

SystemMatters



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LCTCS Board Receives Report on Two-Year College Service Needs in Central Louisiana

Today, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) Board of Supervisors received an official report from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) titled, *An Assessment of Community College Service Needs in Central Louisiana*. The formal report is the conclusion of a study conducted by NCHEMS staff at the request of the LCTCS Board in regard to comprehensive two-year college level educational needs of Central Louisiana.

"This study shed light on the numerous educational needs and training challenges in the Cenla area," said LCTCS President Joe D. May. "I look forward to working with our Board and staff as well members of the Legislature in the upcoming weeks as we walk through the report and thoroughly review the recommendations made to take the necessary steps to make this situation right for the citizens of Central Louisiana. At the end of the day, they are the ones who really count and are losing out on opportunities to have a better career and quality of life through limited access and the lack of appropriate services."

Nearly 30 individuals were interviewed as a part of the study in addition to the review of population projections, personal income information, commuting patterns, residence statistics, along with detailed college participation data.

The research led to several key findings and observations, including:

1. Central Louisiana is the most underserved region of the state with regard to provision of two-year college services.
2. The typical community college array of services that would be provided to in-school youth (dual enrollment and programs aligned with high school Career Technical Education programs) are absent.
3. Beyond the health programs, there is no discernible responsiveness to employer needs.
4. Manufacturing remains a major element of the local economy. A primary need is for maintenance mechanics, individuals who have skills in multiple crafts, and can keep facilities and production processes running.
5. Short-term training on worker safety and environmental protection requirements is a major need.

Based on the noted findings and observations about postsecondary education needs and opportunities in Central Louisiana, the following recommendations were made:

1. The LCTCS should commit to the creation of a technical community college in the Alexandria region. The institution should be charged with: serving as the single front door to two-year college services in the region for both students and employers, provide the full array of necessary student support services, assume responsibility for the Adult Basic Education program in Rapides Parish, and arrange for delivery of a transfer general education curriculum at the college.

2. A thorough review of existing Central Louisiana Technical College – Alexandria Campus programs needs to be conducted.
3. Development of career ladder programs building on the CTE programs of the Rapides Parish School District should be
4. investigated.
5. Short-term programs focused on OSHA-required safety training, environmental protection training, etc. should be created.
6. The responsibility of the Learning Center for Rapides Parish (LCRP) should be assigned to the newly created technical community college.
7. The new technical community college should move to a new site. The existing facilities are in poor condition and they promote a view of technical education that is many years out of date.
8. Particular care in staffing the technical community college should be taken.

LCTCS plans to work closely with members of the Legislature as well as local Central Louisiana city and parish officials to determine next steps in the process.

To view a complete copy of the report, visit the LCTCS website at www.lctcs.edu.

Northeast Louisiana Technical College Director Announces Retirement

LCTCS Board Honors Director with Emeritus Title

During its monthly meeting, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System Board of Supervisors honored Norene Smith for her many years of service to the system on the occasion of her retirement. Smith has spent much of her life devoted to education with 40 years of experience in all aspects of career and technical education, including more than 27 years in leadership roles. She has served as the leader of the Northeast Louisiana Technical College for 11 years and was named Regional Director Emeritus via a resolution that was presented to her during the meeting.



(Left to right) LCTCS President Joe D. May, Retiring Northeast Louisiana Technical College Director Norene Smith, and LCTCS Board Member E. Edwards Barham

“We are certainly going to miss Norene and her dynamic leadership style that greatly benefited the entire region she served. Norene had a deep and comprehensive understanding of the college’s needs concerning the delivery of a quality technical education to the students in Northeast Louisiana. We thank her so much for her many years of hard work and her commitment to our System. We wish her the best of luck as she enters into this next phase of her life, and we hope that she will take the time to enjoy her retirement to the fullest, for she has truly earned this period of rest and relaxation,” said Dr. Joe D. May, LCTCS President.

“I’ve had such a rewarding career in being able to reach so many students during my 40 years of service. I truly appreciate all of the support of my faculty and staff throughout the years as well as having the opportunity to work the local legislators and city-parish officials,” said Northeast Louisiana Technical College Director Norene Smith. “It has been a pleasure working within the system and specifically with LCTCS Board members E. Edwards Barham and Paul Price. All of my life I have gone to school, raised a family, and worked. I certainly look forward to slowing down and spending more time with my three wonderful children and six grandchildren.”

Smith has been an invaluable member of the LCTCS since before its official inception, beginning in July 1986 when she accepted a position as the Director of North Central Technical Institute. Smith has extensive knowledge of the Northeast Louisiana Technical College and its five campuses. She joined the LCTCS after serving 18 years in the field of education where she held positions of increasing responsibility and leadership which prepared her for her exceptional role as director of the Northeast Region.

During her 11 years as Regional Director, Norene worked tirelessly to elevate the statuses and enrollments of the technical colleges she led, made the “hard decisions” when necessary, and maintained a positive attitude throughout all challenges during her tenure.

“Norene has been a positive influence on many, many lives over a lot of years in our area. Her good works will be felt far into the future,” said LCTCS Board Member E. Edwards Barham from Oak Ridge.

“Norene has always been a leader in technical education in the northern part of the state. She worked tirelessly on behalf of the community and technical college education system because she clearly understood how important education was to the students she served, many of them from non-traditional backgrounds and oftentimes struggling to better themselves through education,” said LCTCS Board Member Paul Price from Winnsboro.

“Norene left no stone unturned in her efforts to enhance the level of technical education training to northeast Louisiana. Because of that, she made a significant difference in the lives of thousands of people in our state, and certainly deserves the accolades of the system to which she gave so much of her life.”

During her tenure, Smith was able to make notable progress and achieved much for the Northeast Region including the acquisition of numerous grants totaling millions of dollars that trained thousands and the oversight of the investment of Carl Perkins Federal funding for program equipment/upgrades, professional development, curriculum upgrades, program certification, technological advancement and student support services.

In the area of enrollment, under Smith’s leadership, the region achieved a 26 percent increase in enrollment for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, a 28 percent increase for the 2008-2009 year, and dramatic increases in dual enrollment at all campuses within the region.

Smith also oversaw the creation of various degree programs including the Associate of Applied Science in industrial instrumentation and industrial electronics and assisted in the establishment of an evening practical nursing program at the Delta Ouachita Campus to accommodate working adults and to meet the health care worker crisis.

Smith was also able to establish invaluable partnerships with the University of Texas to offer OSHA training and the Workforce Investment Board and the Whittley Center to offer pharmacy technician training through Boston Reed College. She oversaw the provision of rapid response training and re-training to State Farm and GM/Guide employees in 2007-2008, rapid response training and re-training to employees from International Paper, Pilgrims’ Pride, and Shaw closures in 2008-2009, and the training and re-training of Hurricane Katrina and Rita victims and displaced persons. She assisted in securing more than \$3 million in capital outlay funds for renovations and additions to the Bastrop Campus including pending capital outlay projects which include Delta Ouachita, Ruston and Tallulah Campuses.

She has been the recipient of outstanding achievements throughout her years of service with awards such as Outstanding Administrator within the LCTCS, Woman of the Year for Bastrop Business and Professional Women, multiple Outstanding Service Awards for the Administrators in Vocational Education, and an Outstanding Teacher Appreciation Award.

Smith’s last day as Regional Director is April 1, 2011. This is the first time the LCTCS Board has bestowed the Emeritus title on a regional director.

LCTCS President Dr. Joe D. May and the LCTCS Board of Supervisors will develop the process to identify the next leader for the college during the upcoming March Board meeting.

Northeast Louisiana Technical College enrolled 1,833 students this past fall. Campus locations include: Bastrop, Delta Ouachita, North Central, Northeast and Ruston campuses.

LCTCS Foundation Accepts \$100,000 Donation for New Florida Parishes Campus Child Care Center



(Left to right) Northshore Technical College Director William Wainwright, NTC Florida Parishes Campus Dean Sharon Hornsby, LCTCS Board Member Helen Bridges Carter, George Ann Smith, LCTCS Foundation Executive Director Leah Goss, LCTCS President Joe D. May, LCTCS Board Chair Vincent St. Blanc III.

Recently, the LCTCS Foundation accepted a \$100,000 donation that will fund a new child care center at Northshore Technical College, Florida Parishes Campus in Greensburg, LA. This donation has enabled the LCTCS Board of Supervisors to name the child care center the Ray Smith Memorial Child Care Center, after the late Ray Smith, whose family made the generous contribution to the campus. The center is expected to open in Fall 2012.

Northshore Technical College Director William Wainwright said he was pleased to receive the donation from the Smith Family in remembrance of Smith. He added that The Ray Smith Memorial Child Care Center will support the care and development of the young children training program at the college and will be a tremendous benefit to current and future generations of students at the Florida Parishes Campus.

Smith is a graduate of the school, having completed training in welding there in 1960 when it was called the Florida Parishes Trade School. His training helped him land a job at Avondale Shipyard. His desire was to see the school continue to flourish and help other students in the same manner that it assisted him in entering the workforce.

Wainwright further noted that Smith's spouse, George Ann, has also provided the college with student scholarships over several years. George Ann Smith said that her husband was such a compassionate man and it is her desire to celebrate his memory by providing resources that will support current and future generations in achieving their dreams through valuable workforce training. She also noted that she wishes to see the hard work, perseverance and honesty that her husband demonstrated in his life, shown to future technical college students.



SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Groundbreaking Events

**Northwest Louisiana Technical College,
Minden Campus Groundbreaking**
9500 Industrial Drive, Minden, LA
Wednesday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m.

**Northshore Technical College,
Florida Parishes Campus Groundbreaking**
Highway 1042, Greensburg, LA
Friday, February 18 at 1:30 p.m.

For more information about the Louisiana Community and
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Louisiana Community & Technical College System

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Northshore Technical College
Northwest Louisiana Technical College
South Central Louisiana Technical College



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