



DAY AT LEGISLATURE HIGHLIGHTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTION

On Wednesday, June 17, 2009, a busload of Delgado Community College and Louisiana Technical College (LTC) Region 1 faculty, staff and students headed to the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge to urge legislators to support higher education bills and funding during the annual Delgado and LTC Region 1 Day at the Legislature.

Attendees included Dr. Ron Wright, Delgado chancellor; Greg Mason, vice chancellor of Organizational Effectiveness and Innovation; Deborah Lea, vice chancellor of Learning and Student Development; Kathleen Mix, vice chancellor of Workforce Development and Education; Kim Rugon, provost and dean of LTC Region 1; Dr. Leroy Kendrick, executive director of Credit and Assessment programs; Carol Gniady, executive director of Public Affairs & Information; State Representative Nita Hutter, executive director of Institutional Advancement; Dr. Mary Bartholomew, director of Culinary Arts & Hospitality; Barry Brantley, Hospitality instructor; Anne LaVance, director of Pharmacy Technician program; and Toy Smoot, director of LTC Region 1 Respiratory Therapy, among others. State Representative Nita Hutter, executive director of Institutional Advancement, was at the Capitol participating in the legislative session, as well.

Display tables were set up at the House of Representatives side of the Capitol Rotunda highlighting some of the colleges' programs, including Practical Nursing (PN), Phlebotomy, Culinary Arts, Pharmacy Technician, Respiratory Therapy, Energy Efficiency and Advanced Manufacturing. PN students took the blood pressure of passers-by, Culinary students passed out chocolates in containers marked "Don't Starve the Solution," Workforce Development highlighted energy efficiency equipment and LTC Region 1 showed a video about its Advanced Manufacturing courses and Center of Excellence.

A video release was also taped, featuring administration, faculty and staff discussing the importance of community and technical education to the state, reinforcing the Louisiana Community and Technical College System message that we are the key to workforce development – and thus the solution to economic development – for Louisiana, and asking legislators not to "starve the solution" by imposing budget cuts.

Noting that Delgado and LTC Region 1 were being represented at the Capitol to talk to our legislators about the decisions they are in the process of making that will shape the future of higher education, and thus shape the economic future of our state, Dr. Wright highlighted the following points:

- As community and technical educators, Delgado and LTC Region 1 are the heart of Louisiana's workforce development, the most important economic driver for the region. We are the solution to Louisiana's workforce and economic development needs.
- If legislators recognize the essential importance of higher education to our state's future and yet don't support community and technical education, and instead allow the proposed drastic budget cuts to happen, they will be starving the solution to Louisiana's economic recovery and growth.

- Together, Delgado and LTC Region 1 are facing more than \$7 million in 2009/2010 fiscal year budget cuts (representing almost 15% of our annual budgets)
 - \$6.5 million cut for Delgado
 - \$650,000+ cut for LTC Region 1
- This dramatic cut would translate to the possible elimination of more than 100 employee positions
 - At Delgado, the elimination of 56 full-time and 25 one-semester full-time faculty positions (representing approximately \$2.5 million in salaries), plus \$4.3 million in funding for adjunct part-time faculty contracts
 - At Delgado, the elimination of about 50 support staff positions
 - At LTC Region 1, the elimination of 6 faculty and 3 support staff positions
- Such budget cuts would likely require LTC Region 1 to reduce union apprenticeship programs offered and eliminate all evening programs
- Such budget cuts would impact at least 20 Delgado programs and approximately 5,000 students
- Our colleges have been operating “lean and mean” for years. Budget cuts such as the ones currently proposed – almost 15% of state funding – are not “trimming the fat”; they are cutting to the bone. And they would cripple our ability to meet our critical mission in the community: to provide the education and technical training necessary to prepare every student for viable careers in the new economy, and help fill Louisiana business and industry’s need for a skilled workforce.

Mason emphasized the importance of technical education to the region’s development with the following points:

- Yesterday’s “muscle jobs” have entered the age of technology, meaning today’s jobs require more than just a strong back. They require specific knowledge and advanced technical skills – exactly what Delgado and LTC Region 1 provide. And that trend will never reverse itself; the careers of the future will only require more and more specific technical training.
 - For example, cars today are operated by literally dozens of complex computer systems and applications. It takes more than a wrench to tune an engine.
- In today’s economy, getting the best jobs doesn’t just depend on what you know; it’s about what you can do. Delgado and LTC Region 1 students learn by doing – participating in hands-on lab and clinical work and cutting-edge simulations that focus on real-world, cooperative group projects, not just textbook theory.
- Community and technical education is tied directly to imparting the most relevant knowledge and skill sets to meet the demands of the marketplace. Our business is keeping our finger on the pulse of the economy so that we can respond to employer demands and provide more relevant, short-term training for workforce needs.

- We are also institutions dedicated to lifelong learning. We bestow certificates and degrees; we provide solid foundations for transfer to 4-year universities; we offer courses that add, enhance and upgrade skills and support certifications that add value in the job market. Our students can grow, evolve and advance with us through the continuum of their lives, education and careers.
- The number one reason given by companies for not locating to Louisiana is a lack of a qualified workforce. At least 55% of all new jobs in this state will require 1-2 years of specialized education and training. Yet almost 40% of Louisiana students drop out before completing high school. Filling that gap – reaching the underserved students and turning them into a skilled workforce to meet business and industry needs – is what we do best.
- With a combined credit and non-credit annual enrollment of almost 26,000, we are the Greater New Orleans area's single largest higher education institution and workforce developer for the state. More than 80 percent of our graduates stay in Louisiana to work.

Lea emphasized the opportunities and challenges presented by Delgado and LTC Region 1's growing enrollment with several facts:

- The fall that Katrina hit in 2005, Delgado was experiencing its highest enrollment in its more than 80-year history. While Katrina devastated the region, in the years since then, our enrollment recovery has been faster and stronger than anyone could have imagined.
- LTC Region 1 enrollment increased more than 45% year-over-year in spring 2009, with enrollment of almost 2,000. LTC Jefferson was in fact named the fastest-growing college of its size and type in the nation in 2008 by Community College Week.
- Delgado's credit enrollment has increased by at least 10% year-over-year every semester since Katrina – spring 2009 enrollment was almost 14,700
- This shows the tremendous need and desire in the community for the types of programs Delgado and LTC Region 1 specialize – Delgado and LTC Region 1 are the colleges of choice for the new economy
- Particularly in times of economic recession, community and technical colleges become very attractive options for student needing to gain – affordably and in a shorter amount of time – key skills and knowledge that translate directly into better jobs
- Opportunities are tremendous to serve learners seeking an affordable, flexible way to train or retrain themselves for great jobs in this changing marketplace, or affordably earn two-years of quality education that can transfer to a 4-year program
- The challenge is that we are growing significantly, yet have received no additional funding to account for these increases. Even more disturbing is the possibility of having to absorb an additional 15% budget cut. This would cripple our ability to meet the needs of our community's students – as well as the needs of businesses who require qualified employees

She also highlighted some of Delgado and LTC Region 1's top program contributions to the region:

- Together, Delgado and LTC Region 1 offer the most comprehensive continuum of education and training programs in the region to meet every individual student need – regardless of starting point or end goal.
- Delgado offers more than 40 degree programs and more than 100 additional options for certificate, technical competency area and certification courses of study
- LTC Region 1 is the perfect complement to Delgado’s curricula, offering short-term technical training programs that match the fastest-growing job sectors in Louisiana
- Allied Health and Nursing: Delgado’s health care programs are the best and largest in the state, producing more than 900 graduates annually (not including short-term training programs)
 - Example: Our Radiologic Technology program is #1 in Louisiana
 - More than half of our programs, such as Pharmacy Tech and Respiratory Tech, boast a perfect 100% national certification exam pass rate
- Delgado has the largest Adult Education/GED Preparation program in Greater New Orleans
- Delgado has established articulation agreements with 4-year universities, including a growing number of “2+2” agreements, that allow certain students earning associate degrees to seamlessly transfer credits and enter baccalaureate programs as juniors
 - Recent agreements signed with Tulane, UNO, SELU and SUNO
- Delgado recently restructured its Business division to offer a dual path to success:
 - Business and Management program allows students to select one of 10 concentrations to immediately enter the most in-demand job sectors
 - Business Administration program is designed to maximize articulation opportunities to 4-year programs
- Delgado’s Computer Information Technology Division has also restructured to offer concentrations in the hottest technology areas, including Web Design, e-Commerce, Computer Gaming and Digital Media

Kim Rugon provided details about LTC Region 1 to underscore its critical importance to workforce development:

- Together, Delgado and LTC Region 1 are facing more than \$7 million in 2009/2010 fiscal year budget cuts (representing almost 15% of our annual budgets)
 - This would mean a \$650,000+ cut for LTC Region 1
- This dramatic cut would translate to the possible elimination of 6 faculty and 3 support staff positions at LTC Region 1
- Such budget cuts would likely require LTC Region 1 to reduce union apprenticeship programs offered and eliminate all evening programs

- Delgado and LTC Region 1 provide the most comprehensive, flexible and relevant education and training tied directly to career skill requirements within the growth sectors of the new economy.
- According to a GNO Inc. Labor Market Assessment in November 2008, occupations that will be in greatest demand by fall 2009 include electricians, welders, boilermakers, metal workers and plumbers/pipefitters
- LTC Region 1 has partnerships with some of the largest employers in Louisiana – such as Boh Brothers, Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, Trinity Yachts, Laitram Corporation and others. We are who they turn to to train their employees through **apprenticeship** and other experiential learning programs. We know regional employers' needs, and we develop curricula that produce completers who meet those needs. No other institution is better positioned or tooled to train qualified workers for today's technical jobs
- LTC Region 1 enrollment is growing dramatically – we currently serve about 4,000 students annually
 - LTC Region 1 enrollment increased more than 45% year-over-year in spring 2009 to almost 2,000 students
 - LTC Jefferson was named the fastest-growing college of its size and type in the nation for 2008 by Community College Week

Dr. Bartholomew and Brantley related the strength of the Culinary Arts and Hospitality programs, and invited legislators to two exciting evening events: an ice cream social and premiere of the documentary film, "Pressure Cooker" at the Claiborne Building:

- From 2006-2016, the Accommodation and Food Service industry is expected to have the largest employment gain in the Greater New Orleans region (21%) and second-largest gain in Louisiana (12%)
- Louisiana, and New Orleans in particular, are world-renowned for their food; culinary occupations, as an integral part of the tourism industry, contribute to the # employment demand sector for Greater New Orleans and the third greatest for Louisiana
- Delgado's culinary and hospitality programs enrolled a total of 285 students as of spring 2009
- Delgado offers one of the nation's only Chef Apprenticeship programs, based on the traditional European tradition. Delgado's apprenticeship students can be found in just about all of the best kitchens in the Greater New Orleans area and graduate to become some of the best executive chefs in the nation (give some examples of famous graduates)
- From 2006-2016, the Accommodation and Food Service industry is expected to have the largest employment gain in the Greater New Orleans region (21%) and second-largest gain in Louisiana (12%)
- Louisiana's hospitality industry employs more than 140,000 residents, representing 7 percent of the state's workforce, and supports the second largest economic driver for our state – tourism

That evening, legislators and other education leaders were invited to attend the Louisiana premiere of *Pressure Cooker*, a film by Jennifer Grausman and Mark Becker, and an Ice Cream Social catered by Louisiana Culinary Arts program students at the Louisiana Purchase Room of the Claiborne Building (across the street from the Capitol). Hosted by Participant Media and the Louisiana Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and sponsored by ACTE, BET Networks, Delgado Community College, Louisiana Technical College (LTC) Region 1 and the Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA), the events featured Wilma Stephenson, Franklin High Culinary Arts instructor and star of *Pressure Cooker*; Bonnie Abaunza, vice president of social action for Participant Media; and Delgado and LTC Region 1 Culinary Arts students, who prepared nine flavors of ice cream reflecting their interpretations of “pressure cooker.”

The premier of *Pressure Cooker* was tied in to a national campaign led by ACTE and Participant Media, a Los Angeles-based entertainment company that focuses on socially relevant and commercially viable productions, to increase awareness of the value of community and technical education (CTE) and the need for additional state and federal investment to support CTE programs which meet national economic and workforce needs.

Pressure Cooker is a documentary film which profiles the lives of three high school seniors, each with unique hardships but with the shared goal of winning scholarships to the country's best culinary schools, guided by their tough-as-nails teacher Wilma Stephenson.

Part of the *Pressure Cooker* campaign focuses on urging Congress to increase funding for the federal Carl D. Perkins Act, the primary source of support for local education programs that connect education and real-world careers. Another part focuses on hosting screenings of *Pressure Cooker* in 20 states, including Louisiana, to highlight the critical importance of CTE and its impact on education, including how it reduces dropout rates and builds a qualified workforce.

In Louisiana, the partnership with Delgado Community College, LTC Region 1 and the Louisiana Restaurant Association was meant to also reinforce the LCTCS message “Don’t Starve the Solution,” highlighting the critical importance of bolstering – not cutting – state funding of local CTE, which is Louisiana’s solution to reducing dropout rates and meeting workforce development needs.

