



LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

BUSINESS OF THE BAYOU,
DIRECTLY TO YOUR INBOX

→ www.lachamberfoundation.org



Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation Newsletter

September 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](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS & NETWORKING

Explore upcoming events and networking opportunities to expand your business throughout the state of Louisiana in our monthly newsletter.

DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM - REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT 9:30 AM
PROGRAM STARTS AT 10:00 AM



LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

REGIONAL TOUR



BATON ROUGE, LA - SEPT 10

MAIN LIBRARY ON GOODWOOD
7711 GOODWOOD BLVD



U.S. Small Business
Administration



LOUISIANA
Office of
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



FREE RSVP



Join the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation for the Baton Rouge stop of the Regional Tour on Thursday, September 10, 2026, from 9:00 AM–12:30 PM at the Main Library on Goodwood. Capital Region business owners and entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to connect with procurement and agency leaders, learn about new business opportunities, expand their networks, and engage with local chamber partners. This event is free, but registration is required.

[Click here to register for Baton Rouge Regional Tour](#)

PRESENTED BY THE LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

PARISH PASSPORT

LOUISIANA'S GUIDE TO BUSINESS, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION

SPONSORED BY:
ATMOS
energy

PRESENTED BY THE LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

PARISH PASSPORT

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC LEADERS GUIDE

LOUISIANA'S GUIDE TO BUSINESS, LEADERSHIP,
AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

APPLY NOW

[WWW.LACHAMBER
FOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.LACHAMBERFOUNDATION.ORG)

SPONSORED BY:

ATMOS
energy



The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation is now accepting nominations for the inaugural **Parish Passport: Louisiana Economic Leaders Guide**, presented by Atmos Energy. Help recognize the business, civic, and community leaders shaping Louisiana's future by submitting a nomination today. Don't miss the opportunity to spotlight outstanding leadership from across all 64 parishes.



THE LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION PRESENTS

LOUISIANA LEADS

LUNCHEON & AWARDS PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY:

JPMorganChase

F R I D A Y
OCTOBER 9

DOORS OPEN AT 11:00AM // PROGRAM BEGINS AT 11:45AM



BATON ROUGE CAPITOL CENTER
201 LAFAYETTE STREET BATON ROUGE, LA 70801
(Riverview Ballroom 1st floor)



THE LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION PRESENTS

LOUISIANA LEADS

LUNCHEON & AWARDS PROGRAM

FEEDING LOUISIANA'S ECONOMY: FOOD AS THE ENGINE OF GROWTH AND INNOVATION



KELISHA GARRETT
VP, LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE FOUNDATION



DR. MIKE STRAIN
COMMISSIONER, LA. DEPT. OF
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY



DR. EVELYN GRIFFIN
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE
LA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



DR. CARRIE CASTILLE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF LOUISIANA MONROE



DR. MATT LEE
SR. VICE CHANCELLOR & DEAN,
LSU AG & COLLEGE OF AG



MATT SEATON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR LA
USDA RURAL STATE OFFICE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9TH // PROGRAM BEGINS AT 11:45AM

PRESENTED BY:
JPMorganChase



BATON ROUGE CAPITOL CENTER
201 LAFAYETTE STREET BATON ROUGE, LA 70801
(Riverview Ballroom 1st floor)



THE LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION PRESENTS

LOUISIANA LEADS

LUNCHEON & AWARDS PROGRAM

2026 AWARD RERECIPIENTS



COMMISSIONER
DR. MIKE STRAIN, DVM
Agency Partner of the Year



SENATOR
GERALD BOUDREAUX
Small Business Champion of the Year



PRESIDENT & CEO
MICHAEL HECHT
Economic Development Champion of the Year



SECRETARY
SUSANA SCHOWEN
Workforce Development Champion of the Year



KITCHEN ON KLINTON
SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



LAKE AREA REGIONAL BUSINESS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
C.C.G.I CHAMBER OF THE YEAR



VEGAN ON THE RUN
SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9TH // PROGRAM BEGINS AT 11:45AM

PRESENTED BY:
JPMorganChase

Hilton **BATON ROUGE CAPITOL CENTER**
201 LAFAYETTE STREET BATON ROUGE, LA 70801
(Riverview Ballroom 1st floor)

Louisiana Leads Luncheon & Awards Program Registration Now Open

Louisiana's premier leadership event is back — and seats are going fast. Join 400+ business, government, community, and industry leaders from all 64 parishes at the **4th Annual Louisiana Leads Luncheon & Awards**, presented by JPMorgan Chase, as we celebrate the people and organizations driving Louisiana forward.

Date: Friday, October 9, 2026 📍

Location: Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center — 201 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801 (Riverview Ballroom, 1st Floor)

Doors open at 11:00 AM & Program begins at 11:45 AM

Celebrating This Year's Honorees:

- Agency Partner of the Year — Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM
- Small Business Champion of the Year — Sen. Gerald Boudreaux, District 24
- Economic Development Champion of the Year — Michael Hecht, CEO, GNO, Inc.
- Workforce Development Champion of the Year — Sec. Susana Schowen LA Works
- C.C.G.I. Chamber of the Year — Lake Area Regional Business Chamber of Commerce
- Small Business of the Year — KOK Wings & Things
- Small Business of the Year — Vegan on the Run

Don't Miss the Panel: "Feeding Louisiana's Economy: Food as the Engine of Growth and Innovation"

- Dr. Griffin, Louisiana Surgeon General
- Dr. Castille, President, University of Louisiana Monroe
- Dr. Matt Lee, Senior Vice Chancellor & Dean, LSU College of Agriculture & LSU AgCenter
- Matt Seaton, Acting Deputy State Director, Louisiana USDA Rural Development
- Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM

Seating is limited — this event sells out every year. Individual tickets and tables are available now.

Register today: <https://www.lachamberfoundation.org/la-leads-awards-program/>

Also Launching This Year: The Inaugural 64 Parish Passport Fueled by *Atmos Energy*

We're introducing Parish Passport — a statewide directory recognizing the servant leaders shaping their communities in business, government, education, agriculture, and beyond, in every corner of Louisiana.

Know a leader who deserves recognition? Nominate them — or apply yourself! <https://www.lachamberfoundation.org/parish-passport/>

Applications close **September 5th**.

This is the event of the year — you don't want to miss it. See you October 9th!

Presented by the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation
www.lachamberfoundation.org

Click here to register for Louisiana Leads Luncheon 2026



New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce Membership Mixer

The New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce Membership Mixer was a tremendous success, bringing together entrepreneurs, business owners, professionals, and community leaders for an evening of networking, collaboration, and meaningful connections. With more than 180 registrants, the event showcased the strength and continued growth of our business community while providing attendees with valuable opportunities to build relationships, exchange ideas, and learn more about Chamber initiatives. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this event a memorable success.

LCCF Lafayette Regional Tour



The Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation welcomed more than 83 attendees to the Lafayette stop of the Regional Tour. Business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders connected with key state and federal partners, gained valuable business

Thank you to those who attended LCCF Lafayette
Regional Tour



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



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & EDUCATION

Explore programs & resources to expand and learn
for your business throughout the state of Louisiana
in our monthly newsletter.

Technical Assistance Programs

More technical assistance opportunities are coming soon!

LCCF is continuing to develop programs, resources, and learning opportunities designed to support Louisiana businesses and entrepreneurs. Be on the lookout for upcoming workshops, webinars, trainings, and other technical assistance opportunities.



Attention Louisiana Small Businesses:

Louisiana Economic Development (LED) has announced an important change to the Small and Emerging Business Development (SEBD) Program that may benefit businesses whose SEBD certification previously expired after reaching the program's former 10-year certification limit.

Businesses May Now Apply for SEBD Re-Certification

Under the updated SEBD program rules, businesses that previously reached the 10-year certification limit may now apply for re-certification, provided they continue to meet the program's current eligibility requirements.

This change provides eligible Louisiana businesses with an opportunity to regain access to SEBD resources, technical assistance, training, and other small-business development support.

How to Apply for Re-Certification

Businesses interested in re-certifying should:

1. Visit LED Small Business Services at www.ledsmallbiz.com.
2. Log into your existing business account.
3. Review and update any business information that has changed since your previous certification.
4. Complete the SEBD re-certification process and submit the required information.

If you do not remember your username or password, select "Forgot Username or Password" on the login page. Account information may be retrieved using the email address associated with your LED Small Business account.

Benefits of SEBD Participation

Re-certification may allow eligible businesses to continue accessing SEBD-supported resources and opportunities, including:

- SEBD Roundtables

- Training classes and workshops
- One-on-one assistance from subject matter experts
- Information regarding LED programs and resources
- Updates on opportunities available to Louisiana small businesses
- Access to assistance provided through LED intermediary partners throughout Louisiana

LA APEX Clients: Review Your SEBD Status

LA APEX Accelerator clients who previously participated in the SEBD Program and reached the former 10-year certification limit are encouraged to review their status and determine whether they are eligible to re-certify.

Please note that SEBD re-certification is not automatic. Businesses must log into their LED Small Business account, update their information as necessary, and complete the applicable re-certification process.

Take Action: Visit www.ledsmallbiz.com to review your account and begin the re-certification process.

Louisiana APEX Accelerator:

LA APEX Accelerator provides no-cost government contracting assistance to Louisiana businesses seeking to compete in the federal, state, and local government marketplaces.

This Center Blast is being distributed for informational purposes to make LA APEX clients aware of the updated Louisiana Economic Development SEBD re-certification opportunity. Eligibility and certification determinations are made by Louisiana Economic Development.

Take Action: Visit www.ledsmallbiz.com



Join our statewide directory!

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

[Register Today!](#)



LOUISIANA PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Explore procurement opportunities for your business throughout the state of Louisiana in our monthly newsletter.

[View Procurement Directory](#)



I-10 CAPITOL CORRIDOR PROJECT (PHASE 1) LA 415 TO ESSEN LANE ON I-10 & I-12 LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



BID OPPORTUNITY ALERT!

Kiewit/Boh is excited to reconnect with subcontractors and suppliers interested in joining our team on the I-10 Capitol Corridor Project in Baton Rouge - Phase 1 (I-10 LA 415 to Essen Lane on I-10 & I-12).

PROJECT STATUS AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Exciting opportunities are **coming in Q3 2026!** As the project approaches 25% completion, nearly 100 early works bid packages are anticipated to be advertised, providing a variety of opportunities for firms to participate in the project.

As the Construction Manager at Risk for this critical project, we're actively seeking local and small businesses interested in professional services, construction, and supplier opportunities.

Please stay tuned for announcements in the coming weeks about events and opportunities.

Help us keep our records current! If your company completed our Subcontractor Questionnaire more than two years ago, please update your information using the form below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The I-10 Capitol Corridor Project is the largest urban interstate reconstruction project in the history of the Louisiana Department of Transportation. The project is organized into two phases. Phase 1 extends from the East Mississippi River Bridge approach to the I-10 & I-12 split in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Phase 2 extends from the West Mississippi Bridge approach to LA-415.

READY TO BUILD WITH US?
LEARN MORE!



Email us at:
I-10CMAROutreach@Kiewit.com



Visit our website at:
<https://buildwithkbjv.com>

[Questions? Click here](#)

[Visit BuildWithKBJV.com](#)



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](#)



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



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

AACE is proud to highlight Einstein Charter School's Aquaponics System Launch, giving students a hands-on opportunity to explore sustainability, agriculture, and science. Through aquaponics, students are learning how fish and plants work together in a sustainable growing system while gaining exposure to innovative agricultural practices and environmental stewardship.

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

Email: analyst@labizspeaks.org

Follow AACE on social media @lccf_aace

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



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

2026 Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative Applications Now Open

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.

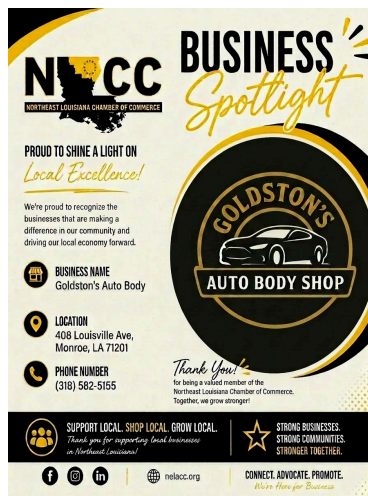
If you are a rural business owner looking to expand into new markets, this program may be a great fit.

Scan the QR code to apply or learn more.

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

LCCF Spotlights

North East Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Business Spotlight



Business Spotlight: Goldston's Auto Body

The Northeast Louisiana Chamber of Commerce is proud to spotlight Goldston's Auto Body, a trusted auto body repair shop dedicated to providing high-quality collision repair, dent removal, and professional refinishing services.

Owned by David Goldston, Goldston's Auto Body is committed to restoring vehicles to safe, showroom-quality condition through skilled craftsmanship, quality parts, and proven repair techniques. Known for friendly customer service, transparent estimates, and timely turnaround times, the business takes pride in helping customers get back on the road with confidence.

Through a commitment to quality, integrity, and customer satisfaction, Goldston's Auto Body continues to make a positive impact on the Monroe community by providing dependable automotive repair services.

Contact Information

 Location: 408 Louisville Avenue
Monroe, LA 71201

 Owner: David Goldston

 Phone: (318) 582-5111



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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