



2011

LAFAYETTE PARISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

A GUIDE TO ENTITIES OFFERING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE TO ACADIANA-AREA COMPANIES

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ACADIANA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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The mission of the **Acadiana Center for the Arts** is to create, facilitate, nurture, and fund arts and cultural activities to enrich quality of life and place. The center acts as a “cultural environmentalist,” enhancing the development and promoting the activities of arts and cultural organizations, creating opportunities for artists and filling community-programming needs. The center serves the eight parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion. By supporting the area’s unique cultural mix - translated through its vibrant music, distinct cuisine, burgeoning folk and contemporary art and various cultural attractions, the center assists in making Acadiana the second most visited tourist spot in Louisiana.

Projects and Activities:

- **GRANT MAKING**

The center awards dollars annually through four grant programs. These funds generate cultural projects through ticket sales, corporate sponsorships and additional grant or foundation dollars. Projects include festivals, performance series, library and school programs, and arts marketing campaigns.

- **ARTS-IN-EDUCATION**

With a new-and-future economy based on information, innovation and a rapid speed of change, Lafayette’s young people must be educated in a manner that will enable them to compete in the local and global marketplace. The council has developed a nationally recognized arts-in-education program that encourages problem-solving and nontraditional thinking - skills that business leaders agree are critical assets for tomorrow’s work force.

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Louisiana Crossroads Initiative is a joint project of the council and the Lafayette Economic Development Authority focused on the future development of our region’s burgeoning cultural entertainment industry.

- **ACADIANA CENTER FOR THE ARTS JAMES D. MONCUS THEATER**

The new Acadiana Center for the Arts James D. Moncus Theater, with seating for 300 and state-of-the-art acoustics, is a jewel in the heart of downtown Lafayette, Louisiana. Its re-configurable space can accommodate every type of performance: theater, dance, film, and musical from a full orchestra to a Cajun or zydeco band. The new space also will house AcA’s well-known programs, such as Louisiana Crossroads and the Arts in Education Family Performance Series, providing a much-needed hub for arts in the heart of Acadiana.

ACADIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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The **Acadiana Economic Development Council (AEDC)** is a collaborative initiative of seven parishes in the Acadiana region. As a regional economic development and marketing organization, AEDC promotes the Acadiana region for new and expanded business investment and helps to ensure growth of its skilled workforce. AEDC coordinates prospect and site consultant visits to the region, provides technical assistance to its local economic development partners as needed, and provides additional research capacity for effective marketing to the targeted industries. Finally, AEDC is the lead organization in Acadiana for the Business Retention and Expansion program which includes business visitations.

AEDC's mission:

- Fostering economic growth and prosperity through regional marketing, advocacy, and an overall effort to collectively promote and enhance the business climate in the region.

Programs & Projects:

- Regional economic development in partnership with local EDOs and Louisiana Economic Development through Tier1 funding
- Business Retention and Expansion program utilizing eSynchronist
- Legislative tracking
- Inventory of available sites and buildings within the seven-parish region
- Acadiana Site Certifications
- Provides statistical and demographical information for all areas of the region
- Markets the Acadiana Region through national publications, media and tradeshows/conferences

ACADIANA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

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The **Acadiana Regional Development District (ARDD)** provides coordinated planning and economic development for the eight Parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion through the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Additionally, staff members play an active role in project development, building relationships, and connecting applicants to project developers to other funding sources, such as the Delta Regional Authority, Small Business Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture, and local Workforce Investment Boards.

The goal is to retain and create jobs to increase local revenues. ARDD works with other economic development entities on industry inducement, neighborhood redevelopment, business expansion and international trade.

Programs and Projects:

- Regional Economic Development (U.S. Department of Commerce & Delta Regional Authority)
- Technical Assistance
- Small Business Loan Program (USDA and EDA)
- Enterprise Zones
- GIS Mapping
- Environmental Assessments
- Environmental Cleanup Grants and Loans
- Acadiana Regional Clearinghouse (USDA)
- Tourism Brochures
- Scenic Byways Studies
- Entrepreneurial Training through LA Workforce Commission
- Entrepreneurial Training through Louisiana Department of Economic Development
- Voter Redistricting
- Website Development
- Workforce Development through LA Workforce Commission

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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The **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** is the governing body of the Lafayette Centre Development District, which encompasses the traditional CBD and adjacent neighborhood areas. Its mission is the long-term physical, economic, civic and cultural redevelopment of the district, centered on a 7-point strategy:

- Reinforce downtown's role as the governmental, legal, and financial center of the region
- Focus regional art and cultural activities downtown
- Expand the role of tourism downtown through attractions, support services and accommodations
- Stabilize and increase residential uses downtown
- Rebuild the retail core
- Reinforce downtown as an entertainment center
- Further develop downtown's center of professional and business support goods and services

The DDA works closely with its private, non-profit counterpart, Downtown Lafayette Unlimited, Lafayette Consolidated Government, and a variety of other public and private entities in such manner as to:

- Aid and encourage private business and development of the area
- Promote and coordinate public improvements
- Facilitate public - private development opportunities as they arise

DDA provides services and programs in 3 functional areas:

- Supplements to basic services such as security, cleaning, and maintenance
- Business support services
- Capital improvements and project development

The DDA is a first-stop resource for anyone interested in downtown business and real estate development. Individuals can obtain information and assistance with building and land sites, tax and financial incentives, and referrals to other agencies whose programs are applicable to the district.

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS*

- Louisiana Cultural Products District
- Enterprise Zone Program
- Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit
- LA State Historic Preservation Tax Credit
- Restoration Tax Abatement
- Downtown Façade Improvement Loan Program
- Lafayette Neighborhoods' Economic Development Corporation Loans
- Louisiana Capital Certified Development Company, Inc. Loans
- UL Lafayette Small Business Development Center Loans

*Not a complete list; not guaranteed; subject to requirements, and state & local application processes

Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

www.lafchamber.org

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The **Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce** is the leading force in the improvement of the business environment, the economic health, and general vitality of the region. The Chamber's focus is economic development and community development.

The Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce:

- Is one of 260 Accredited Chambers through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce out of 6,936 chambers nationwide.
- Has 2,300 members, of which 85% are small businesses.
- Operates under a strong committee structure with emphasis on governmental affairs, public policy, education, energy, innovation and community development (comprehensive planning).
- Sponsors the national award-winning Leadership Lafayette, which boasts 560 graduates, to date. Those graduates are prepared for enhanced community, civic, professional, and political involvement.
- Maintains a high-profile business partnership with the Lafayette Parish School System.
- Is an active member of the International Interstate-49 Coalition and coined the name "America's Energy Corridor."
- Maintains a high-profile Web presence through www.lafchamber.org, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.
- Provides the community information through its annual publication, *Chamber Membership Directory and Business Resource Guide*, and its monthly insert in ABiz Magazine, INFORUM.
- Provides legislative services through the efforts of a registered lobbyist.
- Provides value-added programs and services for its members including a limited benefit health plan and member-exclusive discounts.
- Provides ribbon cutting and ground breaking organizational support.
- Provides several networking activities throughout the year and communicates regularly with its membership via its website and weekly email newsletter, eFlash.
- Maintains an Information Center with business information on demographics and incentives and other related information.

LAFAYETTE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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The Lafayette Community Development Department offers a number of programs that address housing and economic development priority needs in the city/parish. These include:

- Housing Rehabilitation Program: Deferred payment loans and city/parish carpentry crews are offered as incentives to correct housing deficiencies at owner-occupied, single family residences.
- First Time Home Buyers Training Workshop
- Relocation Program
- Community Housing Development Organization
- Housing Counseling
- WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Program: Provides funding for academic and vocational training to qualified applicants: operates a Resource Center where participants can research the current job market.

Our Business Development Section administers the following programs:

- The Homebuyers Assistance Program (HAP) is a program that helps first time homebuyers with down payment and closing cost assistance in purchasing their new home. It is a program for low to moderate-income families and provides an \$8,000.00 second mortgage at 2% interest payable over 15 years.
- The LCG/LPTFA (Lafayette Consolidated Government/Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority) Home Buyers Assistance Program is a new program that helps first time homebuyers in Lafayette Parish with down payment and closing cost assistance in purchasing their new home. The program provides an \$8,000.00 second mortgage at 5% interest payable over 15 years.
- A Disadvantage Business Enterprise database consisting of a current listing of Women/Minority Business Enterprises in the Lafayette Area. The database provides information to Lafayette Consolidated Government's Purchasing division for inclusion of disadvantaged business enterprises on the vendor's list. It maintains information on upcoming bids and their requirements, and assists business owners with bid applications.
- The Louisiana Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program for the Lafayette Consolidated Government. The EZ Program is a jobs incentive program that includes state tax credits.
- Technical assistance and referral service to private, small businesses located in Lafayette Parish.

LAFAYETTE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
LAFAYETTE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) is a federally-funded program established to increase the employment, retention, and earnings of program participants, increase the occupational skill attainment by participants, and as a result improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of local business and industry. The comprehensive One Stop System is customer focused to provide an array of services to the local citizens and business community.

Lafayette Consolidated Government administers the Workforce Investment Act Program (WIA) locally. The local agency offers numerous training programs and services to individuals needing to prepare for entry or reentry into the workforce, and businesses in need of employees or current workers who need to upgrade their skills.

TRAINING SERVICES

Earn while you learn. Eligible participants can learn specific tools-of-the-trade while earning a salary on the job site. On the Job Training (OJT) reimburses employers up to 50% of a trainee's hourly wage or salary, dependent on the complexity of the skills to be learned and the skill level of the trainee. WIA provides scholarships offering but not limited to: tuition and books, uniforms, tools, etc. for individuals who cannot find work and are in need of training. Training must be in a local demand occupation and can be provided by an approved occupation from the listing of vendors on LOIS/Scorecard.

LAFAYETTE BUSINESS & CAREER SOLUTIONS CENTER

The Business & Career Solutions Center provides free, quality services for job seekers and employers. The Center offers a comprehensive array of services and resources relative to career information, job search, basic skills development, the labor market information, and employment and training programs. Some of the services and tools available include:

- Access to the Louisiana Workforce Commission's Job Bank www.LAWORKS.net
- A computer-based resume and cover letter program
- The latest computerized vocational assessments, Workkeys, O*Net, and Interest and Work Values available to provide for individual assessment of aptitudes and interests and computer matching with the requirements of demand jobs
- Information on job demands, pay, and training by regions and statewide provided by the Louisiana Occupational Information System (LOIS)
- Department of Children and Family Services partner for SNAP, CCA, TANF, and Kinship Care.

LAFAYETTE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
LAFAYETTE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

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WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 established the Lafayette Workforce Investment Board (WIB). This legislation supersedes the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and represents an overhaul of the Nation's employment and training system. One of the key components of WIA is the strong role that is provided by the local workforce investment board.

The Workforce Investment Act mandates that the board must be composed of a majority of business leaders, as well as leaders from labor, education, economic development and community based organizations and representatives of each of the One-Stop partners. The Lafayette Workforce Investment Board is made up of thirty-one members, sixteen of whom represent private business. A substantial amount of the WIB's work is first addressed by one of its eight committees (Executive, BRING, Bylaws, Planning and Finance, One-Stop Certification, Oversight, Regional IV Coordination and Youth Council). These committees meet on a regular basis to develop workforce development strategies and then report to and make recommendations to the full WIB for final action.

The WIB utilizes a three-person staff composed of an Executive Administrator, Planner, and Monitor to conduct and oversee the day-to-day administrative and programmatic functions. The WIB staff reports directly to its Chairman, and to the Director of the Department of Administrative Services.

CHIEF FUNCTIONS OF THE WIB:

- Develop the local and regional workforce development plans
- Select the One-Stop operator
- Identify eligible service providers and training programs
- Conduct program monitoring and oversight
- Negotiate program performance measures
- Coordinate local economic development strategies
- Promote participation of employers in the workforce investment system

LAFAYETTE CONVENTION AND VISITORS COMMISSION

www.lafayette.travel

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The **Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission (LCVC)** markets Lafayette throughout the world as a vacation and convention destination. It solicits and services conventions and other visitor promotions, which generate overnight stays in Lafayette, enhancing the economic fabric of the community.

LCVC works with elements of the visitor industry and tour planners to assure that Lafayette maintains a prominent position in the travel and meeting industry.

Projects and Activities:

- **Tourism Marketing**
Emphasis is placed on increasing the awareness of Lafayette as an overnight destination, both domestically and internationally.
- **Conventions**
Attention is devoted to the state meetings market, along with regional, national and international meetings.
- **Membership**
This program secures new members for LCVC.
- **Media**
LCVC actively seeks regional, national and international media attention to draw more visitors to Acadiana.
- **Winter Visitor Marketing**
Acadiana is marketed to visitors from the North and Canada as an excellent winter vacation destination.
- **Sports Event Promotion**
The Cajundome's arena, the UL Lafayette Athletic Complex, Pelican Park, the doubling of the Moore Field Soccer Complex, the hockeyplex, and additional sports venues create exciting marketing opportunities for the hospitality industry.
- **Multi-Cultural Marketing**
LCVC promotes Lafayette to the multi-cultural travel market with special programs in these areas.
- **Retirement Inducement**
This cooperative marketing effort seeks to lure retirees to visit and settle in Acadiana.

LAFAYETTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

www.lafayette.org

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The Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA) provides assistance with business development in Lafayette Parish. The LEDA Resource Center provides technical assistance, state and local demographics and assistance with tax incentives, workforce programs, and site selection.

LEDA's mission is threefold:

- To develop business retention and expansion by providing assistance to local companies in growth, market development, and workforce development efforts.
- To assist in the development of new companies to diversify Lafayette's economy.
- To recruit additional companies to locate in this area.

LEDA Departments:

- The President assists in preserving and creating jobs for local residents and simplifies the legislative and technical processes for businesses.
- The Business Retention & Expansion Department conducts LEDA's aggressive business visitation program and works with the existing Lafayette Parish business base to facilitate business retention and expansion within the Parish. This department also coordinates LEDA services for clients and provides assistance with incentives, tenant services, and other government agencies.
- The Information Services Department provides statistical and demographic data for local and regional areas, an extensive database of Lafayette Parish businesses, public access to personal computers for business development, and a multimedia conference facility for business use. LEDA's quality system according to ISO 9001:2008 standards are also managed through this department.
- The Workforce Development Department assists businesses throughout Acadiana by providing information on the utilization of state and federal programs including the acquisition of state funds to help offset training expenses. This department also coordinates the LEDA Job Fair and administers workforce connection programs.
- The Business Development Department assists in attracting new business and industry to Lafayette by providing information on available commercial buildings or sites, locating in one of LEDA's four industrial parks, expansion project assistance, and tax incentive opportunities. The Digital Media department and LEDA's technology accelerator, Opportunity Machine, leverage the same assets into technology-based opportunity.
- The Technology Department serves as an advisor to the business community and local initiatives regarding technology issues such as digital readiness, networking, Internet, broadband, wireless, and technology trends affecting the Lafayette business community.

LAFAYETTE REGIONAL AIRPORT

www.lftairport.com

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The City/Parish Government established the **Lafayette Airport Commission** to administer the lands that encompass the **Lafayette Regional Airport**. The charge to the Lafayette Airport Commission was to derive revenue through rents and charges to make the airport as self-sufficient as possible. Today, the Lafayette Regional Airport attracts trade, generates employment, provides revenue and plays an important role in the economic growth of Acadiana. Lafayette Regional Airport currently has three regional airlines providing services to Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, and Memphis. Passenger traffic for 2010 was 225,632. The airport has one fixed-based operator, Landmark Aviation that provides an array of services to corporate, private aircraft, and commercial aircraft.

Through careful planning and foresight, the Lafayette Airport Commission continues to direct the airport toward improved services and expansion while taking advantage of the best economic opportunities. Toward that end, the airport is currently marketing available airport land for the most efficient and effective use.

Funding for the airport comes from several major sources:

- * **Rents, Fees, & Charges**- Funds generated from leases, rental, aircraft landing fees, parking fees and fuel flowage that are the primary source for operating capital and improvements, in addition to those listed.
- * **Airport Improvement Program**- Federal program that provides entitlement and discretionary grants based on enplanements for major airport improvements (Runway rehabilitation, security, etc.)
- * **State Matching Funds**- Mandated by the legislature to supplement funds from the Federal Airport Improvement Program.
- * **Ad Valorem Taxes**- Parish wide vote establishes millage that provides funds dedicated to operations and maintenance of the airport.
- * **Passenger Facility Charge**- Federal program which authorizes the airport to collect \$4 per passenger for funding of very specific projects.
- * **State Legislative Capital Improvement Grants**- Funds provide for very specific capital improvement projects that meet strict legislative guidelines.
- * **State/Federal Economic Development** Funds provide for very specific capital improvement projects that meet strict legislative guidelines.

Examples of Lafayette Regional Airport's Projects completed:

- * Taxiway Rehabilitation
- * Passenger Loading Bridges
- * Apron Rehabilitation
- * Runway Rehabilitation
- * Aircraft Rescue & Recovery Facility

Over the past four years, the Lafayette Airport Commission infused \$19 million or more per year in Capital Improvement Projects into the Acadiana economy with a total impact in excess of \$661 million per year.

LE CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE LAFAYETTE

www.leCentre.org

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The mission of Le Centre International is to foster an increase in international commerce and tourism in the Lafayette area by:

- Assisting small and medium-sized businesses in the Lafayette area in exporting their products or services abroad through the identification of new markets and expansion of existing markets.
- Developing international relations and leads by means of participation in the SESAME Network.
- Promoting international tourism, especially cultural tourism, and attracting a greater number of international visitors and meetings to the city and parish of Lafayette and surrounding areas.

Le Centre International offers the following services:

- Identification of trade opportunities and contacts
- One-on-one export counseling
- Trade missions, reverse trade missions, trade shows and catalogue shows
- Export financing referrals
- Assistance with NTDB market research
- Export seminars and workshops
- Public awareness program
- Site visitations for visiting delegations

LOUISIANA CAPITAL CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, INC.

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The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides long-term financing to small businesses through its Certified Development Company Program - SBA 504. **Louisiana Capital Certified Development Company, Inc.** is one of six Certified Development Companies in the state of Louisiana certified by the SBA to fund loans under this 504 program. Louisiana Capital is a private, non-profit group, organized in 1983 to contribute to the economic development of its community. The overall objective of the company is to stimulate growth and expansion of businesses by financially assisting them with commercial real estate transactions.

- Service areas includes the entire State of Louisiana
- Louisiana Capital, in partnership with private lending institutions, provides loan financing to eligible businesses.
- The typical 504-loan structure is 50% of project financing provided by a private lender, 40% of project financing provided by Louisiana Capital/SBA, and the remaining 10% would be equity injection into the project by the owners. Down payment requirements are subject to eligibility.
- Low down payments, long maturities, fixed interest rates and collateral incentives for bank participation are all advantages of this type of financing.
- The project must promote economic development through one of the following: creation of jobs, location of project in a rural area, expansion of exports, and/or the promotion of minority business development.

Louisiana Capital also provides packaging services for the SBA 7A Program.

LOUISIANA IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES ENTERPRISE

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Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise, LITE, is a 70,000-square-foot 3-D immersive visualization and high-performance computing resource center located at the Research Park of the University of Louisiana Lafayette. Governed by a Board of Commissioners, LITE hosts clients in commercial industry, government and university sectors. LITE's leading-edge facility features a comprehensive set of advanced visualization systems and a massive high-performance computing system. Conceived as a magnet for economic development, LITE's advanced facilities and staffs of industry experts are available to your business or organization to help transform the process of innovation and accelerate the time to discovery.

While the bulk of LITE's clients to date have come from the health and medical, architecture and construction, film and entertainment, and oil and gas sectors, LITE is eager to work with any industry.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE
LOUISIANA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER
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The Louisiana Small Business Development Center at UL Lafayette (LSBDC) provides information, business consulting, and management assistance at no cost to existing or potential entrepreneurs. It operates as a partnership of Louisiana Economic Development (LED), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and UL Lafayette.

LSBDC:

- * Serves the parishes of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion
- * Provides one-on-one consulting from professional staff members at no cost to clients
- * Accesses resources from UL Lafayette and area service partners
- * Addresses areas such as business plan development, economic and demographic research, financial resources, licensing, business structure, management assistance, marketing plans, intellectual property issues, and HR issues among others.
- * Conducts low-cost workshops and seminars to keep small businesses abreast of current practices and changing trends in today's business climate. These are designed to develop and raise the management skills of owners and managers. Training is conducted on the UL campus, at LEDA, at the Enterprise Center of Louisiana, at South Louisiana Community College, at Acadiana Technical College and various Chamber of Commerce offices and other resource partners throughout the Acadiana region.
- * Maintains an up-to-date library of materials for starting and managing a small business. SBA publications and other reference information are also available.
- * Has a video station and PC resources for individualized training on a host of key business subjects including preparation for the contractor licensing process.
- * Is the local intermediary for Louisiana Economic Development's Small and Emerging Business Development Program (SEBD). The SEBD program helps Louisiana's small businesses by assisting with entrepreneurial training, legal needs, marketing, computer skills and accounting. For more information on eligibility and certification, please contact us or visit www.ledsmallbiz.com.

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CBIT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Center for Business & Information Technologies (CBIT) is to support the University's economic development agenda through research, development, and technology transfer in the general area of business and information technologies. In cooperation with private sector, academic, and government partners, the Center

- conducts basic and applied research aimed at establishing scientific foundations and frameworks for business & information technologies,
- develops and commercializes products, and
- provides strategic and technical support to Louisiana businesses and government.

Research and development efforts focus on reliable, scalable, extensive, cost-effective, secure, and interoperable architectures, systems and technologies with high potential for commercial implementation. The R&D agenda is shaped by the Center's partners and clients through an advisory board that provides guidance on industry trends and market opportunities. Current areas of activity include

- *Business services*: Supply chain management, business-to-business electronic commerce, customer relations management; inventory management solutions, enterprise systems strategies, and site selection decision support systems;
- *Information Technology Services*: Databases, web-based 2-tier/3-tier software applications, Internet e-commerce; legacy system integration; communications, networking, and security strategies;
- *Enterprise Services*: Lean manufacturing, manufacturing automation, and manufacturing system integration.

The Center seeks to be recognized within the State as a prime source for high value-added business and information technology solutions for existing and start-up businesses and for government agencies in the State of Louisiana.

CBIT Highlights:

- Developing a *workforce simulator tool* in 2009 to analyze gaps between Louisiana's workforce demand and projected supply of workers by skill, industry, and region. The effort is part of a contract awarded to the UL Lafayette Research Consortium from the Louisiana Workforce Commission.
- Developed and launched "*AccessLouisiana*", an on-line directory of Louisiana Businesses allowing them to showcase their products/services and establish business-to-business partnerships.
- Developed the "*BalancedFlow*" supply chain management software for applications within the Defense Logistics Agency of the U.S. Department of Defense and the commercial marketplace.
- Received the prestigious "*Lantern 2003*" Award from Louisiana Economic Development for contributions to economic development in Louisiana through the use of information technology.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP OF LOUISIANA (MEPOL)

www.mepol.org

CORRINE DUPUY

DIRECTOR

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MEP centers provide manufacturers with an array of services that focus on growth, productivity, and efficiency. MEPOL is one of 59 MEP Centers in the nation, and is in partnership with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Assistance is provided via an integrated network of public and private resources in the following areas:

- Lean Manufacturing
- Innovation Training/Services
- New Product Development
- Rapid Prototyping
- Production
- Quality
- Advanced Material Testing
- Website Optimization
- Green and Energy Initiatives
- Accounting
- Marketing
- Exporting Assistance
- Business/Strategic Planning

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

LOUISIANA PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (LA PTAC)

www.la-ptac.org

SHERRIE MULLINS

PROGRAM MANAGER

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Funded by the State of Louisiana through the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency, the Louisiana Procurement Technical Assistance Center (LA PTAC) is a statewide program providing government contracting support to companies in 54 Louisiana parishes. The PTAC network of outreach centers located throughout the state provides one-on-one procurement counseling and training to businesses seeking or working on government contracts.

PTAC helps Louisiana companies obtain and perform federal, state and local contracts through individual counseling, seminars and training courses. Assistance includes:

- Marketing
- Bid Preparation
- Government Contracting Regulations
- Contract Administration
- Quality
- Packaging requirements
- Proposal Review
- EC/EDI Government Contracting initiatives and programs
- Transportation
- Supplier Certification
- Pricing Policies
- Procurement Histories
- Contract Negotiation
- Problem Solving
- Specs and Standards

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES (NIMSAT)

www.nimsat.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the NIMSAT Institute is to enhance national resiliency to a full range of by:

- conducting research leading to cutting edge tools and applications
- providing education, training, and operational support
- empowering the homeland security and emergency management (HSEM) community

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The NIMSAT Institute is not just an academic institution; the team takes research one step further by creating tools and applications that, when in the hands of the right professionals, will help save lives and reduce losses to property and economy. Assistance to the State of Louisiana during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike truly transformed the Institute's mission and helped define the strategic focus:

- *Resource & Information Management*: support and strengthen strategic partnerships between key public/private entities in emergency management at all levels, including non-profit, leveraging national assets and partners for action & support throughout the country
- *Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) Analysis*: advance the understanding of risk faced as a nation due to the intricate interdependencies between various CIKR assets, the dependency of various public and private sector supply chains on these assets, and the consequences of disruptions to our way of life
- *Geospatial Decision Support*: develop cutting edge tools and applications to place in the hands of those in the homeland security and emergency management community to aid in decision making and to digitize otherwise cumbersome processes in the disaster lifecycle

Leveraging approximately \$100 million in technology investments and an extensive base of lessons-learned from the hurricanes of 2005 and 2008, the NIMSAT Institute seeks to thrust Louisiana in to a national leadership role, moving the center of gravity of homeland security and emergency management to the State.

WHAT THE NIMSAT INSTITUTE CAN DO FOR YOU

Private Sector

- Facilitate communication with the public sector by providing a "seat at the table" to gain access and regulatory accommodations and enhance continuity of operations
- Provide opportunities to participate in joint planning/training with public sector counterparts in CIKR analysis, public/private coordination and technology usage
- Develop or strengthen existing systems used to plan, respond, and recover from disasters

Public Sector

- Establish partnerships with private sector firms that can provide significant resources and information to better manage disasters
- Analyze private sector CIKR / supply chains to enhance requests for federal funding for infrastructure planning and recovery efforts
- Create tools that help in planning, preparedness, response, and recovery

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

THE ENTERPRISE CENTER OF LOUISIANA

www.ecol.org

ROY HOLLEMAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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The **Enterprise Center of Louisiana (ECOL)** provides a nurturing environment for new or small emerging businesses to engage in operations with support, encouragement, and in-house assistance and referrals. ECOL is a program of UL Lafayette.

- **Facility**

The 30,000 square foot facility allows for flexible occupancy packages. There are two office sizes, 216 and 279 square feet, in addition to light manufacturing production suites, 1440 and 2880 square feet.

- **Environment**

The business environment includes a reception area, break room, forklift, restrooms, office and manufacturing space.

- **Support Services**

Assistance with Internet marketing, Electronic Data Interchange, and electronic commerce opportunities are part of the package. Workroom with computer, paper cutter, fax machine, copier and mail boxes are available. There are also 3 conference rooms for tenant use. Building has both security and fire alarms monitored 24/7.

- **Management Assistance**

Guidance is provided by the center, as well as outside agencies. Assistance is also available for locating business financing.

- **Features**

Close association with other entrepreneurs promotes networking opportunities for businesses with similar problems and solutions. Assistance from UL Lafayette is also available, as needed.

- **Other Services**

Reduced fees may be obtained for services such as legal consultation, accounting and bookkeeping, computer training and consulting, and marketing assistance.

ENTERPRISE CONSORTIUM OF THE GULF COAST WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER

www.ecgcwbc.com

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The Enterprise Consortium of the Gulf Coast Women's Business Center (ECGC WBC) is a non-profit organization that empowers aspiring and existing entrepreneurs through guidance, resources and support to achieve success in establishing small businesses.

The ECGC Women's Business Center offers FREE counseling and technical assistance in many areas including:

- Business plan development
- Strategic planning
- Government regulations & licensing
- Marketing plans
- Financial management
- Basic credit counseling
- Recordkeeping & accounting
- Legal assistance
- Start-up guidance
- Loan application assistance
- Networking events
- Conferences & seminars