



PRESS RELEASE  
October 14, 2015

## JEDCO accepting applications for 2016 startup pitch competition *Application deadline is November 15, 2015*

(FAIRFIELD, La) - The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#), in conjunction with title sponsor [First NBC Bank](#), is currently accepting applications for the 2016 JEDCO Challenge, its fourth annual [pitch competition](#) for entrepreneurs with ties to Jefferson Parish. Held during [New Orleans Entrepreneur Week](#), presented by IBERIABANK, the [2016 JEDCO Challenge](#) will elevate opportunities for early-stage companies in the area.

JEDCO seeks entrepreneurs with unique ideas that have the high potential to grow and positively impact Jefferson Parish. Entrepreneurs are urged to apply for the challenge on [JEDCO's website](#). They must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Must live, work or have a strong presence in Jefferson Parish
- Must generate less than \$500,000 in revenue
- Must have fewer than 5 full-time employees
- Must be a for-profit company

The competition will be held on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at Southport Hall in front of a panel of Jefferson Parish business leaders and an audience of their peers. Finalists will be judged on a seven-minute pitch and a business plan, which must be submitted in advance of the competition. The crowd will have an opportunity to cast their vote for their favorite entrepreneur, contributing to the overall scoring process of the competition. The winning pitch will receive \$20,000 in direct capital and additional in-kind business services to help grow the company locally.

The application is live on [JEDCO's website](#). The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, November 15, 2015. Applicants will be narrowed down through a rigorous review process. Finalists will be chosen in mid-December.

For the fourth year in a row, the entrepreneur challenge will be held during [New Orleans Entrepreneur Week \(NOEW\)](#). NOEW is the annual festival produced by The Idea Village celebrating business, innovation and new thinking in New Orleans. The event engages a dynamic global network of entrepreneurs, investors, corporations, non-profits, students and professionals to support growing

companies and elevate entrepreneurial successes through eight days of discussion, debate, education, competition and celebration.

The JEDCO Challenge, powered by First NBC Bank, is a premiere annual event in Jefferson Parish. Past winners include:

- InnoGenomics Technologies (2015) developed a blood test that can detect and monitor certain types of cancers
- PortaVision Medical (2014) designed an X-Ray to be used in Neonatal Intensive Care Units to enhance the health of premature babies
- ICONIC (2013) developed a healthy meal replacement beverage for on-the-go individuals

The JEDCO Challenge would not be possible without support from the regional business community. If you are interested in contributing to the 2016 JEDCO Challenge prize package, please [click here](#) for details.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2015 SPONSORS:** [First NBC Bank](#), [365 Connect](#), [Ardyn Thriffily and Associates](#), [ARPR](#), [Atmos Energy](#), [Biz New Orleans](#), [Business Innovation Center at Churchill](#), [Carver, Darden, Koretzsky, Tessier, Finn, Blossman & Areaux, LLC](#), [Cox Communications](#), [Daul Insurance](#), [Gambel Communications](#), [Jefferson Chamber of Commerce](#), [LaPorte CPAs and Business Advisors](#), [MMI Culinary Services](#), [M S Benbow & Associates](#), [Postlethwaite & Netterville](#), [Sandler Training](#), and [Simmons & White](#).

**2015 JEDCO CHALLENGE SUPPORTING PARTNERS:** Jefferson Parish, The Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, Idea Village, Elmwood Business Association, Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses, Gillis, Ellis & Baker, Greater New Orleans, Inc., New Orleans BioInnovation Center, New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, Propeller & 504ward.

The deadline to apply for The JEDCO Challenge is **November 15, 2015**. Visit [JEDCO's website](#) to apply!

###

**About JEDCO:** The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (JEDCO) is the economic development organization for the parish with the main objective of attracting, growing, and creating new business in the area. JEDCO's mission is to proactively influence the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment in Jefferson Parish. Located in the growing [Churchill Technology & Business Park](#), JEDCO is home to a [business incubator](#) for early-stage ventures and it also operates a state-of-the-art [Conference Center](#). For more information, visit [www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Vimeo](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

**About First NBC Bank:** First NBC Bank received a charter to begin operation from the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions in May 2006. Through overwhelming support from the local community, the Bank's initial capital footings exceeded \$60 million, which set a record for the largest initial capital raised by a Louisiana chartered institution. There are 31 banking offices on the South and North Shores of the Greater New Orleans metropolitan area. First NBC Bank has been selected as one of the Best Places to Work seven years in a row by *New Orleans CityBusiness*. The bank's mission is to deliver world-class service through developing long-term relationships with clients while providing a great place to work for its employees and demonstrating outstanding corporate citizenship within its communities, resulting in exceptional returns for its shareholders. [FirstNBCBank.com](http://FirstNBCBank.com)

**About The Idea Village and NOEW:**

Founded in 2000, The Idea Village is the first organization with a mission solely centered on

entrepreneurship in New Orleans and has played an integral role in catalyzing the city's entrepreneurial movement. In addition to supporting 4,600+ entrepreneurs, we have successfully elevated New Orleans' reputation as a destination for business, entrepreneurship, and innovation. We are committed to growing a collaborative and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem for New Orleans through three core business units: IDEA Villagex, IDEALab, and New Orleans Entrepreneur Week. [ideavillage.org](http://ideavillage.org)

New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW), presented by IBERIABANK, is an annual festival celebrating innovation, entrepreneurship, and forward thinking in New Orleans. Produced by The Idea Village, NOEW engages a dynamic global network of entrepreneurs, investors, corporations, and professionals to support growing companies and elevate entrepreneurial successes through eight days of discussion, debate, education, competition, and celebration. NOEW 2015 was record breaking, engaging 10,585 people through 86 unique events hosted in conjunction with over 40 local and national partners. [NOEW.org](http://NOEW.org)

**For more information, contact:**

Kelsey Scram  
JEDCO Marketing and PR Manager  
504.875.3927 (O)  
724.554.9735 (C)  
[kscram@jedco.org](mailto:kscram@jedco.org)  
[www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org)

JEDCO | [kscram@jedco.org](mailto:kscram@jedco.org) | 504.875.3908 | [www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org)

Follow us on social media:



## JEDCO seeks applicants for pitch competition

By: Ashley Roe, Reporter October 14, 2015 0

Early-stage entrepreneurs in Jefferson Parish can soon vie for a prize of invested capital and other key business services.

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission is now seeking applicants for the 2016 JEDCO Challenge, a pitch competition for entrepreneurs with ties to Jefferson Parish.



The competition aims to recruit area entrepreneurs with early-stage companies that have high potential to grow and positively impact the parish. Entrepreneurial applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Applicants must live, work or have a strong presence in Jefferson Parish
- Applicants must generate less than \$500,000 in revenue
- Applicants must have fewer than five employees
- Applicants must be a for-profit company

The annual competition, sponsored by JEDCO and First NBC Bank, will be held March 14 at Southport Hall during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week.

Finalists will be judged by a panel of parish business leaders and an audience of their peers. Each finalist will offer a seven-minute pitch and submit a detailed business plan. Audience members will also vote for their favorite entrepreneur and

contribute to the overall scoring process.

The winning pitch will receive \$20,000 in direct capital along with additional business services that will help grow the company locally.

Now in its fourth year, the JEDCO Challenge has become a staple in the parish community thanks to support from sponsors, business leaders and civic leaders, said Jerry Bologna, JEDCO executive director.

“The JEDCO Challenge provides our organization with a unique platform to identify, engage with and assist our local entrepreneurs,” he said. “It’s a great way to let them know that JEDCO is here as a resource. On top of that, we’re tapping into the larger regional ecosystem and connecting our entrepreneurs to other business owners, which will hopefully develop into symbiotic relationships that can benefit the entire economy.”

Bologna added, “Entrepreneurs represent the future of our parish. We want them to know that they can find support and success in this community.”

Applicants have until 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 15 to apply for the competition. They will be narrowed down through a stringent review process, and competition finalists will be chosen in mid-December.

Past winners of the JEDCO Challenge include:

- InnoGenomics Technologies in 2015, which developed a blood test that can detect and monitor certain types of cancers.
- In 2014, PortaVision Medical, designed an X-Ray to be used in neonatal intensive care units to enhance the health of premature babies.
- The 2013 winner, ICONIC, developed a healthy meal replacement beverage for on-the-go individuals.

Applicants can apply through the JEDCO Challenge web site.

# **Biz** JEDCO Launches NEW ORLEANS Application For 2016 Startup Pitch Competition

By 10-14-15

FAIRFIELD, LA – The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO), in conjunction with title sponsor First NBC Bank, is currently accepting applications for the 2016 JEDCO Challenge, its fourth annual pitch competition for entrepreneurs with ties to Jefferson Parish.

Held during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, presented by IBERIABANK, the 2016 JEDCO Challenge will elevate opportunities for early-stage companies in the area.



JEDCO seeks entrepreneurs with unique ideas that have the high potential to grow and positively impact Jefferson Parish.

Entrepreneurs are urged to apply for the challenge on JEDCO's website.

They must meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Must live, work or have a strong presence in Jefferson Parish
- Must generate less than \$500,000 in revenue
- Must have fewer than 5 full-time employees
- Must be a for-profit company

The competition will be held on Monday, March 14, 2016, at Southport Hall in front of a panel of Jefferson Parish business leaders and an audience of their peers. Finalists will be judged on a seven-minute pitch and a business plan, which must be submitted in advance of the competition. The crowd will have an opportunity to cast their vote for their favorite entrepreneur, contributing to the overall scoring process of the

competition. The winning pitch will receive \$20,000 in direct capital and additional in-kind business services to help grow the company locally.

The application is live on JEDCO's website.

The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, November 15, 2015.

Applicants will be narrowed down through a rigorous review process.

Finalists will be chosen in mid-December.

For the fourth year in a row, the entrepreneur challenge will be held during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW). NOEW is the annual festival produced by The Idea Village celebrating business, innovation and new thinking in New Orleans. The event engages a dynamic global network of entrepreneurs, investors, corporations, non-profits, students and professionals to support growing companies and elevate entrepreneurial successes through eight days of discussion, debate, education, competition and celebration.

The JEDCO Challenge, powered by First NBC Bank, is a premiere annual event in Jefferson Parish.

Past winners include:

- InnoGenomics Technologies (2015) developed a blood test that can detect and monitor certain types of cancers
- PortaVision Medical (2014) designed an X-Ray to be used in Neonatal Intensive Care Units to enhance the health of premature babies
- ICONIC (2013) developed a healthy meal replacement beverage for on-the-go individuals

The JEDCO Challenge would not be possible without support from the regional business community.

Contribute to the 2016 JEDCO Challenge prize package [here](#)

2015 Sponsors included First NBC Bank, 365 Connect, Ardyn Thriffily and Associates, ARPR, Atmos Energy, Biz New Orleans, Business Innovation Center at Churchill, Carver, Darden, Koretzsky, Tessier, Finn, Blossman & Areaux, LLC, Cox Communications, Daul Insurance, Gambel Communications, Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, LaPorte CPAs and Business Advisors, MMI Culinary Services, M S Benbow & Associates, Postlethwaite & Netterville, Sandler Training, and Simmons & White.

2015 JEDCO Challenge supporting partners included Jefferson Parish, The Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, Idea Village, Elmwood Business Association, Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses, Gillis, Ellis & Baker, Greater New Orleans, Inc., New Orleans BioInnovation Center, New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, Propeller & 504ward.

# THE NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE

## Business Briefs for Oct. 25, 2015

David Alello, Assurance Financial

ADVOCATE STORY

Oct. 24, 2015; 8:28 p.m.

0 Comments

### Jefferson group plans business pitch contest

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission is accepting applications for the 2016 JEDCO Challenge, its fourth annual pitch competition for early-stage entrepreneurs with ties to Jefferson Parish.

The deadline is 11:59 p.m. Nov. 15. The application is on JEDCO's website, [www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org).

The winning pitch will receive \$20,000 in direct capital and additional in-kind business services to help grow the company locally.

JEDCO is seeking unique ideas that have the high potential to grow and positively impact Jefferson Parish.

Entrants must live, work or have a strong presence in Jefferson Parish; generate less than \$500,000 in revenue; have fewer than five full-time employees; and be a for-profit company.

Finalists will be chosen in mid-December. The competition will be held March 14, during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, at Southport Hall. Finalists will be judged on a seven-minute pitch and a business plan, which must be submitted in advance of the competition.

### Ship Tech Services opens in St. Bernard

Ship Tech Services has opened in St. Bernard Parish.

The company and its divisions — ST Maritime Services, ST Environmental Services, and ST Industrial Services — provide industrial, environmental and maritime services throughout the Gulf Coast, cleaning ships, barges, tanks and other vessels.

The business created 15 jobs, with the potential for adding 10 more within a year.

"We are thrilled to welcome Ship Tech Services to St. Bernard," said Andrew Jacques, the executive director of the St. Bernard Economic Development Foundation.

"We appreciate the efforts put forth by St. Bernard Economic Development and LED (Louisiana Economic Development) to help us leverage an incentive package for our company to make a significant investment in the parish and state," said Michael J. Faulk, Ship Tech Services managing member.

Faulk was a shipping agent before founding United States Maritime Services, United States Environmental Services, United States Industrial Services and United States Mooring Services in the early 1990s, all headquartered in Meraux. Faulk sold them to a private equity group in 2004. He moved to Montana and returned to St. Bernard last year to found Ship Tech Services. Ship Tech's office is at 8328 Lafitte Court in Chalmette.



# HitLights adds strip lights for game day

LED light manufacturer HitLights in Baton Rouge has launched a new lighting brand, Game Day Lights.

Game Day LED Strip Lights allow sports fans to customize two of their favorite team's colors and display them side by side.

Light Kits are prepackaged with Game Day Light Strips, a remote control and power supply.

Hitlights was formed in 2010 by CEO Bin Yu with a fellow classmate at LSU's business incubator.

Its website is [GameDayLight.com](http://GameDayLight.com).

# 2 Sisters Salsa opens expanded facility

2 Sisters' Salsa has opened a new facility on La. 107 South in Plaquemine. The 6,200-square-foot facility increases production from the previous operation by 400 percent, allowing 5,000 jars of salsa produced each day.

It is equipped with a cutter feed conveyor, dicer, three 150-gallon steam kettles, food pump and filler, a cap tightener, induction sealer, labeling system, automatic taper and an ink jet coder, said Jason Bordelon, one of the owners. The company is operated by the Deshotels and Bordelon families; its name is inspired by the pair of daughters in each family.

"The facility was built for the present and future," part-owner Patrick Deshotels said. "We can meet current demand, but we can also expand further in the years to come."



## [Applications Open for Jefferson Parish Pitch Competition](#)

[Julia Ballard](#) | October 16, 2015 | [1 Comment](#)

[Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (JEDCO) has announced they have opened applications for their annual [JEDCO Challenge](#), a pitch competition showcasing the brightest entrepreneurs living and working in Jefferson Parish.



The pitch competition will elevate opportunities for early-stage companies in the area. JEDCO seeks entrepreneurs with unique ideas that have the high potential to grow and positively impact Jefferson Parish.

Entrepreneurs who apply must live, work or have a strong presence in Jefferson Parish, generate less than \$500,000 in revenue, have fewer than five full-time employees and be a for-profit company.

Applications will be accepted now through November 15, 2015.

JEDCO Challenge will again be held during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW), the annual celebration of entrepreneurship. The challenge will take place Monday, March 14, 2016 at Southport Hall.

A panel of Jefferson Parish business leaders will determine the winning pitch, valued at \$20,000 in direct capital and additional in-kind business services.



# What should be the economic development priorities for Louisiana's next governor?



John Bel Edwards, left, and David Vitter, right, will face each other in a runoff election for governor next month.

(NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune photos by Ted Jackson, left, and David Grunfeld, right)

[Andrew Boyd, NOLA.com](#) | [The Times-Picayune](#)

Print Email



By Greg LaRose, [NOLA.com](#) | [The Times-Picayune](#)

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on October 27, 2015 at 9:51 AM, updated October 27, 2015 at 3:49 PM

Economic development is a standard campaign platform plank for political candidates, who typically say they're for creating jobs and creating a welcoming climate for business.

The chief challenge for Louisiana's next governor will be fostering business recruitment and retention while carefully marshaling incentive programs that have received increased scrutiny under stressed budget conditions.

We asked economic development executives in the New Orleans region to set the agenda for Louisiana's next governor, [who voters will choose Nov. 21](#), as it pertains to the parishes they oversee.

**Brenda Bertus, St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation**



"Economic development requires a reliable and efficient infrastructure. As an economic driver for Louisiana, St. Tammany Parish contains a heavily traveled system of highways and interstates, and these thoroughfares often serve as visitors' first impression of our state. Along with beautification initiatives, improvements to our infrastructure will ameliorate travel times for our residents, guests and businesses while reinforcing a positive image of Louisiana.

"For St. Tammany, the Greater New Orleans region and the state of Louisiana as a whole, workforce development continues to be a priority for economic development. If we mean to attract new businesses that equate to quality jobs for our residents, then we need to equip our residents with the skills and knowledge to excel in those jobs. Strong education systems and training programs also act as their own selling points for our community, recruiting new residents and keeping our young professionals from relocating to other areas.

"By encouraging these conditions for economic growth, we can develop our cities, parishes and state responsibly.

**Jerry Bologna, Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission**



"The governor plays a vital role in ensuring the economic prosperity of the state. At JEDCO, we appreciate the efforts being made to create a competitive business environment in Louisiana. We hope the next governor of Louisiana will craft tax policy and improve the legal environment in Louisiana so that more companies choose to do business in Louisiana.

"We also hope the governor will maximize incentive programs that are proven to work, as well as to use the strength of the position to assist Jefferson Parish in bringing the Avondale Shipyard back into commerce. We look forward to a continued partnership with the Governor's office to enhance the state's business offerings in the future."

## **Andrew Jacques, St. Bernard Economic Development Foundation**



*Andrew Jacques*

"Economic development incentives are drastically improving the state's business climate by driving job growth and investment. Business Facilities verified the impact of our incentives by naming Louisiana the No. 1 Most Cost-Friendly State for Business in the USA.

"A full review of all incentives, with edits and improvements, is needed. However, we feel the continuation and restoration of the digital media, quality jobs, angel investor, port investor, research and development, enterprise zone and film tax credit incentives is essential to continued growth and momentum.

"St. Bernard is extremely sensitive to the importance of coastal restoration. Coastal restoration is mandatory to ensure long-term prosperity. We support a smart, thoughtful and balanced approach to coastal restoration."

## **Michael Hecht, Greater New Orleans Inc.**



*Michael Hecht*

- Restoration of the Digital Media Incentive, which is creating permanent jobs and industry throughout all of Louisiana.

- Tax reform that broadens the base and lowers rates, along with fiscal reform that also addresses the spending side of the (state budget), with the overall goal of providing stable revenues, year over year.
- Reforms to our legal climate, which is critical to supporting future investment by the energy industry, as well as improving our overall business environment.
- A commitment to stabilizing the coast by supporting the (Coastal) Master Plan, and preserving all funding intended for restoration.
- A commitment to higher education by implementing a performance-based funding formula and ensuring budget stability.
- Protection of K-12 standards of rigor and accountability, and expansion TOPS tech training to align with workforce needs

### **Quentin Messer, New Orleans Business Alliance**



Quentin Messer

1. Corporate attraction and retention, thereby creating permanent jobs here in NOLA.
2. Leveraging the city's unique assets. New Orleans is one of only 15 cities nationwide with two medical schools. That's a tremendous competitive advantage, especially when combined with state-level investment in life science industry development. Among the great benefits of this sector for New Orleans is that it's both knowledge-based and labor intensive, creating 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs at every educational attainment level.
3. Sustainable, stable higher education that helps us both grow talent locally and attract top faculty. If we can stabilize faculty retention and reinvest in basic and applied research, we can create a bioinnovation cluster that is both a magnet for talent and grows it organically within the city. We also need new, sustainable ways to spur technology commercialization so our researchers can stay here and propel their industries forward.

4. Unlike many cities our size, New Orleans is a city of small- to medium-sized businesses. We need to help them grow, especially our digitally based startups that have high growth potential. Given how magnetic our city has become to entrepreneurs, expanding technical assistance and other resources for small and medium sized enterprises, will be imperative to helping the high growth potential companies reach that buyout or public offering stage, and helping our family-owned businesses thrive.



## LEADOFF SPOT

# JEDCO five-year plan eyes infrastructure, hospitals, manufacturers

ASHLEY ROE

ASHLEY.ROE@NOPG.COM

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission will work to revitalize key infrastructure, help manufacturers refine logistics strategies and support parish hospitals in branding the New Orleans metro region as a health care destination, according to its updated economic development report.

The Jefferson Edge 2020 report released last week is essentially a five-year plan for the parish. It functions as a long-term blueprint to promote sustainability, job growth and investment over the next five years.

The updated plan refocuses the commission's efforts across five industry clusters including food, beverage, fishing and seafood; water transportation, distribution and logistics; health care; IT systems and products; and water, coastal and emerging environmental industries.

JEDCO executive director Jerry Bologna said supporting the hopeful revitalization of Avondale Shipyard and helping develop the Jefferson Highway corridor are key initiatives for the commission, among others.

Bologna said the ultimate goal with Avondale Shipyard is to put the site and its infrastructure back into commerce and create the jobs that were once there.

JEDCO will also continue working with Ochsner Health System on efforts to transform the area around

its Jefferson Highway campus into a series of mixed-use, walkable developments.

"But we can't forget East Jefferson and West Jefferson hospitals, which also have great opportunities for growth," Bologna said. "Some ideas that have germinated from our conversations with East Jefferson and West Jefferson were, for example, branding the entire New Orleans region as a health care destination for certain health care needs."

The commission will also continue to help both large and small manufacturers streamline logistics and production by better connecting them with suppliers and target customers.

Other key action items in the JEDCO report include workforce development support and identifying major infrastructure improvements as well as a relatively new focus on supporting parish IT companies and preparing for RESTORE Act funding to be used for coastal

restoration.

"The updated EDGE plan will position the community for long-term economic growth," Bologna said. "We are confident that we have developed a strategy that will result in an even stronger economic landscape for Jefferson Parish."

The EDGE 2020 report was born out of two rounds of stakeholder meetings with key industry groups and feedback from civic organizations and the general community over a five-month process.

**"The updated EDGE plan will position the community for long-term economic growth."**

**Jerry Bologna, JEDCO executive director**



## Entergy New Orleans' transmission system upgrade enters second phase

ASHLEY ROE

ASHLEY.ROE@NOPG.COM

The second phase of Entergy New Orleans' \$30 million upgrade to the city's electric power transmission system begins Monday and it's expected to be completed by March.

Workers will begin replacing overhead transmission lines in the Carrollton/Hollygrove area, including those along Cambronne Street and along outer portions of the Xavier University campus.

Crews will replace the existing 230-kilovolt transmission lines, which carry high-voltage power from Entergy's Ninemile 6 electric generating facility to the Ninemile-Derby substation.

The existing lines will be replaced with 3M aluminum conductor composite reinforced high-voltage wire, which is expected to move power more efficiently, according to Entergy's Power to Grow NOLA project web site.

The 3M technology will provide for additional transmission capacity and allow the company to upgrade transmission lines without replacing existing steel poles.

The second phase of the project will see multiple crews working simultaneously on designated streets using 24-foot-wide bucket trucks and 120-foot cranes at each of the existing steel transmission poles.

The project will be completed in 20 segments over three stages including "pre-pull," "pull" and "post-pull" stages.

Pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic as well as parking in the designated areas will be affected throughout the project.

Area residents and business-owners can visit the Power to Grow NOLA web site for updated information on expected delays and road closures as well as safety information.

Entergy began work on the Power to Grow NOLA project, a \$30 million initiative, in mid-July.

The first phase of the project affected the Audubon Park, upper Magazine Street and Annunciation Street areas. Crews replaced transmission lines that carried power from the Ninemile 6 generating facility to the Ninemile-Napoleon substation.

On Sept. 21, Entergy announced that Phase I upgrades were completed ahead of schedule.

The Power to Grow NOLA project is part of ongoing integrated resource planning for the city as Entergy New Orleans prepares to deactivate the aging Michoud generating facility, which has been in service since the 1960s.

The upgrades are required by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator prior to the planned 2016 Michoud deactivation.

The Power to Grow NOLA project "will enhance reliability, increase transmission capacity and help ensure the availability of affordable power now and into the future," according to the Sept. 21 release.

Entergy is currently evaluating Michoud as a site for a future generation facility.

CAN YOU AFFORD TO OVERLOOK  
THE #1\* FRANCHISE  
RESTAURANT CHAIN?

**SUBWAY**

**Rated #1\* Global  
Franchise Opportunity**

- Low Investment
- Simple Operation
- 44,000+ Restaurants
- With 50+ Years Experience

**CONTACT US TODAY!**

**1-800-666-4848**

**www.subway.com**

SUBWAY is a registered trademark of Doctor's Associates Inc. 2015.

\* More locations than any other QSR

**Actually  
retire.**

I'll help you make retirement a reality. No matter where you're at or what you've saved, I have simple and sound financial strategies to help you retire with confidence. Of course, the sooner you get started, the better off you'll be. So call me today. I'll work hard on your retirement so one day, you won't have to.

**James Hassinger**

**504-473-0990**

7809 Airline Dr Ste 304D

Metairie

**Allstate**  
You're in good hands.  
Auto Home Life Retirement

It doesn't take much to get started.

Allstate Life Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL. Allstate Health Life Company, Northbrook, IL. Allstate Life Insurance Company of New York, New York. Allstate Life Insurance Company of New York, New York. Allstate Life Insurance Company of New York, New York.





# Veterans operations center accepting job applications



A new Jefferson Parish company continues its search for qualified job seekers in the region. TriWest Healthcare Alliance, which provides the nation's veterans with access to quality health care, plans to create 285 jobs with an average salary of \$35,700 in the Greater New Orleans region within its first year of operations. The fast-growing company wants to fill as many positions as possible before operations begin in December of this year.

Print Email



By Kelsey Scram, JEDCO Marketing & PR Manager

Follow on Twitter

on October 02, 2015 at 7:36 AM, updated October 02, 2015 at 7:37 AM

A new Jefferson Parish company continues its search for qualified job seekers in the region. [TriWest Healthcare Alliance](#), which provides the nation's veterans with access to quality health care, plans to create 285 jobs with an average salary of \$35,700 in the Greater New Orleans region within its first year of operations. The fast-growing company wants to fill as many positions as possible before operations begin in December of this year.

TriWest recently hosted a full-day career fair in Jefferson Parish to connect with interested job applicants. More than 900 people attended the career fair in Metairie last week; more than 90 of the attendees were veterans. The company has committed to hire as many veterans as possible. TriWest is currently reviewing the resumes collected at the career fair, according to a company spokesperson.

TriWest continues to accept applications for a wide variety of clinical and non-clinical positions within the company, such as: patient service representatives, managers, supervisors, team leads, behavioral health care coordinators, and nurses. TriWest is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply online at [www.triwest.com/jobs](http://www.triwest.com/jobs). Veterans interested in working for TriWest may also visit [www.triwest.com/veteranjobs](http://www.triwest.com/veteranjobs).

TriWest serves as a traditional contact center for veterans in 28 states across the country. [The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (JEDCO) played a vital role in attracting TriWest Healthcare Alliance to Jefferson Parish. The economic development organization assisted with site selection and provided parish-wide information necessary to aid in TriWest's location decision. JEDCO worked closely with its partners at Greater New Orleans, Inc. and Louisiana Economic Development to provide access to tax incentives and FastStart, the nation's number one state workforce development program.

TriWest will operate out of 880 W. Commerce in Elmwood.

## **Upcoming Events**

Join JEDCO for a seminar on government contracting. [The Louisiana Procurement Technical Assistance Program](#) will lead a seminar on marketing to the government, the bid process, set-aside programs, and a variety of other information to help local businesses obtain government contracts. The event will be held on Oct. 6 the JEDCO Conference Center ([701A Churchill Parkway, Westwego](#)) from 10 a.m. to noon. The event is free and open to the public.

[The Louisiana Workforce Commission](#) and [Region One Works](#) will host an information session about the brand new Greater New Orleans Construction Connection, an online one-stop shop for construction industry employers and job seekers. Employers are hiring more than 2,000 workers a month in construction craft trades.

In order to meet this ongoing need, the Louisiana Workforce Commission is working hard to connect local residents to those high-demand, high-wage jobs. An information session will be

held at the JEDCO Conference Center ([701A Churchill Parkway, Westwego](#)) on Oct 7 at 2 p.m. Employers interested in attending the information session can register at [www.RegionOneWorks.net](http://www.RegionOneWorks.net).

Take in the sights from the seat of your bike during the 9th Annual Tour de Jefferson.



## Register for the 9th Annual Tour de Jefferson *Event begins and ends at JEDCO*

(FAIRFIELD, La) -- There is still time to register for the 9th Annual Tour de Jefferson scheduled for Sunday, October 18th. Hosted by the [Jefferson Chamber of Commerce](#), this premiere cycling event in the region is designed to bring people to the beautiful state and national parks on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish. This year, the [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#) will be the host sponsor. The event will begin and end at the [JEDCO Conference Center](#) in the [Churchill Technology and Business Park](#).

The Jefferson Chamber's Tour de Jefferson family bike ride is a truly unique way to experience the scenery of Louisiana's heartland. With two different routes to choose from (15 or 50 miles), this event is fun for the entire family.

[Click here to view the new route.](#)

### RIDE

**Sunday, October 18, 2015**

Check-in begins at 7:30 AM

Ride begins at 8:30 AM

**REGISTER HERE**

### Fees/Admission:

**\$40 Adult Rider - Advanced Registration Discount**

*\$60 after October 14th*

\$20 Child Rider (ages 13-17)

*Registration includes food, drinks, first aid, rest stops, SAG support, and after party*

Teams can register by contacting Katie Ivory at [katie@jeffersonchamber.org](mailto:katie@jeffersonchamber.org) or (504) 835-3880.

**The ride begins and ends at JEDCO  
700 Churchill Parkway, Avondale, LA 70094**

---

#### **About JEDCO:**

The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (JEDCO) is the economic development organization for the parish with the main objective of attracting, growing, and creating new business in the area. JEDCO's mission is to proactively influence the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment in Jefferson Parish. Located in the growing [Churchill Technology & Business Park](#), JEDCO is home to a [business incubator](#) for early-stage ventures and it also operates a state-of-the-art [Conference Center](#). For more information, visit [www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Vimeo](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

#### **About the Jefferson Chamber:**

The [Jefferson Chamber](#) is a leading voice for Jefferson Parish's business community. As a non-profit, membership-driven organization, the Chamber is an effective advocate for small and large businesses at the local, state and federal levels. The Chamber's mission is to work for the advancement of the business community; to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment; and to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish. The Jefferson Chamber is Four-Star Accredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the 2015 Chamber of the Year Award by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in the Large Chamber Category.

For more information about the Jefferson Chamber, visit [www.jeffersonchamber.org](http://www.jeffersonchamber.org), and follow on [Facebook](#), Twitter [@jeffersoncoc](#), and [YouTube](#).

JEDCO | [kscram@jedco.org](mailto:kscram@jedco.org) | 504.875.3908 | [www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org)

Follow us on social media:





PRESS RELEASE  
September 24, 2015

## JEDCO to host government contracting seminar for businesses

(Fairfield, LA) - There are a number of reasons companies choose to seek contract work with the government. Government contracts can help a small business grow. They can raise a business profile. They can provide a long-term source of funding.

Government contracts also generate employment and improve the economy. That's why the [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#) and the [Louisiana Procurement Technical Assistance Center \(LA PTAC\)](#) teamed up to bring Jefferson Parish businesses a seminar on government contracting.

Join JEDCO and LA PTAC for "Government Contracting: Everything you want to know; plus a little lagniappe." This useful, fact-filled seminar is free to the public. It will be held October 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the JEDCO Conference Center, 701A Churchill Parkway, Avondale, LA 70094. Click [here for a map of the space](#).

Founded in 1989, LA PTAC has helped Louisiana businesses in 54 parishes secure more than \$4.5 billion in government contracts since its inception. The organization helps businesses identify government programs for which they may qualify and then, trained procurement counselors walk those businesses through the bidding process.

Cindy Carrier, a Procurement Consultant with LA PTAC, will cover a variety of topics to help your business at this event, including:

- Marketing to the government
- Tips on getting started
- The bid process
- Government contracting levels
- Dollar thresholds
- Electronic commerce
- Specifications
- Certifications
- Award evaluation factors
- Set-aside programs
- Subcontracting
- Assistance Available

Register online at [www.jedco.org/events](http://www.jedco.org/events). Questions can be directed to Matt Babineaux, JEDCO Economic Development Specialist. He can be reached at (504) 875-3912 or via email, [mbabineaux@jedco.org](mailto:mbabineaux@jedco.org).

###

**About JEDCO:** The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (JEDCO) is the economic development organization for the parish with the main objective of attracting, growing, and creating new business in the area. JEDCO's mission is to proactively influence the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment in Jefferson Parish. Located in the growing [Churchill Technology & Business Park](#), JEDCO is home to a [business incubator](#) for early-stage ventures and it also operates a state-of-the-art [Conference Center](#). For more information, visit [www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Vimeo](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

**For more information, contact:**

Kelsey Scram  
JEDCO Marketing and PR Manager  
504.875.3927 (O)  
724.554.9735 (C)  
[kscram@jedco.org](mailto:kscram@jedco.org)  
[www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org)

JEDCO | [kscram@jedco.org](mailto:kscram@jedco.org) | 504.875.3908 | [www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org)

Follow us on social media:





# **Biz** JEDCO To Host NEW ORLEANS Government Contracting Seminar For Businesses

By 9-24-15

FAIRFIELD, LA – There are a number of reasons companies choose to seek contract work with the government. Government contracts can help a small business grow, can raise a business profile and can provide a long-term source of funding.

Government contracts also generate employment and improve the economy.



That's why the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) and the Louisiana Procurement Technical Assistance Center (LA PTAC) are teaming up to bring Jefferson Parish businesses a seminar on government contracting on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at the JEDCO Conference Center, 701A Churchill Parkway, in Avondale, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

“Government Contracting: Everything you want to know; plus a little lagniappe,” promised be a useful, fact-filled seminar that is free to the public.

Founded in 1989, LA PTAC has helped Louisiana businesses in 54 parishes secure more than \$4.5 billion in government contracts since its inception. The organization helps businesses identify government programs for which they may qualify and then, trained procurement counselors walk those businesses through the bidding process.

Cindy Carrier, a Procurement Consultant with LA PTAC, will cover a variety of topics at this event, including:

- Marketing to the government
- Tips on getting started
- The bid process
- Government contracting levels
- Dollar thresholds
- Electronic commerce
- Specifications
- Certifications
- Award evaluation factors
- Set-aside programs
- Subcontracting
- Assistance Available



Increase opportunities for business success by adding PR and media relations to your overall strategic plan. Hear from PR pros and a journalist at this month's Prosper Jefferson to learn about best PRactices for your business.

# PROSPER JEFFERSON

2015 Seminar Series



PRESS RELEASE  
October 21, 2015

## JEDCO & Jefferson Chamber host public relations/media relations seminar

(Fairfield, LA) --In a world where your consumers are inundated with information from every possible medium, it's important to find a way to stand out. Connecting with the media, creating a positive public image, and identifying unique ways to share your story are vital to the success of a business. An effective PR and media relations strategy can help your company develop a relationship with your audience while promoting your product and services at the same time. PR and media relations should play a role in your business's strategic plan.

As part of the [Prosper Jefferson](#) seminar series, the [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#) and the [Jefferson Chamber](#) teamed up once again to bring you a seminar on effective media outreach and public relations. Attendees will learn best communications practices from both PR pros and journalists. Our community experts will cover a variety of topics including:

- Importance of public relations/media relations for businesses
- Media relations best practices
- Interview prep
- Developing publicity materials
- Crisis Communications
- Measuring success

Join us Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, at the East Bank Regional Library's Jefferson Room (4747 W. Napoleon Avenue, Metairie) from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. **Admission is FREE.** This event is open to all businesses and entrepreneurs. Please register online in advance at [www.jedco.org/events](http://www.jedco.org/events).

---

## Meet our Speakers

### **Christine Rigamer, APR: [Gambel Communications](#)**

Christine joined the Gambel Communications team in Fall 2010. As Communications Manager, Christine works hand-in-hand with clients to help them achieve their goals through strategic media relations, community relations, special event planning, social media and much more. Christine has a myriad of experience across a wide variety of industries including business, banking, non-profits and performing arts organizations.

Christine is an Accredited Public Relations professional (APR) and holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in English literature and mass communication with a concentration in public relations from Loyola University New Orleans. In 2014 Christine was named Public Relations Association Louisiana - New Orleans Chapter's 2014 Practitioner of the Year. Christine has also received an Award of Excellence, a Lantern Award and Best in Show from the Southern Public Relations Federation, and a Silver Anvil from the Public Relations Society of America New Orleans Chapter.

Christine currently serves on the Public Relations Association of Louisiana - New Orleans Chapter board as V.P. of Programming and President-elect and is a member of the New Orleans Leadership Institute 2016 class.

### **Greg LaRose: [NOLA.com/Times Picayune](#)**

Greg is the managing producer for business and City Hall coverage with NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune. He oversees the reporting teams for each beat while also contributing to coverage of regional business and politics. He previously served as editor of New Orleans CityBusiness and has led newsrooms for more than two decades.

### **Sarah Chambless Federer: [Gambel Communications](#)**

Sarah joined the Gambel team in October 2013. Her background in communications, community relations and event coordinating drove her to a career in public relations. Before joining Gambel, Sarah was employed by the City of Covington as the Cultural Arts and Events Coordinator and Occupational License Administrator. She coordinated city events and assisted with the city's public relations, marketing and economic development efforts. During her time with the city, Sarah formed strong working relationships with municipal leaders, local business owners and nonprofit organizations. With Gambel Communications, she has continued to put her Northshore expertise to work for clients like the historic Southern Hotel in downtown Covington, for whom she coordinated media relations and a series of events surrounding the hotel's grand reopening.

As a Communications Strategist with Gambel, Sarah has handled strategic media relations, community relations and special events for a variety of clients, including the New Orleans Ballet Association, the Historic New Orleans Collection, Business Council of New Orleans & The River Region, Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer Law Firm, Marriott Metairie at Lakeway, Gulf Coast Bank, the Louisiana Center for Women in Government & Business, De La Salle High School, and Belleville Assisted Living, among others.

Sarah is a graduate of the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University.

---

**About JEDCO:** The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (JEDCO) is the economic development organization for the parish with the main objective of attracting, growing, and creating new business in the area. JEDCO's mission is to proactively influence the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment in Jefferson Parish. Located in the growing [Churchill Technology & Business Park](#), JEDCO is home to a [business incubator](#) for early-stage ventures and it also operates a state-of-the-art [Conference Center](#). For more information, visit [www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Vimeo](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

**About the Jefferson Chamber:** The [Jefferson Chamber](#) is the leading voice for Jefferson Parish's business community. As a non-profit, membership-driven organization, the Chamber is an effective advocate for small and large businesses at the local, state, and federal levels. The Chamber's mission is to work for the advancement of the business community; to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment; and to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish. The Jefferson Chamber is Four-Star Accredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the 2013 Chamber of the Year Award by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in the Large Chamber Category.

For more information about the Jefferson Chamber, visit [www.jeffersonchamber.org](http://www.jeffersonchamber.org), and follow on [Facebook](#), Twitter @[jeffersoncoc](#), and [YouTube](#).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kelsey Scram  
JEDCO Marketing & Public Relations Manager  
504.875.3927.  
[kscram@jedco.org](mailto:kscram@jedco.org)  
[www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org)

JEDCO | [kscram@jedco.org](mailto:kscram@jedco.org) | 504.875.3908 | [www.jedco.org](http://www.jedco.org)

Follow us on social media:





# JEDCO, Jefferson Chamber To Host Public Relations, Media Relations Seminar

By 10-21-15



FAIRFIELD, LA – In a world where consumers are inundated with information from every possible medium, it's important for businesses to find a way to stand out. Connecting with the media, creating a positive public image, and identifying unique ways to share stories are vital to the success of a business. An effective PR and media relations strategy can help companies develop a relationship with their audience while promoting their products and services at the same time. PR and media relations should play a role in a business' strategic plan.

As part of the Prosper Jefferson seminar series, the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) and the Jefferson Chamber are teaming up once again to present a seminar on effective media outreach and public relations on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at the East Bank Regional Library's Jefferson Room, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., in Metairie, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Attendees will learn best communications practices from both PR pros and journalists who will cover a variety of topics including:

- Importance of public relations/ media relations for businesses
- Media relations best practices
- Interview prep
- Developing publicity materials
- Crisis communications
- Measuring success

Speakers include:

- Christine Rigamer, APR: Gambel Communications

Rigamer joined the Gambel Communications team in Fall 2010. As Communications Manager, Rigamer works hand-in-hand with clients to help them achieve their goals through strategic media relations, community relations, special event planning, social media and much more. Rigamer has a myriad of experience across a wide variety of industries including business, banking, non-profits and performing arts organizations.

Rigamer is an Accredited Public Relations professional (APR) and holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in English literature and mass communication with a concentration in public relations from Loyola University New Orleans. In 2014 Rigamer was named Public Relations Association Louisiana – New Orleans Chapter's 2014 Practitioner of the Year. Rigamer has also received an Award of Excellence, a Lantern Award and Best in Show from the Southern Public Relations Federation, and a Silver Anvil from the Public Relations Society of America New Orleans Chapter.

Rigamer currently serves on the Public Relations Association of Louisiana – New Orleans Chapter board as V.P. of Programming and President-elect and is a member of the New Orleans Leadership Institute 2016 class.

- Greg LaRose: [NOLA.com](#) | [The Times-Picayune](#)

LaRose is the managing producer for business and City Hall coverage with [NOLA.com](#) | [The Times-Picayune](#). He oversees the reporting teams for each beat while also contributing to coverage of regional business and politics. He previously served as editor of New Orleans CityBusiness and has led newsrooms for more than two decades.

- Sarah Chambless Federer: Gambel Communications

Federer joined the Gambel team in October 2013. Her background in communications, community relations and event coordinating drove her to a career in public relations. Before joining Gambel, Federer was employed by the City of Covington as the Cultural Arts and Events Coordinator and Occupational License Administrator. She coordinated city events and assisted with the city's public relations, marketing and economic development efforts. During her time with the city, Sarah formed strong working relationships with municipal leaders, local business owners and nonprofit organizations. With Gambel Communications, she has continued to put her Northshore expertise to work for clients like the historic Southern Hotel in downtown Covington, for whom she coordinated media relations and a series of events surrounding the hotel's grand reopening.

As a Communications Strategist with Gambel, Federer has handled strategic media relations, community relations and special events for a variety of clients, including the New Orleans Ballet Association, the Historic New Orleans Collection, Business Council of New Orleans & The River Region, Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer Law Firm, Marriott Metairie at Lakeway, Gulf Coast Bank, the Louisiana Center for Women in Government & Business, De La Salle High School, and Belleville Assisted Living, among others.

Federer is a graduate of the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University.

This event is free, and open to all businesses and entrepreneurs.

To register

## SoLA's Chemical Manufacturing Industry



makes Louisiana the  
**2<sup>ND</sup> largest**  
chemistry producing state

primarily imports its fuel stocks by marine vessels.

The project will create 50 new direct jobs, and Louisiana Economic Development estimates it will also result in 137 new indirect jobs.

“FFC will have the ability to take petroleum product off the Colonial Pipeline in Baton Rouge, and for the first time, Florida and southeast Georgia consumers will benefit from a land bridge that transports petroleum from the major refining centers in the US Gulf Coast that will reduce market volatility and the likelihood of supply shortages,” said John H. Armbrust, CEO of FFC.

“Best of all, it creates great jobs and an important economic boost for East Feliciana Parish,” said Gov. Jindal. “We are proud that Louisiana’s distinction as a great energy-producing state continues to help solve our nation’s long-term energy needs.”

For every chemical industry job in Louisiana, an additional 5.5 jobs are created according to the Louisiana Chemical Association. Chemical industry jobs are high-paying with an average wage of \$95,160 — 47 percent higher than the average manufacturing wage.

Investimus Foris, based in Lithuania, is also investing in the region, and will convert an idle biofuels refinery in Grant Parish into an ammonia manufacturing facility. The \$265-million capital invest will create 85 new direct jobs, and an estimated additional 584 indirect jobs for Grant Parish and the central Louisiana region.

Louisiana is the second largest chemicals-producing state in the US. At \$68.3 billion, chemical manufacturing in Louisiana is the second largest manufacturing industry in the state. The industry provides 23,000 direct jobs and another 126,730 related jobs, and generates an additional 3,650 jobs in plastics and rubber products.

With this level of growth, it’s evident that chemical manufacturing in Southern Louisiana will continue to be a dominating sector.



## YOUR BUSINESS DESTINATION

Choosing **Jefferson Parish** means choosing a community that supports your business on every level. Bordering the City of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish is the economic engine of the region. It is home to a diverse, innovative industry base, a robust workforce, and an international airport. Community leaders and company owners work together to ensure that Jefferson Parish’s business climate remains vibrant and growing. That’s the reason international brands like Zatarain’s and the Smoothie King headquarters choose to call Jefferson Parish home.

**Envision YOUR future in Jefferson Parish!**

**JEDCO JBC**  
Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission    Jefferson Business Council

**JEDCO.ORG**

**JEFFERSONBUSINESSCOUNCIL.COM**

**504.875.3908**

**504.289.3023**





## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

# YOUR PARTNER IN PROGRESS

From tax incentives and financing options to customized demographic reports and site selection, JEDCO is here to help your business thrive in our community. Through our award-winning business outreach program, we connect with Jefferson Parish business owners to understand their needs and to determine how we can assist. At JEDCO, your business is our number one priority.

**JEDCO.org | 504.875.3908**

**JEDCO**  
Jefferson Economic Development Commission

## LEADOFF SPOT

# LaPorte adds fifth office with Houma merger

**NATALIE CHANDLER**

NATALIE.CHANDLER@NOPG.COM

Metairie-based LaPorte CPAs & Business Advisors plans to merge with Houma-based Beyer, Stagni & Company at the beginning of December.

The merger means that LaPorte, a regional CPA firm, will add a Houma office to its others in Metairie, Covington, Baton Rouge and Houston.

The combined firm will operate as LaPorte CPAs & Business Advisors. Beyer Stagni principals Roy M. Beyer, Arthur E. Stagni, Pam Fremen and Jodie Arceneaux CPA, will become partners.

With the addition of Beyer Stagni, LaPorte will have a total staff of 200 people and revenue in excess of \$25.5 million, officials said. The LaPorte staff is currently at 180, and the 20 employees at Beyer Stagni will be joining it, LaPorte president and CEO Ted Mason said.

Mason said the merger is attractive because of the opportunity to build on Beyer Stagni's client base, which includes

marine, oil and gas and energy clients in Terrebonne, Lafourche and St. Mary Parishes. Merger plans began about six months ago, he said, and the deal is expected to close Dec. 1.

"In addition, we are excited that there is some automotive dealership concentration with them that will help us use that as a stepping stone to develop an automotive industry group within the firm," he said.

The deal follows a national trend of mergers in the accounting industry. Mason said it allows larger organizations to bring greater depth of resources to clients with more industry experience to help them. Succession planning issues are also driving merger activity for some firms, he said.

"One other factor is that for many firms, mergers are a way of creating growth in your organizations along with organic growth," he said.

No other acquisitions are on the horizon for LaPorte, but the company is keeping its target of growing revenue between 7.5 percent and 10 percent a year, he said.

# Enrollment down at most local colleges

**ASHLEY ROE**

ASHLEY.ROE@NOPG.COM

**NATALIE CHANDLER**

NATALIE.CHANDLER@NOPG.COM

Most local colleges welcomed fewer students this fall than last, according to the most recent numbers reported by school officials.

Enrollment is down again this fall at Delgado Community College, where 16,936 students signed up for classes. Last fall, 17,138 enrolled.

The spring semester saw 16,624 students. Delgado also enrolls an additional 15,000 in workforce development and other non-credit programs.

Others reporting enrollment declines include Loyola University with an overall enrollment of 4,158 students. Last fall, the university reported 4,396.

Tulane University saw a slight drop with 82 fewer students than last fall's count of 13,531.

The University of New Orleans has 8,423 this fall compared to 9,234 last year. UNO and Loyola cited a spike in their freshman classes this year.

Xavier University reported 2,971 students enrolled - five fewer than last year.

Among those reporting increases are Dillard University with a total of 1,206

students for the fall semester, about a half dozen more than last year's count.

Our Lady of Holy Cross College said total enrollment is 1,207 students for the fall semester. The previous two years saw around 1,117.

Southern University at New Orleans also confirmed an enrollment increase. Final numbers show 2,704 students for the fall semester, up 1.1 percent from fall 2014.







WHERE YOUR BIG IDEAS CAN  
**TAKE ROOT**

# CHURCHILL

TECHNOLOGY  BUSINESS PARK

The Churchill Technology & Business Park is ready to help your business flourish in Jefferson Parish. Ideally situated in the largest intermodal transportation system in the south and just 20 minutes from downtown New Orleans, Churchill Park provides easy access to rail lines, ports, interstates and an international airport. You'll find a strong telecommunications infrastructure and underground utilities already in place. **All you have to do is put down roots.** Envision your future at the Churchill Technology & Business Park.

700 Churchill Parkway | Avondale, Louisiana 70094 | 504-875-3908

**IT'S YOUR FUTURE**

[churchillpark.org](http://churchillpark.org) • [jedco.org](http://jedco.org)





FLOURISHING BUSINESSES NEED  
**LONG-TERM SUPPORT**

**CHURCHILL**  
TECHNOLOGY  BUSINESS PARK

When you choose the Churchill Technology & Business Park, you're getting more than a new business location, you're also getting a partner. **The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO)** will help your company navigate the local business landscape and remain a dedicated support system long after your business has taken root in the community. Housed in the business park, the organization will assist with public interface, tax incentives and business financing from right next door. Envision your future at the Churchill Technology & Business Park.

700 Churchill Parkway | Avondale, Louisiana 70094 | 504-875-3908

**IT'S YOUR FUTURE**

[churchillpark.org](http://churchillpark.org) • [jedco.org](http://jedco.org)