUA Strategic Communications-
Adam Lord & Mira Parks
CLTCC - Jimmy Sawtelle
Cenla CAC - Sally Cowan
American Cancer Society -
Kristin Franks
National EMS Academy
Acadian Ambulance Service -
Paul Fuselier
The Rapides Foundation -
Kathy Gunn
Health Care Homeless Veteran
Community Employment Program -
Rodney McNeal
Louisiana Workforce Commission
Express Employment Professionals -
Seth Landry
RPSB - Naomi Jones-Belvin
LSU of Alexandria

About the Rapides American Job Center

The Rapides American Job Center (RAJC) brings "those who need jobs" and "those who need employees" together.

The Rapides Parish American Job Center is a comprehensive AJC that includes the mandatory WIOA partners on-site offering an integrated array of quality services so that job seekers and businesses can conveniently find the help they need under one roof such as scholarship training, training referrals, career counseling, job listings, and other employment-related services for both jobseekers and employers.

Established under the Workforce Investment Act and reauthorized in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act of 2014 (WIOA), American Job Centers (AJCs) are at the heart of the workforce investment system.

The Rapides Workforce Development Board 61 is charged by the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to certify the Rapides American Job Center, as a comprehensive One-Stop Center.



Follow and Like us!



Sharon Neal
OEWD Area 61
Rapides WDB &
Rapides American Job Center
Executive Director

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



Susana Schowen, Secretary

Rapides American Job Center

5610-B Coliseum Blvd.
Alexandria, LA 71303
318-767-6030
info@cenlaworks.org
Mon - Fri 8:00am - 4:30 pm



Joseph Bishop, President