



GROWING TO MEET NORTHSHORE NEEDS

Even before Hurricane Katrina brought thousands from the Greater New Orleans area to settle on the Northshore, suburban communities north of Lake Pontchartrain were experiencing tremendous growth. With that growth has come tremendous opportunity – as well as tremendous needs – in education and workforce development.

In the spirit of the colleges’ mission, Delgado Community College and Louisiana Technical College (LTC) Region 1 are joining forces more than ever before – with each other and with Northshore education, business, government, industry and community leaders – to provide creative, comprehensive yet efficient higher education and training solutions to support the region’s growth in the near and long terms.

Delgado has a strong history of dedication to higher education on the Northshore.

The college re-entered the West St. Tammany community in spring 2002 largely to train surgical technologists for local hospitals. Four courses were offered to 23 students at the Greater Covington Center (GCC) as part of the city’s vision to serve the community by joining several levels of education in one central place.



By fall of that year, Delgado had made a commitment to the area by appointing a dean, hiring a staff and offering more courses to expand educational opportunities for the region.

As education and training needs, particularly in Allied Health areas, grew in St. Tammany, Delgado responded by expanding its program offerings.

In 2006, Delgado participated in the first Careers That Heal grant program for allied health and nursing training. In 2007, LTC Region 1 joined Delgado as one of several training providers expanding Careers That Heal into a 10-parish, multi-partner, \$6 million community development block grant-funded initiative to provide the region with well trained – and desperately needed – allied health and nursing professionals.

In 2006, Delgado partnered with the St. Tammany Healthcare Alliance to create the first Careers That Heal grant program for allied health and nursing training. In 2007, Careers That Heal expanded into a 10-parish, multi-partner, \$6 million community development block grant-funded initiative to help provide the region with 600-800 well trained – and desperately needed – allied health and nursing professionals. A recent Louisiana Workforce Commission/Louisiana Recovery Authority study forecasts a need for 8,803 healthcare workers in the Katrina impacted region between 2006 and 2009. The grant will support funding for facilities, equipment as well as tuition assistance for qualifying individuals through December 2009.



Delgado is the fiscal agent and a training provider, Greater New Orleans, Inc. is the workforce intermediary, LTC Region 1 is a training provider, and St. Tammany Healthcare Alliance is a key advocate for the Careers That Heal grant. The Recovery Workforce Training Program, of which this grant is a part, was established by the Louisiana Recovery Authority in collaboration with the State Office of Community Development's Disaster Recovery Unit and the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

In Covington, Delgado still occupies nine rooms in the GCC (five classrooms, one learning resource room and three faculty/staff rooms) and in 2004 added almost 5,000 square feet of leased classroom and office space at a second site at 207 E. Lockwood Street in historic downtown Covington.



With even greater space requirements presented by expanded Careers That Heal and other allied health programs, Delgado is now leasing 4,600 square feet in a third Covington building, just blocks away GCC and Lockwood, at 500 N. Theard Street. Today, Delgado Northshore occupies three buildings, offers 150 classes and in fall 2008 anticipates serving more than 1,000 students.

Following custom renovations to meet program classroom and laboratory needs, the Theard building opened in July 2008 in time to offer fall 2008 Careers That Heal classes in Surgical Technology, Pharmacy Technician and Respiratory Care Technology as well as non-grant Biology Lecture, Biology Lab and Veterinary Technology classes. This expanded capacity is also freeing up a classroom in the Lockwood building that will provide distance Nursing classes via compressed video technology.

"I am so excited about the new Theard facility," said Ashley Chitwood, interim dean of Delgado Northshore. "First, it allows Delgado to offer four allied health programs completely on the Northshore, meaning students will no longer have to drive to New Orleans for lab classes.



"Second, we are gaining much needed space for our faculty which has been growing to support our increasing enrollment, which is currently up 50 percent over fall 2007. Finally, this facility is unique in its aesthetic, full of the charm of Historic Downtown Covington, with lots of off-street parking."

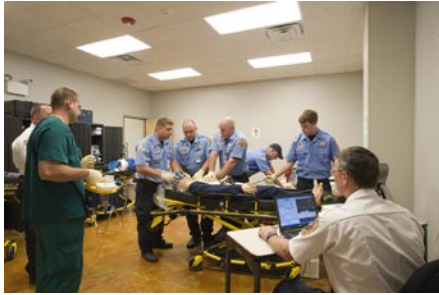
Delgado Northshore continues to support the region's higher education, professional development and personal enrichment needs as well through its Slidell location, which offers a number of courses – mainly Arts and Sciences, Business and a variety of non-credit classes – at 320 Howze Beach Road, just off Interstate 10.

In addition, Delgado has found creative ways to meet regional training needs at state-of-the-art facilities through some key partnerships.



After Hurricane Katrina devastated Delgado's City Park Campus maritime simulator and radar training facility, one of the college's maritime partners, Florida Marine Transporters, donated training facilities at their Mandeville offices to accommodate Delgado's Maritime, Fire, Radar and Industrial Training unit. Delgado trains hundreds of maritime workers in the facility's classrooms and Full Mission Towboat Simulator, the first in Louisiana.

Currently, the facility is in the process of purchasing a Transas Portable Towboat/OSV/DP Simulator that, used in combination with existing equipment, will allow Delgado to be the first in post-Katrina Louisiana to offer Advanced Wheelhouse Proficiency training with multiple simulators. The portability of this simulator also means Delgado can bring its state-of-the-art training to partner centers anywhere in the state. Delgado has also developed simulator training programs for new Steersmen to gain skills necessary to advance in the maritime industry.



Delgado's Department of EMS Education has also extended its programming to the Northshore through a partnership with Mandeville Fire District 4, where Delgado offers several EMT and Paramedic classes in a brand-new, 6000-square-foot building including classrooms and cutting edge simulation labs for hands-on training. The Careers That Heal grant has contributed to some of the more than \$250,000 worth of equipment at the facility and is funding tuition assistance for qualifying individuals for several EMS classes.

LTC Region 1 Has Made Its Much-anticipated Return to the Northshore Post-Katrina.

Re-joining Delgado in serving the higher education and workforce development needs of the Northshore community, LTC Region 1 was proud to open a new temporary facility at 56707 Behrman Street in Slidell during the summer in time to welcome students for fall 2008 semester classes in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Automotive Technology, Carpentry, Electrical, Certified Nurse Assistant, Patient Care Technician and Phlebotomy.

Though this FEMA-funded LTC Instructional Service Center rental space is smaller than its predecessor, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, it will do a great deal to meet immediate training and workforce development needs for the region in cooperation with – and compliment to – Delgado's offerings. The almost 5,000-square-foot temporary LTC Slidell Campus includes two shop areas, six classrooms, a reception area, student services area and student lounge.

In addition, LTC Region 1's Culinary Arts program, which had been housed at the destroyed Slidell Campus, had to operate at the LTC Jefferson Campus post-Katrina until a stroke of good fortune – and tremendous generosity – made it possible to return to the Northshore in fall 2008.

Recognizing the tremendous regional popularity of – and demand for – LTC Region 1's quality Culinary Arts programming, Slidell Mayor Ben Morris has donated a state-of-the-art industrial kitchen at 1325 Bayou Street for the program's use. The program director, Chef Jan Rost, is thrilled to return "home" to Slidell with her program, which offers students flexibility, affordability and, above all, quality.



"LTC's return to Slidell has been long overdue and much anticipated," said Kim Rugon, provost and dean of LTC Region 1 Technical Campuses. "Although our temporary sites will not address all the training needs on the burgeoning Northshore, we're thrilled that they can begin to provide top-notch workforce training in some of the most critical sectors.

"We are also looking forward to the day soon when we'll join Delgado and our other Northshore education partners to expand our capabilities even further and offer seamless education, training and workforce development solutions at the new cooperative Lacombe facility."

Delgado, LTC Region 1 and St. Tammany partners have an eye to the future of Northshore higher education. Delgado and LTC Region 1 have committed to join with the St. Tammany Parish School System and Southeastern Louisiana University to offer classes and certificate and degree programs at a planned 150,000-square-foot shared campus located east of Louisiana Highway 434 and north of Interstate 12 in Lacombe. University Square will allow the region's top higher education institutions to offset space losses, share facilities, save costs and efficiently provide the growing St. Tammany population with much-needed workforce and educational services. Portions of the campus could be set to open as early as 2009.