



Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation Newsletter

July 2026 Edition

The **Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation's** newsletter is dedicated to promoting economic growth, job creation, and community development throughout the state. As a non-profit organization, we provide resources and support for businesses of all sizes to strengthen the Louisiana business community through innovation, collaboration, and education. This newsletter offers updates on our latest initiatives, insights from industry experts, and information on upcoming events and opportunities. Join us as we work together to build a prosperous future for Louisiana.

[Visit our Website](http://www.lachamberfoundation.org)



LCCF Spotlight







art·ish

SATURDAY
JUNE 13
at 1 PM

biztalks panel:

DOING BUSINESS IN LOUISIANA



Ron C. Henderson
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Consumer Advocacy
Louisiana Department of Insurance



Paula Merrick Roddy
Statewide Program Manager
Compliance Programs Section
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development



Jacques Lasseigne
Regional Workforce Consultant
Louisiana Works



Mr. Girard Melancon
Director of Strategic Partnerships
Louisiana FUEL

 **SBAAC**
SOUTHERN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
RIVERVIEW HOTEL
DOWNTOWN SHREVEPORT



Thank you to those who attended LCCF Shreveport Regional Tour



Shreveport-Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce Awards \$23,000 in RISE Grants to Local Businesses

The Shreveport-Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce recently gathered at Cassandra's on the River for its RISE Grant Presentation Lunch, celebrating the achievements of its 1st Quarter RISE Grant recipients and the power of investing in local businesses.

The event brought together entrepreneurs, community leaders, and business advocates to recognize the resilience, innovation, and determination of small business owners who are turning their ideas into impact and driving economic growth throughout the region. Thanks to funding provided through Caddo Parish ARPA funds, the Chamber awarded a total of \$23,000 in grants to local businesses, providing critical resources to help entrepreneurs expand their operations, create opportunities, and strengthen the local economy.

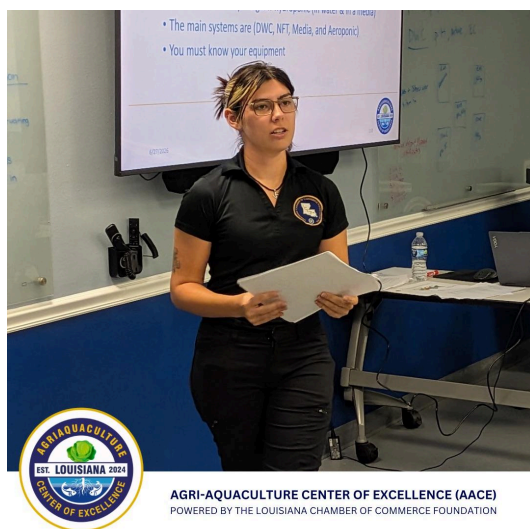
The Chamber also extends a special thank you to Representative Steven Jackson for his advocacy and support in securing funding opportunities that continue to benefit the business community.

As the Chamber celebrates this quarter's recipients, it also looks ahead to the future. RISE Grant applications are now open for the upcoming quarter, offering another opportunity for local businesses to invest in their growth and become part of a network committed to empowering entrepreneurs and building stronger communities.

For more information or to apply for the next round of funding, visit:
www.sbaacc.org



AGRI-AQUACULTURE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (AACE)
POWERED BY THE LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION



Louisiana AgriAquaculture Center of Excellence Hosts First-Ever Full-Day Aquaponics Immersive Training

The Louisiana AgriAquaculture Center of Excellence (AACE) recently celebrated an exciting milestone by hosting its first-ever six-hour Introduction to Aquaponics Immersive Training Course at its state-of-the-art facility located at 651 Leson Court in Harvey, Louisiana.

Established in January 2025 through the support of Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr., and located in Jefferson Parish Council District 2, the Center continues to serve as a hub for agricultural innovation, workforce development, and sustainable food production throughout Louisiana.

More than 25 participants from across the state spent the day gaining hands-on experience and learning the fundamentals of aquaculture and aquaponics, including fish production and water quality management, plant cultivation in aquaponic systems, system operation and maintenance, farm management best practices, and sustainable food production techniques.

The immersive training provided participants with practical knowledge that can be applied to their own farms, entrepreneurial ventures, educational programs, and future careers in agriculture, aquaculture, environmental sustainability, and Louisiana's growing blue economy.

This inaugural course represents just the beginning of AACE's commitment to expanding educational and workforce development opportunities that equip Louisianans with the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow while strengthening local food systems and supporting economic growth across our state.

Interested in attending a future class or learning more about the Louisiana AgriAquaculture Center of Excellence?

Email: analyst@labizspeaks.org

Interested in attending a future class or learning more about the Louisiana AgriAquaculture Center of Excellence? [Click Here to Email Us!](#)



LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

**JOIN OUR
STATEWIDE BUSINESS
DIRECTORY**

INCREASE VISIBILITY FOR YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS NOW!

 VISIT: LACHAMBERFOUNDATION.ORG NOW TO LEARN MORE

JOIN OUR STATEWIDE DIRECTORY



FROM PRODUCT TO SHELF:

How to Get Your Product in Stores

Presented by: The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Virtual Webinar

- ☒ July 7, 2026
- ☒ 12 PM to 1 PM
- ☒ 100% Free

REGISTER NOW 

VISIT OR SCAN: 

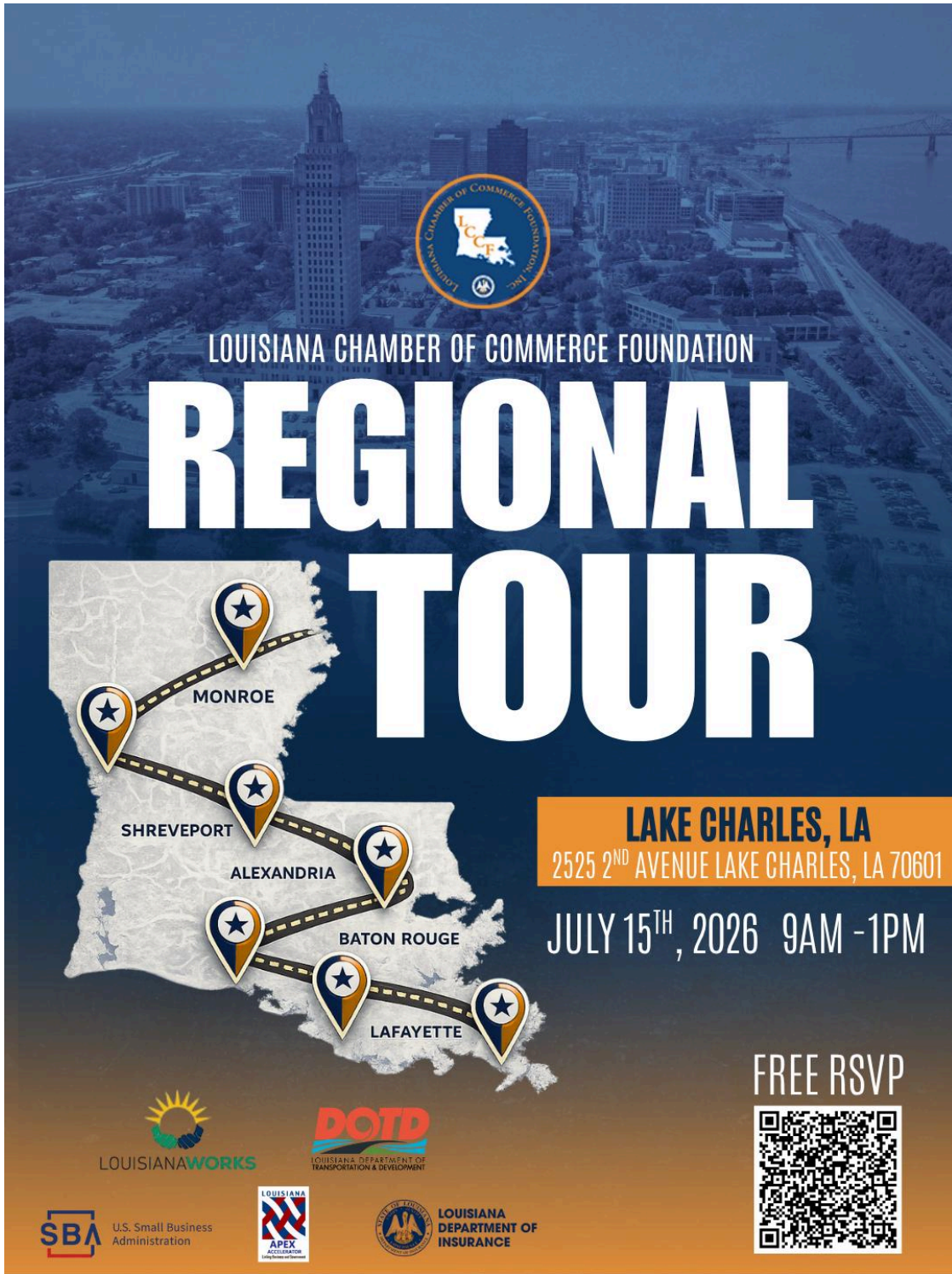
Presented By:



WWW.LACHAMBERFOUNDATION.ORG

Ready to get your product on store shelves? Join us for this informative Lunch & Learn designed for entrepreneurs and product-based businesses looking to break into retail. Learn key steps for preparing your product, approaching retailers, understanding buyer expectations, and positioning your brand for success in stores.

[Click here to sign up for From Product to Shelf](#)



LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

REGIONAL TOUR



MONROE
SHREVEPORT
ALEXANDRIA
BATON ROUGE
LAFAYETTE

LAKE CHARLES, LA
2525 2ND AVENUE LAKE CHARLES, LA 70601

JULY 15TH, 2026 9AM - 1PM

FREE RSVP



Join us for the Lake Charles stop of the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation Regional Tour!

This dynamic, half-day event is designed to connect business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders with critical resources, networking opportunities, and updates on economic development initiatives across the state. Hear directly from key state and federal partners, including the LDI, DOTD, SBA, Fuel, Louisiana Economic Development, and more.

The event features engaging panel discussions, resource sharing, and time to connect with regional stakeholders and fellow professionals. Don't miss this opportunity to grow your network, learn from experts, and engage in

meaningful conversations about the future of business in Louisiana. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required.

[Click here to register for Lake Charles Regional Tour](#)



SAVE THE DATE

10.09.26

LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

LOUISIANA LEADS

LUNCHEON & AWARDS PROGRAM

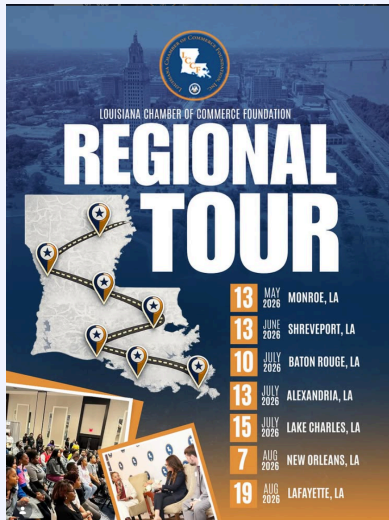


BATON ROUGE CAPITOL CENTER
201 LAFAYETTE STREET BATON ROUGE, LA 80801

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Louisiana Leads Luncheon is the premier annual convening of the leaders driving economic development across Louisiana. This powerhouse room brings together top decision-makers, public and private sector partners, and chamber leadership to recognize the cities, agencies, chambers, and companies moving our state forward. Through the Louisiana Leads Awards, LCCF spotlights real results and leadership shaping growth in all 64 parishes. This is where relationships are built, influence is activated, and momentum is set for the year ahead. Driving economic development across Louisiana.

For sponsorship request, please contact Ms. Kelisha Garrett at kelisha@labizspeaks.org

Registration and ticket purchases will open August 15, 2026.



Annual Regional Tour

LCCF Regional Tour 2026 Dates

- July 15, 2026 — Lake Charles, LA
- August 7, 2026 — New Orleans, LA
- August 19, 2026 — Lafayette, LA

The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation Regional Tours bring together business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders for a powerful opportunity to connect, learn, and grow. These events offer direct access to valuable resources, meaningful conversations, and connections that can open doors to new opportunities.

From expert insights to real-time networking with key partners and peers, each stop is designed to keep you informed, engaged, and positioned for success. Don't miss your chance to be in the room where important conversations and connections are happening.

These event's are FREE to attend, and open to the public but registration is required.

Please email kenyaR@LaBizSpeaks.org if you have any questions about LCCF'S Regional Tours



Join our statewide directory!

- Increase visibility
- Receive priority access to events
- Network with businesses statewide

[Register Today!](#)



[View Procurement Directory](#)



The Louisiana Office of State Procurement ensures fair and legal state contracting, managing equipment, goods, and services procurement for agencies. It promotes fair competition, regulatory compliance, and fulfillment of contractual duties.

[Find Contract Opportunities](#)





AACE PUBLIC TOURS

DISCOVER SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION IN ACTION

Come explore the Agri Aquaculture Center of Excellence (**AACE**) and see how we're growing a healthier, stronger future for our community through innovation, education, and sustainable agriculture.



TOURS ARE ON
FRIDAYS ONLY



10:00 AM | 1:00 PM



RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

- ✓ Maximum of 20 visitors per public tour
- ✓ No walk-ins
- ✓ Large group tours (20+ guests) must be scheduled in advance

**LEARN.
GROW.
INSPIRE.**



**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

- (504) 645-2566
- analyst@labizspeaks.org
- www.lachamberfoundation.org/agriaquaculture
- 651 Leson Ct, Harvey, LA 70058

**SCAN TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT AACE**



Experience Agriculture in Action with an AACE Farm Fresh Tour!

Looking for a unique, educational, and hands-on experience? The Louisiana AgriAquaculture Center of Excellence (AACE) invites schools, organizations, businesses, and community groups to participate in our Farm Fresh Tours at our state-of-the-art facility in Harvey, Louisiana.

Guests will have the opportunity to explore innovative farming practices and learn about the future of sustainable agriculture through interactive experiences, including:

- Hydroponics and Aquaponics Systems
- Sustainable Fish and Plant Production
- Controlled Environment Agriculture
- Fresh Food Production and Food Security Initiatives
- Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Opportunities

Whether you're a student interested in STEM and agriculture, an educator seeking an engaging field experience, or an organization looking to learn more about sustainable food

systems, AACE Farm Fresh Tours offer an exciting opportunity to experience agriculture in action.

Tour Information:

FRIDAY'S ONLY 10 AM OR 1 PM

 Louisiana AgriAquaculture Center of Excellence
651 Leson Court
Harvey, LA 70058

 Tours are complimentary and available by reservation ONLY.

For more information or to schedule a tour:

Email: analyst@labizspeaks.org

Come discover how AACE is cultivating the next generation of agricultural leaders and creating innovative solutions to strengthen Louisiana's food systems and economy.

Interested in a Fresh Farm Tour? Click Here to Email AACE



2026 Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative Applications Now Open

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The Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative helps Louisiana rural businesses grow and scale through:

- Virtual Kickoff retreat
- Monthly peer learning roundtables
- One-on-one expert business support
- Tailored growth strategies for rural communities

Eligible businesses typically have:

- 5-99 employees
- \$60K-\$50M annual revenue
- A desire to expand into new markets

Questions?
Contact: Maddie Duplantis
Maddie.Duplantis@la.gov
(225) 342-4828

Scan to Apply or Learn More

 **Supporting rural businesses, cooperatives, and community development projects across Louisiana.**

THE LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

Applications are now open for the 2026 LED Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative.

This opportunity, hosted by Louisiana Economic Development (LED), is designed to help rural Louisiana businesses grow and scale through expert support, peer learning, and tailored growth strategies.

If you are a rural business owner looking to expand into new markets, this program may be a great fit.

Scan the QR code to apply or learn more.

[Click here for 2026 Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Programs](#)



The Louisiana Office of State Procurement ensures fair and legal state contracting, managing equipment, goods, and services procurement for agencies. It promotes fair competition, regulatory compliance, and fulfillment of contractual duties.

[Find Contract Opportunities](#)

[Discover our affiliate chambers today!](#)

[Visit our affiliate chambers!](#)



New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce Membership Mixer



**NEW ORLEANS REGIONAL
BLACK CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

MEMBERSHIP MIXER

CONNECT. COLLABORATE. GROW.

Join fellow business leaders, entrepreneurs, and community partners for an evening of networking, connections, and chamber updates.



DATE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026



TIME
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM



LOCATION
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS (SUNO)
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
AUDITORIUM
6400 PRESS DRIVE, ROOM 100
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70126





**MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS.
YOUR VOICE.
OUR COMMUNITY.**

WHY ATTEND?

- ✓ Network with business professionals and leaders
- ✓ Learn about chamber programs and initiatives
- ✓ Discover membership benefits
- ✓ Help shape the future of our business community

**SCAN TO RSVP
& LEARN MORE!**





504-655-2566



nolablchamber.org



analyst@labizspeaks.org



225-802-9634



norbcc.chairman2025@gmail.com

BUILDING BUSINESSES. • STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES. • IMPACTING LIVES.

New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce to Host Membership Mixer

The New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce (NORBCC) invites business owners, entrepreneurs, professionals, and community partners to attend its upcoming Membership Mixer on Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

This special evening of networking and collaboration will bring together business leaders from across the Greater New Orleans region to build meaningful connections, learn about chamber initiatives, and discover the many benefits of chamber membership.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Network with local business professionals and community leaders
- Learn about chamber programs, initiatives, and upcoming opportunities
- Discover membership benefits and business resources
- Share ideas and help shape the future of the regional business community

Event Details

 **Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2026

 **Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

 **Location:** Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO)
College of Business & Public Administration Auditorium
6400 Press Drive, Room 100
New Orleans, LA 70126

The Membership Mixer is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow professionals, strengthen community partnerships, and learn how the New Orleans Regional Black

Chamber of Commerce is working to support and advocate for businesses throughout the region.

RSVP & Contact Information

🌐 Website: www.nolablkchamber.org

✉ Email: analyst@labizspeaks.org

✉ Chairman Email: norbcc.chairman2025@gmail.com

Click here to register for New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce Membership Mixer

Mid Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Business Spotlight



Business Spotlight: Akayla L. Duncan Tax Services

The Mid Louisiana Chamber of Commerce is proud to spotlight Akayla L. Duncan Tax Services, a trusted Alexandria-based business dedicated to providing professional, accurate, and reliable tax services for individuals and small businesses.

Owned by Akayla L. Duncan, the firm's mission is simple: "Your Tax Professional. Your Advocate. Your Peace of Mind." From maximizing refunds to ensuring compliance, Akayla L. Duncan Tax Services helps clients navigate the tax process with confidence.

Services Offered:

- ✓ Personal & Small Business Tax Preparation
- ✓ Self-Employment Filing
- ✓ Federal & State E-File
- ✓ Prior Year Amendments
- ✓ Audit Protection
- ✓ Tax Mentorship & Training

Contact Information

📍 Location: Alexandria, Louisiana

👤 Owner: Akayla L. Duncan

📞 Phone: (318) 987-8208

📱 Facebook: Akayla L Duncan LLC

📷 Instagram: @akayladuncantaxfirm

Baton Rouge Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Business Spotlight



Business Spotlight: Sonya's Creations Media Company

The Baton Rouge Area Chamber is proud to spotlight Sonya's Creations Media Company, a creative media business dedicated to bringing stories to life through photography, media production, and visual storytelling. Owned by Sonya Goss, this dynamic company is helping businesses and individuals elevate their brands, capture meaningful moments, and create engaging content that leaves a lasting impact. Through creativity and innovation, Sonya's Creations Media Company is contributing to the growth and success of our local business community.

Contact Information

Location: Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Owner: Sonya Goss
 Phone: (225) 286-9377
 Email: sonyacreations@gmail.com

Lake Area Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Spotlight



Business Spotlight: All The Parties

The Chamber is proud to spotlight All The Parties, a Louisiana-based event planning and decorating business dedicated to turning special moments into unforgettable experiences. From birthdays and baby showers to corporate events and milestone celebrations, All The Parties brings creativity, style, and attention to detail to every event. Their personalized approach and beautiful event décor help make each celebration truly one of a kind.

Contact Information

Louisiana-Based Event Planning & Decorating
 Phone: (337) 707-3927
 Email: jazzzyhenry2507@gmail.com

North East Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Business Spotlight



Business Spotlight: B&B Catering

The Northeast Louisiana Chamber of Commerce is proud to spotlight B&B Catering, a valued chamber member serving the Monroe community with exceptional food and outstanding service.

Through dedication, quality, and a passion for bringing people together, B&B Catering continues to make a positive impact by helping create memorable experiences for families, businesses, and community events throughout Northeast Louisiana.

At the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation, we are honored to celebrate businesses like B&B Catering that contribute to the growth of our local economy and strengthen the communities we serve.

Check out this testimony from one of chamber leaders:



Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Our mission is to help drive the economic growth of our State by empowering and sustaining the business community through the development of local chambers.

[Visit our Website](#)

Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc. | 2020 St Charles Ave | New Orleans, LA 70130 US

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