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IN THIS ISSUE

4 Letter from President

6 EHS Conference

12 LCA Spotlight Member: Westlake Chemical

16 LCIA Spotlight Member: LandBros Aerial

20 Solutions Through Science

24 Coalition for Common Sense

28 American Chemistry Council

30 Walls Project

36 Jay Dardenne

40 Louisiana Business Connection

42 Sponsor Pages

44 LCIA Application

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR **ROB LANDRY**
ROB@LCA.ORG
225.376.7656

PUBLISHER **SHAUN NORRIS**
SHAUN.NORRIS@HUBINTERNATIONAL.COM

SALES AND CIRCULATION **SHAUN NORRIS**
SHAUN.NORRIS@HUBINTERNATIONAL.COM
225.266.4460

THE ALLIANCE IS A PUBLICATION OF THE LOUISIANA CHEMICAL INDUSTRY ALLIANCE, WHOSE MEMBERS ARE LOUISIANA'S CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS AND THEIR VENDORS AND SUPPLIERS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE PUBLICATION IS TO ADVOCATE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BENEFITS OF CHEMISTRY TO LOUISIANA AND THE WORLD, WHILE HIGHLIGHTING ITS ESSENTIAL NATURE AND BENEFITS TO EVERYDAY LIVING. THE ALLIANCE IS PUBLISHED TWICE ANNUALLY.

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2017 spring edition of Alliance Magazine! We extend our sincere thanks to our many members and advertisers for making this magazine a great success when it's published twice a year. Please show your patronage by supporting our advertisers.

As this letter goes to print, Louisiana finds itself at a major crossroads. The Legislature and the Governor have signed off on more than \$2 billion in new taxes in the past year, yet they still find themselves facing a \$1.3 billion fiscal shortfall at the end of the 2018 fiscal year.

The recurring issue of raising more money to fill a hole that is continuously being dug deeper leads us to another question, which is also the theme of this year's meeting, Louisiana's Economy: "Where are we going?"

Though states around us are removing harmful business taxes that stifle economic growth, Louisiana looks to pile on to its already onerous tax code. While our neighbors are slashing their budgets to live within their means, Louisiana continues to ramp up its state spending at a rate that is not sustainable.

The Mississippi legislature is making moves to reduce its state budget to \$6 billion for the next fiscal year. Louisiana on the other hand, has a state budget of more than \$29 billion this year and Governor John Bel Edwards has said it's necessary the state find at least \$400 million more.

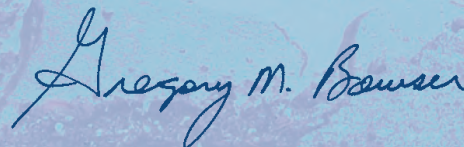
Our neighbor to the West, Texas, began the process of phasing out its gross receipts tax, also known as the Commercial Activities Tax or "CAT", in 2017. Their reasoning was the tax was overly burdensome on businesses and was hurting potential economic growth. However, Governor Edwards has proposed implementing the CAT tax in Louisiana in his tax reform package.

While the rest of the region lives within their means, encourages their economies to grow and incentivizes companies to do business inside their borders, Louisiana is headed in the opposite direction.

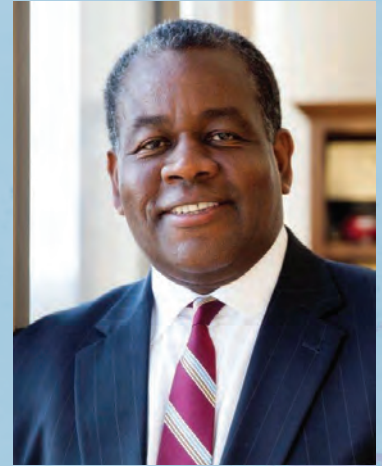
But all is not lost. With the help of the LCA and LCIA members, we can turn the tide and put Louisiana back on the right track. A track of stable, reasonable spending. A track of long sustained economic growth.

We are all very proud of our state and the potential it offers to our people. We don't want that potential impeded by policies that kill jobs instead of creating them. Show your support for the Chemical Industry by being actively involved with LCA and LCIA.

Thanks for participating in our 2017 Annual Legislative Conference.



Gregory M. Bowser
President
Louisiana Chemical Association
Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance



Gregory M. Bowser

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30TH ANNUAL TEXAS/LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & SAFETY SEMINAR

By Edward Flynn, Vice President, Health, Safety and Security
Louisiana Chemical Association

The Texas Chemical Council (TCC) and the Association of Chemical Industry of Texas (ACIT), along with LCA and LCIA, are hosting the 30th annual Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) seminar June 5-8, 2017 at Moody Gardens Convention Center in Galveston, Texas (www.ehs-seminar.com).

Annually, the Texas/Louisiana EHS Seminar aims to be the premier industry safety seminar on the Gulf Coast attracting EHS professionals from the chemical and refining industries as well as suppliers and service providers to our industry. Originally developed by TCC's Occupational Safety Committee, the event is now planned and coordinated by EHS professionals from TCC/ACIT and LCA/LCIA staff and member companies.

The Seminar features leading industry environmental, health and safety experts as speakers, panelists and instructors in a wide array of educational sessions and workshops. There are several continuing education opportunities available including 17 hours of COC accreditation for Certified Safety Professionals (CSP).

The 2017 program once again will include award winning presentations on ALL of the following - industry best practices; process safety and PSM emerging trends and lessons learned; leadership; human factors; emergency response; chemical industry security; employee and occupational health; environmental hot topics and compliance covering water and hazardous and solid waste regulatory developments; and more. The

seminar's open format makes it possible for attendees to interact with federal and state regulators and to exchange practical information on critical EHS issues. The seminar is a great networking opportunity where attendees learn from peers and from those holding professional credentials such as the certified industrial hygienist, CSP and professional engineer.

Facility managers who have attended the EHS Seminar in the past have found it to be a very valuable educational resource for them and their employees. As a result, the TCC Board of Directors felt it important that every LCA and TCC member company plant manager have an opportunity to attend the Seminar for a day and learn how the Seminar can benefit their personnel.

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

In 2015, over 20,000 employees worked 45 million hours at an all-time record low .21 Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR). Special recognition goes to the Equipment, Rigging & Specialized Transportation Division, which completed the year at a .00 TRIR, and to Turner's inspection group, which was five years OSHA recordable free.

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TOTAL WORKSITES

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since 2010

.21 TOTAL RECORDABLE INCIDENT RATE

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72% INJURY-FREE WORKSITES

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All LCA plant managers are invited to be a guest for one day at the seminar; plant managers are entitled to a complimentary 1-Day Registration for a day of their choice during the week-long event. This invitation is an opportunity for leaders to experience the informative training and education opportunities available to your employees.

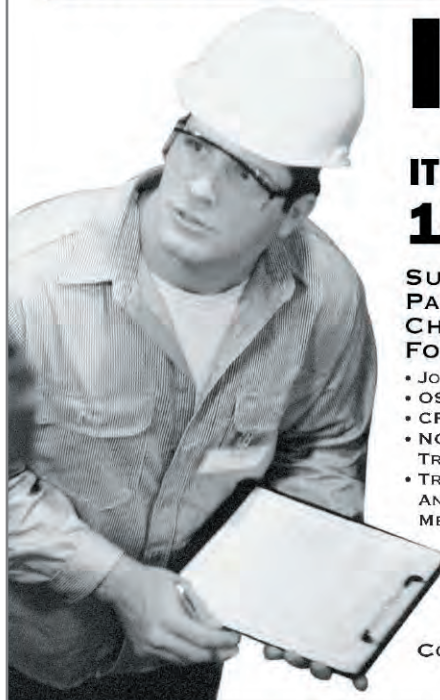
This year's keynote speakers include: Earl Shipp, Vice President of The Dow Chemical Company (and a former member of the LCA Board of Directors); Steven McCraw, Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety; and Brad Livingston, accident survivor and motivational speaker.

Back by popular demand this year is a Plant Managers (only) track that will take place on Thursday, June 8th. This track focuses exclusively on key topics of particular interest to plant managers. There will be an afternoon Plant Manager Roundtable Forum, reserved exclusively for facility site and plant managers, to discuss important current industry issues and share best practices. In 2015 and 2016, this closed session was moderated by our own Tom Yura, Senior Vice President & General Manager, BASF (Geismar), former Chairman, LCA Board of Directors; this year's forum will be moderated by Steve Skarke, Executive Vice President & Site Manager, Kaneka North America LLC, Houston, Texas.

Finally, make it a point not to miss our trade show where more than 160 vendors will be showcasing all manner of products and services so you can see the latest in equipment, machinery and know-how.

This year, please consider joining the ever-growing impressive list of LCA and LCIA members -- such as Eastman, Americas Styrenics, Total, Formosa,

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Safety, Trinity Consultants, Turner and United Rentals -- who have taken advantage of this terrific, close to home training and educational opportunity. Through sharing best practices, attending the different seminar tracks, participating in the training workshops and joining in the multiple networking opportunities, plant representatives can identify ideas -- real-world, tangible improvements -- to implement at their facility that help drive continued excellence in facility EHS performance. Attendees can choose from a discounted weekly registration or a single-day/daily registration, and breakfast and lunch are included in all

seminar admissions. Attendees with a valid email address will have access to all the presentations after the seminar.

Fees, registration, hotel and travel arrangements and all the program details including speakers, topics and training sessions may be viewed at www.ehs-seminar.com.

Please make attending this great seminar a part of your annual EHS activities. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in June! ❁

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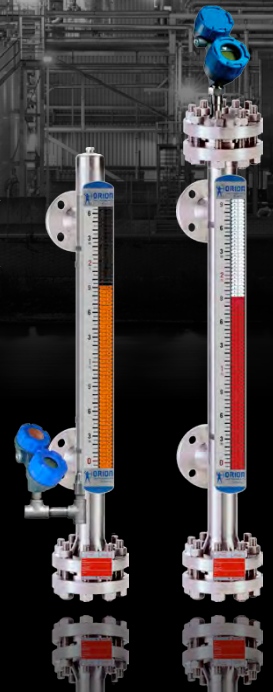
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



Westlake Chemical

WESTLAKE CHEMICAL ENHANCING LIVES FOR 30 YEARS

Westlake Chemical was founded in 1986 when T.T. Chao, a pioneer in the global petrochemical industry, and his sons acquired a shut-down polyethylene plant in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Building on three decades of plastics manufacturing experience in Asia, Westlake Chemical embarked on a mission of achieving profitable growth through acquisition, expansion of existing facilities and new construction.



The Plaquemine location comprises three plants—a chlorine and caustic plant, a PVC plant and a VCM plant. This site employs approximately 950 employees and core contractors



The Geismar location produces PVC, VCM, chlorine, caustic soda and employs approximately 270 employees and core contractors.



The former Axiall "Lake Charles north" plant contains a VCM plant. This site employs approximately 120 employees and core contractors.

Westlake's presence in Louisiana grew in the 1990s, with the start-up of an ethylene and styrene monomer plant in Lake Charles in 1991 and 1992, respectively, a second ethylene plant in 1997, and a linear low density polyethylene unit by 1998. At the turn of the millennium, the company acquired polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) plants in Geismar, Louisiana. By 2010, the company began construction of a chlor-alkali plant in Geismar, which started production in 2013. In 2013, Petro-2 expansion began and by 2016, expansion began for Petro-1.

In 2016, Westlake Chemical celebrated its 30th anniversary, and acquired Axiall Corporation, which doubled the company in size by employment and revenue. Prior to the Axiall acquisition, Westlake acquired other companies located in Calvert City, Kentucky; Longview, Texas; and abroad, such as Vinnolt, a leading manufacturer in specialty PVC, in Germany.

The combined company is now the third-largest chlor-alkali producer and the second-largest PVC producer in North America. The company's range of products includes: ethylene, polyethylene, styrene, propylene, caustic soda, VCM, PVC suspension and specialty resins and PVC building products, including pipe and specialty components, siding, fence, decking and film.

"We were pleased to welcome Axiall and its talented team into the Westlake family of companies," said Albert Chao, Westlake's President and Chief Executive Officer. "The acquisition aligned two remarkable companies, created a company with greater financial and operational flexibility and helped to accelerate our growth strategy."

Westlake Chemical is headquartered in Houston, Texas and operates more than 40 sites throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

WESTLAKE IS INVESTED IN LOUISIANA

Six of Westlake Chemical's North American operations are located in Louisiana, which also counts the company's largest workforce by state. According to the Louisiana Chemical Association (LCA), Westlake's presence in Louisiana makes it the second-largest petrochemical employer in the state, with approximately 3,225 employees and core contractors.

The Lake Charles "Petro" olefins site consists of two ethylene production plants, two polyethylene trains and one styrene monomer production plant. The petro site employs approximately 370 employees and core contractors.

A COMMITMENT TO SAFETY AND QUALITY

Westlake's mission is to provide quality products and services to commodity chemical, plastics and related fabricated products markets. Westlake Chemical strives to be a low-cost manufacturer and to find value across the chain through vertical integration. Westlake seeks to return value to its shareholders above the company's invested cost of capital.

Westlake Chemical is an international manufacturer and supplier of petrochemicals and building products that enhance the daily lives of people around the planet. The tires we ride on, the plastic wrap that keeps our meats and produce fresh, the pipes that are essential to ensuring clean water and the siding on our homes all contribute to the health and well-being of communities everywhere. Westlake plays a vital role in supplying the building blocks for these products and many more.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:



WESTLAKE VALUES

Westlake's core values are at the heart of how the company conducts its business and serves to guide each employee about delivering excellence to operations, customers and communities. Three of the values are highlighted here:



HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, VISITORS AND COMMUNITY

The health and safety of Westlake employees and communities, and the vigilant stewardship of the environment and sustainability are of utmost importance and at the forefront of everything the company does.

Drive to Zero is the first of the company's cultural beliefs. It is built upon the principle, "I own your safety and mine." This principle is designed to help Westlake employees achieve zero incidents. In conjunction with Drive to Zero, Westlake is focused on OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) since 1995. These programs recognize facilities that go beyond compliance with OSHA standards, demonstrating excellence in occupational safety and health and employee protection. Westlake has long participated in VPP and the Petro and Poly sites are designated as VPP Star sites. OSHA defines this as "exemplary worksites with comprehensive, successful safety and health management systems," that "have achieved injury and illness rates at or below the national average of their respective industries."

In addition, Petro and Poly practice safe workplace habits through SafeStart, a training program designed to equip employees with safety skills to help make the workplace a safer and better place to work.

In 2016, the Westlake Chemical Petro and Poly facilities in Lake Charles received the "Best in Louisiana" SAFE Award—the highest honor possible—from the LCA.

"Winning this award demonstrates the priority that Westlake and its employees put on health, safety and environmental stewardship," said Wayne Smith, regional Health, Safety and Environment manager. "It's a positive reflection on the efforts of all employees at the petro and poly facilities. This award is really about recognizing their achievements."

"You can't buy this award. You have to earn it based on your performance, and the difference between finalists and winners is extremely small," said Ed Flynn, vice president of health, safety and security at LCA. "It is the result of people who come to work each day with the attitude to operate safely and watch out for their co-workers."

Westlake has been a member of LCA for 20 years, and this year also marks the 20th anniversary of the SAFE Awards, an acronym for "Serious about Fostering Excellence."

CITIZENSHIP

Westlake also recognizes the importance of supporting the communities in which it operates, and makes it a priority to take an active role in making these communities better. The company supports and encourages its employees to volunteer their time and efforts in worthwhile causes and donate funds to assist various charitable groups and educational efforts.

"Community involvement has always been important to Westlake Chemical and its employees. Being part of a community in which we operate our facilities is a privilege, and we strive to be a good neighbor,"

said Joe Andrepont, Principle Community Affairs Representative and Facility Security Officer for Westlake in Lake Charles. "Some of the projects that we are involved with include Partners in Education, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, recreational sponsorships, Junior Achievement, and United Way, just to mention a few. I think it's important to recognize that our employees not only work in the various communities in which we operate, they live there as well."

OUR PEOPLE

At Westlake Chemical, the integrity, creativity, dedication, diversity and drive of its employees allow the company to excel. Westlake supports, develops and inspires its people to achieve their personal best and treat them with dignity and respect. Together, employees work to enhance peoples' lives through the products and presence in the communities in which Westlake operates. Westlake Chemical is a competitive participant in the petrochemicals industry and focuses its talents on delivering strong business results. For 30 years, Westlake has been a stable and growing international company. The company hires competent, flexible people who work across a broad range of disciplines. From well-trained plant operators, to resourceful engineers, to multi-faceted professional staff, every employee has an opportunity to make a significant, visible contribution.

At Westlake, employees have the opportunity to grow in an entrepreneurial environment, where the company continues to build on its business success by reviewing business opportunities and finding ways to improve. For employment opportunities and to learn more about Westlake Chemical Corporation please visit www.westlake.com.



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- \$1,000
- \$ 750
- \$ 500
- \$ 250
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MEMBER **SPOTLIGHT:**

LANDBROS



AERIAL

LandBros Aerial, founded in 2014 by brothers Danny and Kevin Landry, is a UAS/drone inspection, mapping and testing company for the industrial market. We are based in Baton Rouge, LA and focus on infrastructure inspections, confined space inspections, 3D modeling, mapping and emergency response. Our primary customers consist of Oil & Gas Refineries and Petrochemical facilities along the Mississippi River from North of Baton Rouge to South of New Orleans. We have completed work for some of the biggest and most safety conscious clients in the market including, Shell/Motiva Convent, Shell/Motiva Norco, Shell Chemical Geismar, Sasol, OxyChem Convent, OxyChem Taft and Methanex. What once started out as a side project for Danny Landry, has transformed to become one of the leading industrial UAS vendors in the country. Our focus on safety, quality of information and exceeding our client's expectations continues to separate our company from other UAS vendors.





MEMBER **SPOTLIGHT:**



FIRST TO MARKET & SAFETY

LandBros was the first UAS company in Louisiana to receive the Federal Aviation Administration's Section 333 Waiver in May 2015. This time-consuming and laborious process helped us enter the industrial market at a time when many facilities were putting into place specific UAS policies, realizing the potential to significantly improve on-site safety, while making routine visual inspections more efficient. We capitalized on the Section 333 investment by approaching Shell, Valero and Exxon Aviation Departments to establish a relationship and become a dedicated UAS provider for their facilities. After extensive and detailed in-person interviews, policy and procedure auditing and flight observations, LandBros successfully received Aviation approval from all three oil supermajors.



NEW SERVICE LINES

For the last couple of years, our inspection services have consisted of flare stacks, pipe-racks, external tanks, chimney/furnace stacks, power lines and docks using standard visual and infrared sensors. Earlier this year, we added a Confined Space UAS to our fleet that is collision-tolerant and provides a means to perform general visual inspections of tanks, vessels, boilers and stacks in a safer, faster and cost effective method. This UAS allows an inspection to take place without entry into the confined space, thereby offering tremendous safety benefits. It is a fast and cost-efficient way of locating the areas that need repairs, if any, producing considerable savings. Asset owners can benefit from reduced downtime and lower inspection costs by applying scaffolding only to the areas of interest. We have seen firsthand the positive feedback from many of our clients with this service and see overwhelming potential in the future.

Another service line that we have added to our business focuses on producing full facility 3D models that tie in with a company's internal operating equipment database. This enables users to visualize their facility in real-time and interactively access different units and equipment and offering the ability to see each piece of equipment's design plans and historical inspection data. Benefits include effective communication to contractors, site visitors and asset owners, while also contributing to emergency response efforts and planning design. We believe it will be an essential tool and standard practice for all facilities over the next couple of years.

CLIENT STORY

Early on in LandBros' history, a family friend suggested that we join Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance, which has been an incredible experience to not only form new business relationships, but to also have a better understanding of our client's challenges. One of our team members was fortunate enough to attend an LCA Conference where a Geismar-area Plant Manager delivered a presentation that stressed the need for industry to move towards Smart Manufacturing by embracing new technologies, such as drone use, 3D printing and robotics, in order to stay competitive, while increasing safety and efficiency. After the presentation, our team member introduced himself to the Plant Manager, who suggested he follow up to schedule a meeting with the facility's inspection team. We met with team members and explained how we can benefit the facility. A few weeks passed by and we were contacted by the group, who mentioned that one of their flare stacks was experiencing a problem and wanted to know if we


could perform a visual inspection immediately. We quickly mobilized our team and delivered unbiased, real-time data on the asset in a matter of a couple of hours. The asset owner's team was thoroughly impressed with our safety procedures, live feed capabilities and the quality of data, that enabled them to make a decision that evening. What would have traditionally required cranes, manlifts and rope access, ended up saving our client time and money, while most importantly improving safety measures. This has led to expanded repetitive business that includes additional in-service flare stacks along with confined space tanks and vessels. Our client has since developed a team tasked with expanding UAS services and compiling a site-wide drone program, in an effort to improve safety and reduce scaffolding needs.

CASE STUDY: ONSHORE FLARE STACK INSPECTION

Safety of personnel in operating units is always a top priority for all of our clients. Elevated structures, as with flare stacks, pose additional risks given the altitude in which the flare tip sits. Traditional methods often require cranes, manlifts and rope access that allow personnel to be in close proximity of the flare tip to gather the necessary information to perform the inspection. This obviously creates significant safety risks for industry.

Logistical planning for elevated platforms and rope-access crews is not only time-consuming, but also very expensive. These costs can run in the hundreds of thousands per day and require that a flare stack be taken out of service for the duration of the inspection.

Our industrial UASs provide unbiased, real-time data on a flare stacks and can capture many angles, including several feet inside the refractory. We live-stream our inspections to a monitor, giving clients the ability to see the data immediately and the option to direct the operation, if needed. Our UASs are equipped with dual feeds for both high resolution and thermal imagery that is obtained simultaneously each flight. Furthermore, we have optical zoom lenses that allow us to operate at a safe distance for active flare stacks, while still capturing extremely detailed information.

Compared to traditional methods of inspection, LandBros Aerial inspection services have realized savings for its customers between 70-90%. When inspections occur while units are online, the higher end of the calculation is achieved, that would have otherwise required the unit to be shut down. 

SOLUTIONS THROUGH SCIENCE: HEALTHY POOLS FOR HEALTHY SWIMMERS

By: Alexis Sclatre, Solutions Through Science Executive Director

Spring is here, and rising temperatures mean pool time will soon be upon us. Public and private pool owners are beginning to prepare their pools for the season ahead, and many families will spend a good bit of time at the pool for a refreshing escape from the hot summer sun.

For the past 13 years, the American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Chlorine Chemistry Division has worked closely with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and more recently with the National Swimming Pool Foundation, on an educational outreach program to ensure healthy pools for healthy swimmers. The program highlights health and safety issues regarding swimming pools and encourages swimmers to practice good swimming pool etiquette and hygiene.

The Healthy Pools campaign was borne out of a survey conducted by ACC's Chlorine Chemistry Division that revealed one in five

American adults admits to having urinated in the pool. It also showed that eight in 10 Americans believe their fellow swimmers participate in unhygienic behavior, including urinating in the pool and foregoing a pre-swim shower. The results of that survey gave them the idea of educating swimmers about what they can do to contribute to healthy pools.

"We wanted to take a closer look at disease transmission and how that plays an important role in pool health," said Dr. Chris Wiant, Chair of the Water Quality & Health Council (WQHC), a group of scientific experts, health professionals and consumer advocates that serve as advisors to the Chlorine Chemistry Division of the ACC. "Up to that point, we had been involved in food safety and hospital and childcare center sanitation. When we focused on swimming pool safety, it got a fair amount of attention. So, we started sending a broader message about what goes on in pools and how swimmers also have a responsibility when it comes to pool health."

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Healthy Pools emphasizes using the senses to determine pool safety...you should not be able to smell any odors. If you can, that may mean the pool isn't adequately chlorinated... that strong odor we associate with an abundance of chlorine in the pool is a sign that there are too many outside contaminants in the water and not enough chlorine in the pool.

USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND YOUR SENSES!

Since that first survey, the Healthy Pools campaign has discussed many topics related to swimming pool health, covering such issues as increased disinfection violations at kiddie pools and water play areas, proper pool chemistry, common pool myths and why showering before swimming is so important.

Healthy Pools emphasizes using the senses to determine pool safety. First, look at the water to be sure you can see the bottom of the pool at the deepest end. Cloudy water is a sign that the pool is not properly treated. Second, you should not be able to smell any odors. If you can, that may mean the pool isn't adequately chlorinated. Sides of the pool that feel slimy is another indicator that the pool chemistry is off. And finally, you should be able to hear the noise from the filtration system motors in the background.

"As a bather, you should have an awareness of the potential contaminants you can bring to a pool, but you can also use your senses to determine pool safety," Dr. Wiant said. "I think most people would go to a pool and say, 'the pool is kind of cloudy today' and wonder why that is but not carry it further. They would swim anyway. But to have some idea that those things could represent potential problems is a good thing."

Throughout the years, much of the outreach has focused on the science behind chlorine and how many of the problems we typically blame on over-chlorination are, in fact, misdirected. For example, that strong odor we associate with an abundance of chlorine in the pool is a sign that there are too many outside contaminants in the water and not enough chlorine in the pool. Similarly, while many swimmers attribute their bloodshot eyes to too much chlorine in the water, it may have more to do with an excess of urine in the pool.

By debunking these common myths about swimming pools, and chlorine specifically, the public can better understand the beneficial role chlorine plays in swimming pool health. It also removes the stigma, demonstrates the benefit of proper pool chlorination, and how it can be achieved with minimal risks.

"My concern is the health of the public and that is our message," Dr. Wiant said. "In a pool, you can filter all day long but if you don't have a chlorine residual, then you have a big gap in terms of protection. Industry has been very responsible by sending a public health message and not just a marketing message."

LOUISIANA INDUSTRY LEADERS HELP SPREAD THE WORD

With 35 to 40 percent of the nation's chlorine being produced here, Louisiana industry leaders have taken an active role in this campaign as well. In 2011, Healthy Pools began distributing free swimming pool test strips, further enabling swimmers to gauge the safety of a pool before going for a swim. As part of this effort, Solutions Through Science (STS), a partnership of the Louisiana chlorine manufacturers and users, mails thousands of swimming pool test strips to the eight Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) offices in the state each year. Anyone who visits is welcome to take one, along with printed material containing the Healthy Pools information.

"Part of STS's charter is educating the public on the benefits of chlorine in their daily lives," said Judith Nordgren, Chairman of STS. "Supporting the Healthy Pools campaign by providing swimming pool test strips to LDH offices statewide fulfills that mission, while strengthening our relationships with local state agencies."

COMMON THREATS TO POOL SAFETY

When asked, Dr. Ralph Morris, a public health physician and member of the WQHC, said the biggest threat to pool safety is not showering before getting into a public or semi-public pool.

“Sweat and other organic materials get into the water and provide a breeding ground for bacteria and other viruses. Therefore, it is essential for swimmers to wash with soap before getting into the pool,” Morris said.

Along those lines, parents need to model good pool etiquette and hygiene by making sure their children’s bottoms are thoroughly washed and emphasizing that there is no urinating in the pool. Finally, it is important to teach children to not swallow pool water because although chlorine kills most

waterborne pathogens, it doesn’t always do so instantly. This is especially important with wading pools, because most lack filtration systems while at the same time have a more concentrated volume of water. The significance of the risk is increased since wading pools are mostly used by young children.

This year’s Healthy Pools messages will center around the recent uptick in Cryptosporidium outbreaks in the U.S. This parasite causes a diarrheal disease (known as cryptosporidiosis) and spreads when people who haven’t fully recovered go swimming. Cryptosporidium is chlorine-resistant and therefore a challenge to get rid of. If you are sick with diarrhea, it is very important to stay out of the pool. If you have been diagnosed with cryptosporidiosis, it is important to stay out of the pool for two weeks after diarrhea ceases.

“It is so important to teach children how to swim and how to do it in a healthy way in a swimming pool,” Dr. Morris said. “Swimming is an important life skill and it is important that we do it in a safe environment.”

To learn more about Healthy Pools, go to: www.healthypools.org.

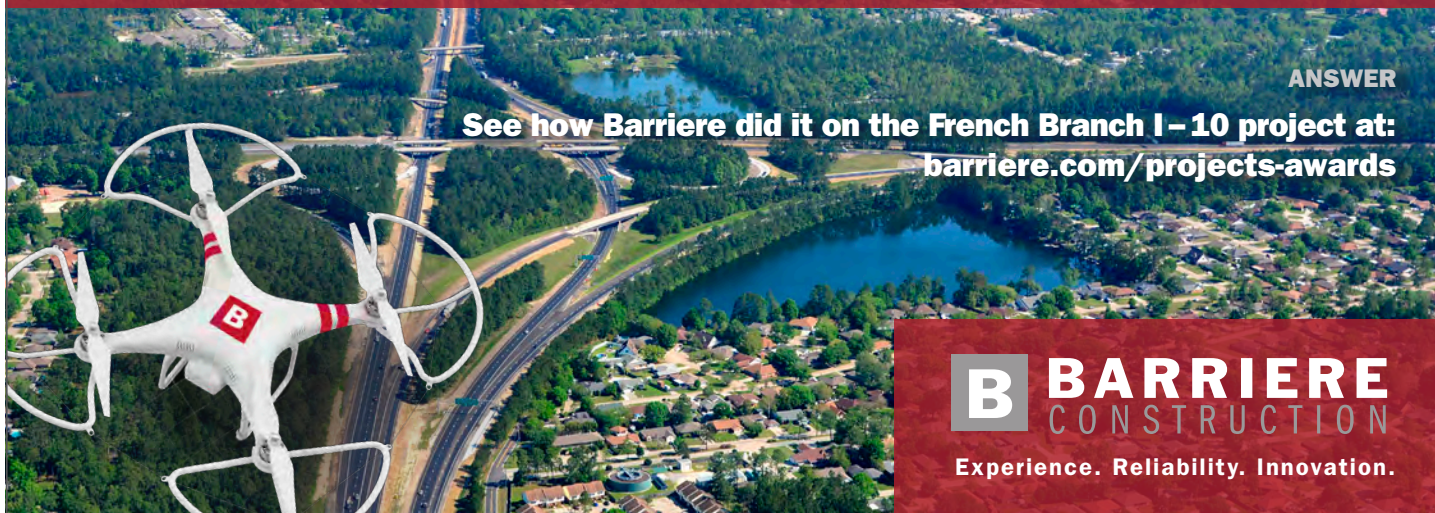
Solutions Through Science (STS) is a Louisiana partnership of chlorine producers and users. Established in 2000, STS serves a single voice for eight member companies. STS works closely with the Chlorine Chemistry Division of the American Chemistry Council and the Louisiana Chemical Association. For more information on STS, visit www.stsla.org.

QUESTION

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ANSWER

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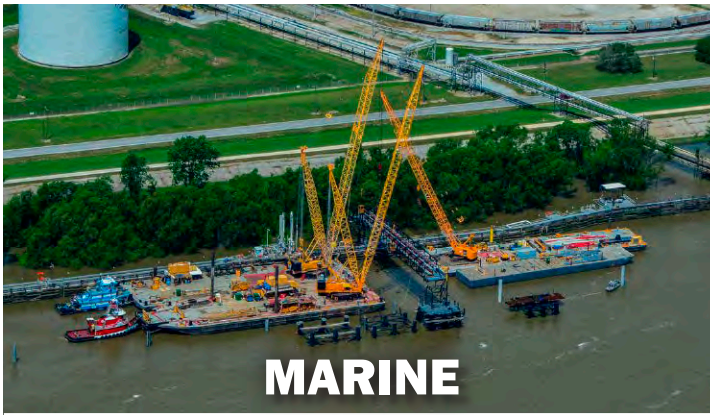
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A TAXING SESSION

Jim Harris
On behalf of the Louisiana Ammonia Producers

In a recently released poll of 600 Louisiana voters taken in March by American Strategies Inc., a national polling firm, some 51 percent of those responding felt Louisiana was headed in the wrong direction, while only 39 percent indicated the state was headed in the right direction. Eleven percent said they did not know. This poll was of voters who turned out at the polls to vote in the last major election last November. There were a couple of other interesting questions in the poll dealing with the state budget and the current Louisiana legislative session. The poll asked them to provide one reason they believed the state was continuing to fall short of raising enough revenue to finance the state budget every year. A whopping 70 percent said “poor fiscal management and overspending by state government.” Nineteen percent said, “a slow economy, low energy prices and declining tax revenues,” and 10 percent said both.



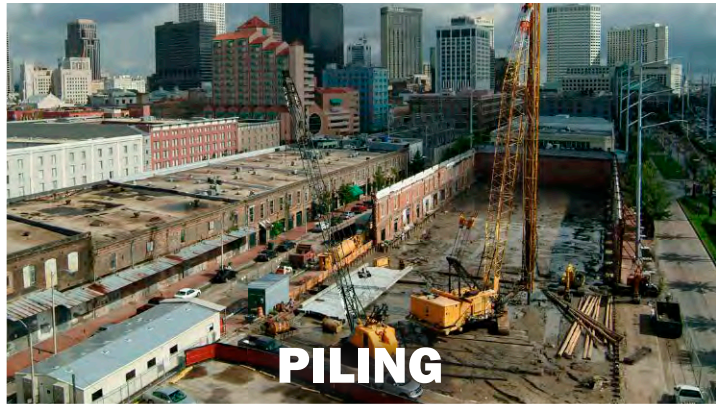
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The background of the page is a faded, light-colored image of the Louisiana State Capitol building. In the top left corner, there are several overlapping circles of varying sizes, some connected by thin lines, resembling a molecular or network diagram.

The poll also briefly pointed out the Louisiana Legislature approved \$1.5 billion in temporary state taxes to deal with the 2016 budget shortfall, including the one-cent increase in the state sales tax. As you are aware, these temporary taxes end in 2018. The poll asked if the governor and Legislature should extend some temporary taxes, replace the revenue with something else or cut spending. The results were as follows:

- A combination of cutting some of the temporary taxes and cutting some state spending - 53 percent
- Eliminate the temporary taxes and cut state spending by one point five billion dollars - 25 percent
- Extend the one point five billion dollars in temporary taxes for another two years - 17 percent
- (Don't know/refused) - five percent

As you can see from the poll, there's not a great deal of sentiment among the public that Gov. John Bel Edwards and the Legislature should raise taxes to feed the ever-growing appetite of state government. I think we can safely add they probably think that it is a bad idea at the same time the state is in a recession, with 25,000 jobs lost since 2014. In fact, the Legislative Fiscal Office, the governors' Commissioner of Administration and a number of independent economists in the state have said Louisiana is in a recession. At the same time, the governor is now proposing that lawmakers this session pass a gross receipts tax on every business in the state and a tax on services that will further decimate the economy. He is also recommending an additional attack on various tax exemptions, exclusions and rebates. The governor's plan for the session is to raise enough revenue in new tax money to let the fifth penny, the temporary additional sales tax, expire in 2018.

Of major concern to the petrochemical industry during the current session, in addition to the gross receipts tax, will be attempts to pass sales taxes going forward after 2018 on business utilities, including manufacturing, the elimination of the manufacturing machinery and equipment sales tax exclusion permanently, as well as a sales tax on "other constructions," which applies to construction on pipelines, tanks, fences, towers, etc. at manufacturing facilities. These structures have historically been treated as immovable property and are not currently subject to taxation. Legislation may come after this particular provision either through extending the current exemptions and exclusions past 2018 or through the expansion of sales tax on services proposed by the administration. Legislation has been introduced to also do away with all school millages from the Louisiana Industrial Property Tax Exemption Program. Passage of this legislation would completely destroy the exemption, since in most parishes, school mileages are about 55 percent in total.

These three different areas of taxing utilities, manufacturing machinery and equipment and "other construction," would mean many millions of dollars taken out of commerce in Louisiana and would make Louisiana's petrochemical industry non-competitive with its sister plants in other states.

While presenting his plan for the current legislative session, the governor claimed 129,000 of the 149,000 corporate tax filers paid no taxes to the state. That comment created quite a stir among businesses large and small who bear the largest percentage of the tax burden of not only the state but local government. For more on this subject, the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry has released a report entitled "Business is Paying More than Its 'Fair Share' in Louisiana." To read the entire report, go to http://labi.org/assets/images/media/FairShare_4_10_171.pdf.

The governor's claim that 129,000 corporate tax filers pay no taxes to the state turned out to be a bit misleading. Perhaps the governor was misled with the information he was provided. In fact, records at the state Department of Revenue shows that 48,000 of those filers paid taxes as s-corporations on their personal tax returns, not corporate. Furthermore, all 149,000 were still subject to the franchise tax, according to the LABI report.

Following is a paragraph from the LABI release, which defines where business stands with paying taxes in Louisiana. LABI's Senior Vice President Camille Conaway said:

"The current rhetoric ignores the facts. In addition to individual and corporate income tax, Louisiana businesses pay the majority of property taxes and half of sales taxes - at the highest rate in the nation. Businesses pay a franchise tax and an inventory tax in Louisiana, which most states don't even have, as well as excise taxes like severance and gas. New data shows that the often-cited corporate exemptions are down 60 percent.

National reports show that employers in Louisiana pay 41 percent of all state taxes and 59 percent of local taxes, representing nearly half of taxes collected in Louisiana. Across the country, by contrast, businesses pay 44 percent of state/local taxes. The state is currently ranked 41st for the business tax climate due to a complex code, high rates, and uncompetitive forms of taxation."

Figuring out and passing a fair long-term tax strategy for the state of Louisiana is no simple matter. We understand that both the governor and the Legislature will struggle to come to a plan that works for the state. We wish them luck in that effort. However, during a time of recession we would hope they would avoid further taxing the business community at a time when jobs are leaving the state. The future of jobs for Louisiana is the only way to ensure state government survives financially.

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A FEDERAL ISSUES UPDATE FROM THE AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL

By: Sydney Rubin, Manager, Political Mobilization

Going into the fifth month of the 115th Congress, there has been no shortage of activity as it relates to several core policy priorities of the American Chemistry Council.

One of the main issues thus far has been the Risk Management Program (RMP) Rule, a regulation proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency during the Obama Administration's last 60 days. The rule, originally slated to take effect on March 21st, 2017, has now been delayed by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt until June 19th, with another delay until February 2019 proposed last week, and will create significant new regulatory requirements for chemical facilities. Such requirements include the following: expanded public access to chemical facility information, prescriptive third-party auditing regime, and consideration and documentation of any potential inherently safer technology (IST) and design changes to every RMP process. In February Congressman Mullin (R-OK) and Senator Inhofe (R-OK) both introduced resolutions under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) that would disapprove the regulation under the CRA, effectively overturning it. With the help of the Louisiana Chemical Association,

robust outreach helped secure 65 cosponsors of the House resolution (H.J.Res.59), including Louisiana Congressmen Clay Higgins (LA-3), Mike Johnson (LA-4), and Garret Graves (LA-6), and 16 of the Senate resolution (S.J.Res.28), including Senator John Kennedy. Unfortunately, there was a bit of a setback, having the CRA vote unexpectedly called off due to last minute objection by a handful of Texas Republican Energy and Commerce Committee members. ACC in coordination with LCA will continue urging Congress to act by using the CRA to undo the RMP Rule ahead of the May 9th deadline to act on it.

In late March the House passed two regulatory reform bills that will both increase transparency and serve to strengthen public confidence in EPA's scientific analyses. The first of the two, the "HONEST Act," will prevent the EPA from issuing any regulations based on scientific or technical information not reproducible or available to the public for independent analysis. The second is the "Science Advisory Board (SAB) Reform Act of 2017," which would strengthen the peer review process and increase accountability. Both bills await action in the Senate.

Additionally, the Senate Chemistry Caucus, in addition to the already established House Chemistry Caucus, officially launched on March 29th! The Caucus will serve as an informal group of Members of Congress dedicated to issues related to the science of chemistry and STEM education, whose mission is to educate others on the benefit of chemistry in today's society and to the economy. We appreciate Senator Kennedy's support in joining the caucus and hope to have Senator Cassidy join soon as well.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, ACC is thankful for its partnership with LCA as we work in conjunction on various legislative issues and initiatives.

Are you involved with our recently launched Chemistry Matters online advocacy community yet? If not, head over to @AmChemMatters or join the conversation using the hashtag #ChemistryMatters as we gear up for another successful August recess chockful of plant tours, in-district meetings, etc., in conjunction with LCA and various member companies with Louisiana operations. ❁

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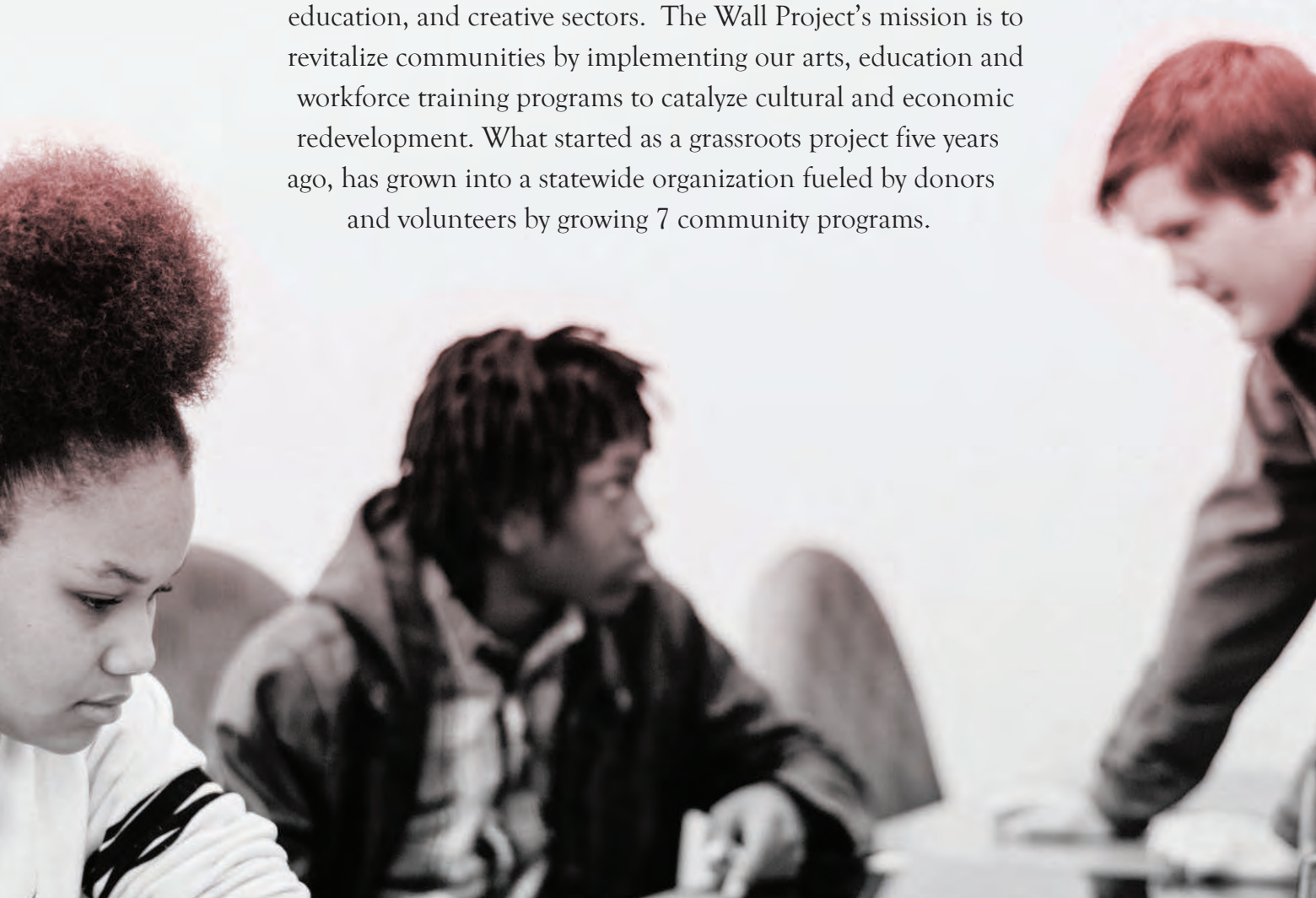


THE FUTURES FUND

AN INITIATIVE OF THE **V**ALLS PROJECT

By: Casey Phillips

The Walls Project 501c3 was founded in Baton Rouge, La as a collaborative effort between members of the entrepreneurial, education, and creative sectors. The Wall Project’s mission is to revitalize communities by implementing our arts, education and workforce training programs to catalyze cultural and economic redevelopment. What started as a grassroots project five years ago, has grown into a statewide organization fueled by donors and volunteers by growing 7 community programs.



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THE FUTURES FUND



In the Fall of 2015, The Walls Project created an initiative called **The Futures Fund**, aimed to create an entrepreneurial accelerator in Baton Rouge's North and Mid City communities, targeting students living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. To date, The Futures Fund has developed into a STEM-driven workforce development program designed to create digital, literary, visual, and performing arts-based entrepreneurial opportunities for youth 12-21 years old. Our programs provide students with training in the creative arts under the guidance of paid professionals and volunteers with industry-specific expertise

The Futures Fund (FF) actively recruits in traditionally low income areas and provides scholarships for all those who qualify. Classes are held at multiple regional sites, thus making the program accessible to all students. A supplement to traditional education, FF courses offer relevant instruction in fields where jobs are available in the region. Direct coordination with statewide workforce development programs and our Skills for Life series ensures all Futures Fund students can acquire the relevant knowledge and expertise for immediate employability, certification, or enrollment in secondary education programs.

Through our efforts, underserved areas of the city now have a larger likelihood to become STEM and entrepreneurial hubs by activating talent in overlooked communities. Since the launch of its initial computer coding pilot in 2015, FF has dispatched a student to a course

at Google headquarters in California, we have been asked to join STEM advocacy organization US2020's STEMup Baton Rouge, and August 8, 2015 was declared The Futures Fund Open Data Innovation Day by then mayor, Kip Holden. In 2015, 36 students passed through our program. In 2016 we had leapt to 262 students. All of our success has been accomplished with the support of community partners in the nonprofit world, governmental organizations and private industry.

The spring semester began on March 4th and will culminate in a student/industry showcase on May 13th at Baton Rouge Community College. Families, and all community stakeholders are invited to view the students' accomplishments from the semester as well as partake in the STEM and creative industry resource fair.

Each semester upon completing our training programs, FF youth are directed to paid opportunities to develop mastery of their discipline and develop mentor relationships. Thus far, The Futures Fund has generated thousands of dollars in revenue for youth 14 and older. Coding students are designing and coding websites for local businesses and non-profit organizations as well as working at Baton Rouge City Hall coding apps for the city's open data platform. Further, the Futures Fund photography students have sold their prints at our curated gallery events. FF students have also been hired by multiple local organizations to provide event photography, corporate portraits, and even logo design and branding campaigns. These outcomes inform our

efforts to build student connection to real-world expectations, while also to assessing the impact our program has on in-school behaviors.

Community-support organizations like The Futures Fund should bridge gaps, support, and empower individuals in low to moderate income communities. We hope to even the playing field. Currently, Baton Rouge is experiencing tremendous growth and economic development in many parts of the city. However, if we do not address our highest need communities we will limit the trajectory of that growth and benefit for all Baton Rouge residents.

More concretely, success for The Futures Fund means that students have learned specific skills in creative industries that they can utilize. Our programming is research-driven and based on best practices from award-winning regional, national, and international organizations that prepare creative-minded individuals to create their own revenue-generating products and services. Our students endeavour to identify pathways that turn a passing interest into a revenue generating opportunity.

The Futures Fund is part of an important movement to provide students with hard STEM skills and the vital 21st century skills to prepare them for the jobs of the future. This program is responding to a clear call to action from Baton Rouge's community and business leaders. This year, at least 350 students will be taught and impacted by industry professionals every Saturday over 2 eight-week courses

(spring and fall), learning essential 21st century skills including design thinking, creative problem solving, and financial literacy in addition to the hard content-specific skills of their respective discipline. These competencies are needed for one to succeed; these are also the skills employers and educational institutions say are now severely lacking among graduates.

Our work can only be accomplished through a strong team, board, and set of partners. First, The Board of Directors support The Walls Project Leadership in setting the mission, vision, goals, quality standards, and culture of the program, including that of The Futures Fund. The board is responsible for the expansion of programming beyond The Walls Project's mural program, which has primarily been the launch of The Futures Fund. The board provides strategic direction for programs, including access to their extensive networks to further expand the coding programming. The Board's goal is to ensure the program reflects the mission, vision, goals, quality standards, and culture set by the program. To do this, the board supports by fundraising, building local community support, and assisting in forming partnerships and even recruiting students.

Second, co-founders Casey Phillips, Director of The Wall's Project, and Ashley Cash along with Futures Fund program coordinator, Luke St. John McKnight, lead a team of 40+ experienced professionals to instruct students in the respective professional disciplines. These instructors range from software company founders, software engineers, professors, creative directors, photographers, and filmmakers.

Finally, The Futures Fund has established strategic partnerships with local individuals, businesses, and organizations across Baton Rouge that can either train or provide internships, or long-term employment opportunities to youth. Industry partners are critical to our success as we help to prepare the workforce of the future.



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THE FUTURES FUND

SIDEBAR MATERIAL:

“Taking Advantage of the Boom: A Strategic Plan for Cultivating a STEM Workforce in the Capital Region,” published by The Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce, outlines the current state of STEM education in the region. Included are the following figures that demonstrate Baton Rouge’s current state of affairs and how The Futures Fund intends to respond to these needs:

- Over a third of public school teachers in the Capital Region say that STEM has not been a topic of conversation at their schools. The Futures Fund will provide out-of-school time for students offsetting this critical gap in what schools are currently providing.
- In 2013, the Capital Region experienced the creation of approximately 3,420 new STEM jobs, while the area’s colleges and universities produced 2,140 STEM graduates and certificate holders. The Futures Fund provides a pathway to middle and high school students through which students can discover STEM fields that also tap into their creativity and usher more students into area colleges and universities for STEM-focused programs.

- STEM jobs in the Capital Region pay an average salary that is \$26,000 greater than the average salary for non-STEM jobs – equaling 76 percent higher wages. This only underscores the importance of increasing the number of students that are exposed to STEM fields earlier in their schooling.
- To meet the demand for STEM-skilled workers with industry certificates and two-year college degrees, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System will need to increase certificate and degree completions by 217 percent. The Futures Fund is a means to expose middle school student to STEM careers. We are also partnering with Baton Rouge Community College to increase these pathways for students.

Among the students accomplishments were the following in 2016:

- Two coding students received summer internships with The City of Baton Rouge
- FF Coding students created a paid website for STEM GEMS in Ascension Parish
- FF Photography students sold \$5000 of prints through photo exhibitions at Ann Connelly Fine Art

- FF Photography students photographed Starbuck’s Regional Barista Challenge, Dancing For Big Buddy Gala and Pre-Event Rehearsals, Big Buddy Crawfish King event, Two Bear Moon concert performance and other community-sponsored events

Students learn the following concrete skills offered at two locations, **Southern University’s College of Business** in North Baton Rouge, and **Baton Rouge Community College** in Mid City:

- Digital Arts: Students will learn to code, develop websites, apps, programs and games
- Visual Arts: Students will learn to shoot, edit and display original photographs and create a portfolio

We have also received support from numerous community organizations including Solutions Through Science (LCI), Capital One Bank, IBM, Southern University, Baton Rouge Community College, Irene W. & C.B. Pennington Foundation, StemUp BR, Big Buddy Program, Sparkhound Foundation, Best Buy Foundation, Boo Grisby Foundation, American Advertising Federation - Baton Rouge, City Year, Louisiana Delta Service Corps, City of East Baton Rouge Office of Community Development. ❖

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Well over 20 different schools across the region represented, including:

- Scotlandville Middle & High School
- Lee High School
- McKinley Middle & High School
- Baton Rouge High
- Mentorship Academy
- Sherwood Middle
- Academic Magnet
- Baton Rouge Charter Academy
- Bethany Christian School
- Family Christian Academy
- Southern Laboratory School
- Broadmoor High



A man wearing a blue hard hat with the ISC logo and a tan work shirt. He is standing in an industrial facility with various pipes, tanks, and structures in the background. The overall color scheme is blue and tan.

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A LOOK AT LOUISIANA'S BUDGET

By Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration
State of Louisiana



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As I write this article, the Legislature is preparing for the upcoming fiscal session with budget and tax restructuring on the agenda. Because of the deadline for publication I am directing my observations more toward Gov. John Bel Edwards' proposed budget as opposed to revenue measures which are being considered.

The administration's proposed \$29.7 billion budget is balanced based on revenues certified available for spending by the Revenue Estimating Conference. A balanced budget is required by the Constitution, and properly so. The budget represents a marked change from fiscal practices of the prior administration. There is no one-time money for recurring expenses and no fund sweeps, both of which were previously used to give a false picture of the state's true revenue situation.

With an overall budget approaching \$30 billion, people may be surprised just how little flexibility there is in determining how state funds in it are spent. More than half of the total budget includes federal funds earmarked for specific programs.

State taxes, licenses and fees total \$12 billion. Off the top, \$2.5 billion of state money is dedicated for things

such as the Transportation Trust Fund and the Medical Assistance Trust Fund. Another \$6 billion constitutes non-discretionary expenses required by the Louisiana Constitution, such as the MFP for K-12 education, supplemental pay for law enforcement personnel, court orders, debt service, federal mandates, statutory obligations and legislative and judicial budgets.

That leaves \$3.45 billion available for discretionary spending. But discretionary is in the eye of the beholder. Is higher education funding discretionary? TOPS? They are both in that category. How about the cost of keeping inmates incarcerated? That's discretionary. Home and community based services for the elderly and disabled? Behavior health services? Hospice care? All discretionary.

The administration argues that these programs are not optional by a long shot and, in fact, are priorities of many.

The budget proposal is more than \$400 million short of funding those discretionary items at the same level as the current budget year. Next year—absent a much needed tax revamp—the situation gets a lot worse. The tax increases approved by the Legislature last year, most notably the fifth penny of sales

tax, expire on June 30, 2018. That leaves the state more than a billion dollars shy of revenues needed to provide the public services Louisiana citizens need and expect.

The administration hopes for a good result in tax policy changes that would put Louisiana on more stable financial footing.

Once that is done, the administration favors an annual appropriation of only 98 percent of state revenues certified available for spending. This would create a forced savings account to help deal with mid-year cuts as well as a way to limit overall state spending. ❖

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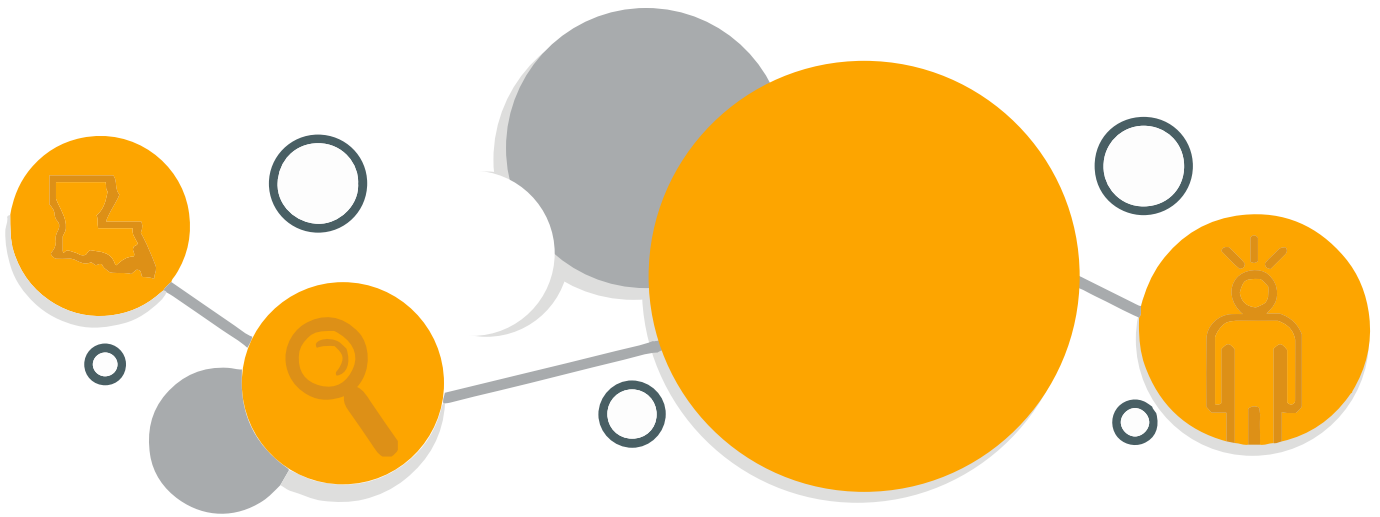
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LOUISIANA BUSINESS CONNECTION

LED'S ONLINE TOOL MATCHES PRIME CONTRACTORS WITH SMALL BUSINESSES

By: Gary Perilloux, Communications Director

After nurturing the success of Louisiana Job Connection, leaders from Louisiana's state economic development agency – LED – had another light-bulb moment. If *LouisianaJobConnection.com* produced 3.8 million matches between Louisiana employers and job candidates in just three years, could a business-to-business program galvanize still more success?

Looking at the historic investment in major industrial projects in Louisiana, LED's leadership reasoned that a similar matchmaking tool could accomplish just that. On one accessible website, industrial-driver companies could locate Louisiana small businesses with the goods and services they demand.

LOUISIANABUSINESSCONNECTION.COM WAS BORN.

"We looked at the industrial renaissance underway in Louisiana, and we knew we could not let this opportunity pass," LED Secretary Don Pierson said. "We're talking about a historic opportunity of more than \$165 billion in newly announced industrial projects in our state this decade."

At the same time Sasol, Dow Chemical, Shell, Exxon Mobil, Shintech, Methanex, Cornerstone Chemical Company and others launched significant new investment and reinvestment projects in Louisiana, Pierson and his Small Business Services team heard that capturing new

business opportunities with these major players could be challenging for small firms with limited reach.

Meanwhile, the major companies expressed a desire to do more business with local as well as disadvantaged business enterprises, firms owned by women, minorities and veterans. By making more of those connections, prime contractors could do good while doing well.

Arch Chemicals is part of a global company, the Lonza Group Ltd., with more than \$4 billion in annual revenue. In Lake Charles, the company produces a high-grade propellant, known as hydrazine, that's critical to U.S. government defense and aerospace programs.

“Companies like ours that have government contracts are most often required to have a plan in place that designates a percentage of their business to be conducted with small and disadvantaged businesses,” said Arch Chemicals Plant Manager Mark Kern, whose Lake Charles plant averages more than \$500,000 annually in contracts with small firms. “We’re striving to improve that performance because small businesses can often provide a premium value to us.”

Kern said some small business opportunities are harder to fill because of specialized categories – and because some small businesses haven’t declared their eligibility status.

“That, in a nutshell, is why we created Louisiana Business Connection,” said Executive Director Paul Helton of LED FastStart®, the state agency’s workforce solutions program that encompasses both Louisiana Job Connection and Louisiana Business Connection. “LBC is a pre-qualification tool. It doesn’t replace the federal and state procurement programs that already exist. It turbocharges them.”

At the same time, Helton said, Louisiana Business Connection will create a host of new two-way business opportunities: Manufacturing complexes will discover strategic suppliers who can save them time and money. Smaller firms can gain access to construction and plant operation work they might never have discovered elsewhere.

On LouisianaBusinessConnection.com, all sizes of companies doing business in Louisiana can quickly create a business profile. Small businesses are prompted to provide certifications and

other qualifying documentation that larger companies look for.

In 2016 and early 2017, LED joined the U.S. Department of Energy, regional economic development partners and local companies to pilot Louisiana Business Connection in Southwest Louisiana. The partners selected that region because billions of new capital investment is launching in the region annually, and the high level of construction and industrial production there provides prime territory for small businesses to seek new contracts.

In March and April 2017, Louisiana Business Connection staged a statewide beta-testing of the online business-matching tool. Hundreds of Louisiana companies, big and small, participated in that beta phase. Now, the goal is to register thousands.

“As with Louisiana Job Connection, we’re really optimistic about the potential that Louisiana Business Connection holds for accelerating our economy and accelerating our employment through better business connections,” LED Secretary Pierson said. “We truly encourage every Louisiana business to invest a short amount of time to register: That modest amount of effort could pay big dividends over time on both ends of the business equation.”

Said Arch Chemicals’ Mark Kern, “We recognize that small businesses are local, and that they represent an important component of the economy in our communities. Our goodwill support of these businesses certainly goes beyond contractual obligations, so we look forward to even more opportunities as a result of this Louisiana Business Connection initiative.”

HOW LBC WORKS

The genius of Louisiana Business Connection — an online tool for business matchmaking — lies in its user-friendly interface. Here’s how it works:

- Go to www.LouisianaBusinessConnection.com
- Register, and tell LBC about your company
- Provide feedback by clicking the “Feedback” tab on each page
- When you’ve created a small business profile, you’ll officially be in the system for future B2B connections
- LBC will analyze your feedback to provide a better experience
- Registering for LBC and using the B2B service is free for Louisiana businesses of all sizes
- LBC’s goal is to match major Louisiana projects with disadvantaged small businesses
- For best results, small businesses should prepare to provide certifications, qualifications, safety ratings, and a full range of products and services offered
- Businesses may perform unlimited searches to fine-tune product and service matches

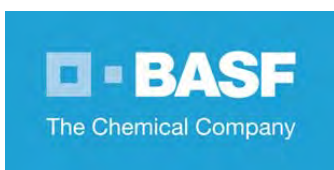
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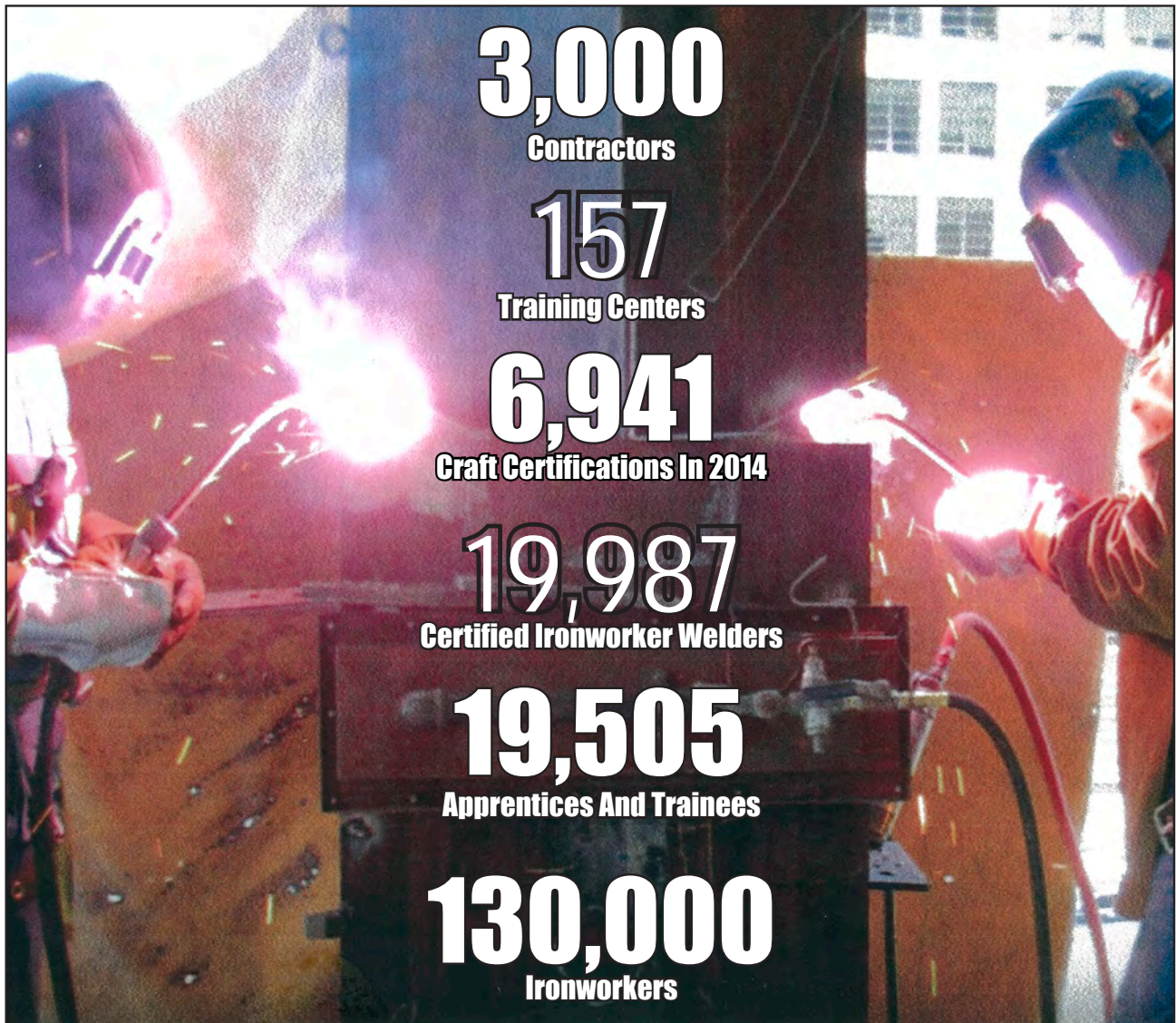


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Louis Dreyfus Commodities' (LDC) modernization of the grain elevator has made it the most efficient deep draft export grain elevator on the Mississippi River. Today the company has increased annual ship calls at the grain dock from 15 to about 120.



While supporting area timber farmers, **Drax Biomass** has invested about \$150 million in each of its pellet mills and \$50 million at the Port. Both mills produce about half a million tons of wood pellets, resulting in an additional 15-20 ship calls a year at the Port.



Houston-based **Genesis Energy L.P.**, which constructed a \$150 million oil storage and import/export terminal on 91 acres at the Port, has plans to expand its docking capacity. An estimated thirty-three million barrels of crude oil or other petroleum products are run annually through Genesis's Port terminal each year, which has added significantly to the increased ship calls at the Port's Mississippi River docks.



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