NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
PHOENIX WASTE SOLUTIONS

ARTICLE:
PART 2 OF PANDEMIC UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, REGION 3

MEMBER NEWS
In our current COVID-19 climate it’s time to think differently about employee health. With over 65 trusted years of leading edge healthcare experience, TGMC is here to help you and your employees return to work safely.

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, TGMC Wellness for Life has the resources to keep you and your workforce healthy and prepared.

- COVID-19 Symptoms & Triage Questionnaire
- Safe to Return: Workplace Guidelines & Tools
- Testing
- Service Guidelines
- Cleaning Protocols

A healthy workforce is a productive workforce! Schedule your Workplace Readiness Assessment by calling 985-850-6214 or visit TGMC.com to learn more.

HOW CAN TGMC HELP YOU?

- Employee Health Risk Screenings
- Virtual Options
- Wellness Tips
- Helpful Educational Resources
- Continuous COVID-19 Updates
- Nurse Hotline for Frequently Asked Questions
Calendar

OCTOBER 2020:

10/6  Chamber Small Business Diversification Task Force
      Chamber Office/Virtual | 9:30 a.m.

10/6  Chamber Development Committee Meeting
      Chamber Office/Virtual | Noon

10/13 Chamber Finance Committee Meeting
       Chamber Office/Virtual | 7:30 a.m.

10/13 Chamber Executive Committee Meeting
       Chamber Office/Virtual | 8:00 a.m.

10/19 Happy National Chamber Day!

10/20 Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
       Chamber Office/Virtual | 8:00 a.m.

10/21 Chamber Community Development (Education & Healthcare) Meeting
       Chamber Office/Virtual | 8:30 a.m.

10/26 12th Annual Chamber Cornhole Challenge
       Southdown Plantation’s Buquet Pavilion | 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

10/27 General Membership Luncheon: Dr. Craig McClain, LUMCON
       Economic Development Authority (TEDA) | Courtyard by Marriott | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For more information about Chamber Events call (985) 876-5600 or Email: info@houmachamber.com
Events in red denotes Chamber events

IN THIS ISSUE:
The October issue brings another update from Region 3 Office of Public Health (pages 6 & 7), New Member Spotlight with Phoenix Waste Solutions (pages 8 & 9), what’s happening with our members, and more!

Contact Us!
2020 OFFICERS:
Chairman of the Board
Chuck Weaver Jr.
South Louisiana Financial Services

Chairman-Elect
Michael Garcia, M.D.
South Louisiana Medical Associates

Treasurer
William “Bill” Eroche
Watkins, Walker, Eroche and Hoychick, Attorneys at Law

Vice Chair-Community Development Division
Kristine Strickland, Ph.D.
Fletcher Technical Community College

Vice Chair-Chamber Development Division
LaDonna Cruse
Stephanie Hebert Insurance Agency

Vice Chair-Infrastructure & Economic Development Division
Mitchell Marmande
Delta Coast Consultants, LLC

Vice Chair-Government Activities Division
Nicholas “Nick” Hebert
Quality Energy Services

Immediate Past Chairman of the Board
Chad Hebert
Safeworx Safety Solutions, LLC

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Melissa Adams
Danos

Deanne Benoit
Southern Human Resource Solutions, LLC

Carleton Casey, Jr.
Buquet Distributing Company

Kevin Champagne
MacDonell United Methodist Children’s Services

Monique Crochet
Nicholls State University

Kevin Ghirardi
Terrebonne General Medical Center

Charles Kornegay
Trapp Cadillac-Chevrolet, Inc.

Brett Means
Synergy Bank

Janel Ricca
b1BANK

Blanca Robinson
VIVA Consulting Group, LLC

John Rogers
b1BANK

Brian Rushing
Rushing Media

STAFF

Nicol Blanchard
CEO
nicol@houmachamber.com

Heidi Guidry
Communications and Events Coordinator
heidi@houmachamber.com

Cyndi Wilson
Executive Assistant
cyndi@houmachamber.com

Tara Wolfe
Sales and Membership Coordinator
tara@houmachamber.com
A RESOLUTION
by the
Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce

Requesting Governor John Bel Edwards
to enact COVID-19 Recovery Phases
and Restrictions on a Parish-by-Parish basis

WHEREAS the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
maintains a membership of over 600 businesses representing
over 15,000 employees, and

WHEREAS while managing the COVID-19 crises on a statewide
basis has been difficult for the entire state, prolonged restrictions
have created unnecessary hardships for Terrebonne Parish
businesses and residents, and

WHEREAS Terrebonne Parish’s hospital beds, ICU beds and venti-
lator rates have remained below capacity since early June, and

WHEREAS 140,497 individuals have been tested in Region 3 (includ-
ing Terrebonne Parish) with 13,299 being positive, indicating
an infection rate of 9.4 percent, and

WHEREAS 34,888 individuals have been tested in Terrebonne
Parish alone with 3,445 being positive, indicating an infection
rate of 9.8 percent, and

WHEREAS testing continues at numerous sites throughout the
region and parish, and

WHEREAS we have full confidence in the people of Terrebonne
Parish to continue safety protocols including the wearing of
masks and the practice of social distancing and proper sanita-
tion in order to be responsible, care about others above them-
selves and remain compliant as we enter into the fall and an-
other high risk health season, and

WHEREAS numerous businesses throughout Terrebonne are on
the brink of bankruptcy with many citizens having lost their jobs
and/or facing the threat of personal bankruptcy, and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber
of Commerce to move Terrebonne Parish forward into Phase
3 of the recovery while maintaining all of the required safety
protocols, and

WHEREAS we must balance economic prosperity and public
health.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
that the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce Board of
Directors does hereby urge and request Governor John Bel Edwards
to enact COVID-19 recovery phases and restrictions on a parish-by-parish
basis in lieu of the current statewide implementation and that
he make the criteria for any parish to enter Phase 3 available to
the leaders of each parish in the state.

On behalf of our board of directors, respectfully signed this
10th day of September, in the year 2020 by

Chuck Weaver, Jr., Chairman
Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce

Meet a CASA!

This month we would like to introduce you to CASA Volunteer, Amanda Leblanc. Amanda was sworn in on July 17, 2018 and was assigned a case soon after. Even though she knew the case she was assigned to would entail a long-term commitment, she readily agreed to it and is still working that same case to date.

Amanda was a CASA supporter before she ever decided to take the training class and become an advocate. She and her wife participated in the crawfish boil and 5K hosted by The Courville Foundation every year. Then one year she decided that being an advocate was something she could and would do. She wanted to be there for a young adult who felt they had no one to turn to.

Amanda has been married to Katelyn Leblanc since February 2018. They have 4 fur babies - Tyce, Arlo and Finn (dogs) and Minnie the cat. Amanda is the 8th grade girls P.E. teacher and volleyball coach at Evergreen Jr. High School. She loves anything Disney (notice the pet names) and enjoys cooking and spending time outdoors, camping and kayaking. For a good laugh, Amanda enjoys corny dad jokes. One day Amanda aspires to write a children’s book or a vegetarian/vegan Cajun cookbook.

When asked what advice she would give to someone thinking about becoming a CASA she said, “Advice I would give someone who wants to be a CASA would be to be as open and as positive as you can.”

Just like Amanda, you can be the voice for a child in foster care. Join our next training class beginning October 6, 2020. Fill out the online application at: www.casaofterrebonne.org Contact CASA at 985-876-0250 for more details.
Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce

Monday, October 26th • Tee off: 11 AM
Ellendale Country Club,
3319 LA-311, Houma

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce will host its 12th annual golf tournament! The Golf Classic features a number of perks and amenities including great food and drinks on the course as well as a number of prizes and awards for closest to the hole and longest drive. Call the Chamber office at (985) 876-5600 or email heidi@houmachamber.com for more information. We can’t wait to see you on the green!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 27 • 11:30 am-1:00 pm
Courtyard by Marriott, 142 Library Drive
Guest Speaker: Dr. Craig McClain, LUMCON
Sponsor: Delta Coast Consultants, LLC

Admission is $25 per Chamber member and $30 per non-Chamber member with payment required in advance. No walk-ups allowed. The registration and cancellation deadline is Wednesday, October 21st. Call the Chamber office at 985-876-5600 or email info@houmachamber.com to get more information and to register. SEATS ARE LIMITED and details are subject to change according to the latest COVID-19 mandates.

www.houmachamber.com
In August, the Chamber’s Community Development Committee visited with Dr. Chip Riggins, MD, MPH, Medical Director of the Louisiana Region 3 Office of Public Health (OPH), to discuss the facts and debunk the fiction about COVID-19 in our region. The FOCUS continues the discussion in this series, Part 2.

**Pandemic Update**

At the time of this writing, Governor John Bel Edwards had just announced Phase 3 of reopening during COVID-19, sandwiched between Hurricane Laura recovery and Hurricane Sally hitting the Gulf coast. In the midst of it all, the OpenSafely.la.gov business guidance took on new meaning, with an opportunity to catalyze partnerships for healthier workplaces and communities. Dr. Chip Riggins, Medical Director for the Region 3 Office of Public Health (OPH), feels the Chamber of Commerce has a vital role in facilitating Phase 3. If implemented correctly, he foresees the Phase 3 proclamation offering improved economic potential without risks to our health care system or worsening morbidity and mortality.

“The new COVID case data from Labor Day contacts and school interactions are presenting now,” says Dr. Riggins. He believes businesses that cater to school-age customers, young adults, or school staff can still help to control COVID-19 by requiring masks, distancing, and disinfectant protocols. He also hopes local employers will continue the preventive health practices that they adopted during the pandemic, making health protection and promotion a standard, written operations policy.

“My biggest ‘ask’ is that employers and individuals continue to assist the disease detective work of protecting others through effective contact tracing,” Dr. Riggins adds. To limit the spread of COVID among close contacts, Dr. Riggins advises against big outdoor or indoor parties, dances, or tailgating events that can result in campus or business closures, and preventable sicknesses. He stresses that we are far from done with COVID-19 since the hurricane and Fall flu season add to the challenge in Phase 3.

**Data-Driven Decisions**

OPH Region 3 works closely with the Louisiana Department of Health’s (LDH) Contact Tracing call center. With new support from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Foundation, Andrew Romaner joined the OPH-Region 3 team in September as the contact tracing specialist for the bayou and river region. Prior to the OPH-COVID assignment, he worked with the Catholic Charities network in New Orleans.

---

**FACT VERSUS FICTION**

**Dr. Riggins Sets the Facts Straight**

**FICTION**

I can shorten my close contact quarantine time if I get a COVID test result of negative.

**FACT**

Self-quarantine is 14 days following the last close contact with a COVID-sick/positive person, even if an immediate test has a negative result. It is best to take a COVID test 5-6 days after close contact for the most accurate results.

Dr. Riggins: “If a self-quarantined person tests positive for COVID19, they then switch to self-isolation for 10 days following the date of their COVID test.”

Schools cannot control COVID-19 from spreading.

**FACT**

Schools control the spread of COVID19 by pre-screening all people entering the campus, requiring masks, arranging 6’ distancing, disinfecting surfaces, quarantining close contacts of COVID-sick people and participating in contact tracing.

Dr. Riggins: “By adopting guidance and protocols recommended by the Department of Health, Department of Education, and Board of Regents, schools can be models for safe employee and customer (student/family) health practices that control the spread of COVID-19.”

COVID Phase 3 in Louisiana means the pandemic is almost over.

**FACT**

COVID Phase 3 can last months or years, depending on the continued rates of COVID illness and deaths among Louisiana residents.

Dr. Riggins: “As research sheds more light on SARS-CoV-2, monitoring our data trends and adapting to those while incorporating new updates to recommendations will help protect our Healthcare system and control the pandemic during Phase 3 and beyond.”
The health equity challenges in our state that it’s a cross-cutting issue between economic, social determinants of health. It’s a natural transition from her previous role with the OPH Opioid Epidemic initiative.

“Data depiction is important to decision making and contact tracing during the pandemic,” Dr. Riggins confirms. “It’s also critical as we move from the response phase, when disparities in disease and death rates varied widely across populations, to the recovery phase, when our actions to improve health equity will build community resilience and preparedness for the next disaster.”

**Stewardship for Community Health Equity**

“Our greatest asset in the bayou region is clearly our people,” says Jeanne Solis, Community Health Improvement Specialist for the Office of Public Health in Region 3. Being a champion of health equity for people across the whole community is a stewardship role for Chamber of Commerce members, Ms. Solis believes, explaining that it’s a cross-cutting issue between economic, educational, government, and social factors.

The health equity challenges in our state have been spotlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. To find solutions, Governor Edwards formed the Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force and subcommittees in April 2020. Nicholls State University faculty member, Tina B. Granger, MSW, LMSW, Sociology Program Coordinator, serves on the Task Force’s sub-Committee for Community Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement. Her key concerns for local health equity during the COVID-19 epidemic are 1) access to healthcare, and 2) availability of credible information regarding the transference, symptomatology, and recovery. Both concerns are addressed in the Task Force recommendations available at [https://www.sus.edu/assets/LaCOVID/AUGUST-COVID-Task-Force-Subcommittee-Reports.pdf](https://www.sus.edu/assets/LaCOVID/AUGUST-COVID-Task-Force-Subcommittee-Reports.pdf).

“Relative to access to health services, there is a need for free COVID19 testing to the general public on a regular basis,” Ms. Granger stresses. “This healthcare access should not be on the outskirts of major cities, but located in areas where impoverished populations exist.” She also sees a need for media outlets to run public service announcements during high participation times to provide current data and accurate information about COVID-19.

**The Power of Health Policies**

To help organization stewards of health equity, the Office of Public Health offers policy templates and technical assistance through its no-cost program known as Well-Ahead Louisiana. By implementing various written health policies, workplaces can progress through various “Well-Spot” designation levels. The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber was among the first organizations in the region to achieve a WellSpot designation in 2016, with 49 WellSpot private and governmental sites now in Terrebonne parish. Details and resources are available at: [http://wellaheadla.com/WellSpots/Well-Spot-Benchmarks](http://wellaheadla.com/WellSpots/Well-Spot-Benchmarks).

An overlooked way that businesses can help to build a healthier community is to make it a policy to promote employees and their families to have a “medical home,” reminds Dr. Riggins. As opposed to an emergency room, emergency clinic, or public health unit, a medical home facilitates a patient’s total needs, beginning with preventive care, to acute care and chronic conditions. “Having a primary care medical home is a simple but elegant way to increase access to healthcare, improve trust, centralize individual health records, and eliminate waste in healthcare services,” says Dr. Riggins.

Businesses that employ hourly workers who lack full health benefits can still inspire wellness by encouraging and allowing their employees time to seek their health services through a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic, recommends Dr. Riggins. In our region, these facilities offer a safety net of Internists, Pediatricians, Family Physicians, and Nurse Practitioners. Many offer dental, pharmacy, nutrition, and behavioral health services as well.

**Culture of Health**

Ms. Solis reflects on Wednesday evenings, pre-COVID, which she reserved for playing accordion and singing with friends in the Cajun Music Preservation Society jam sessions. Like the music jam sessions, Ms. Solis sees how Chambers of Commerce convene people around a collective interest in the local quality of life. She stresses that aligning plans and resources is vital to resiliency through COVID, hurricane, and economic recoveries in this decade. That includes continually assessing what matters locally, comparing cultural values with data, considering recent forces of change, current community strengths, and the health system capacity derived through partnerships.

Several health-focused collaborations exist for Terrebonne Parish, including Healthy Houma, the Terrebonne chapter of Trauma-Informed LA, the Terrebonne Addiction Coalition, the Emergency Preparedness team, and the Chamber’s health committee, and others. The Chamber is catalyzing the success of this collective action network (CAN) in their public health endeavors. More information is available at [MyParishCAN.com](http://www.MyParishCAN.com). And as Mawmaw says, “Mais, oui, cher.” We can be healthy in south Louisiana.
We love the energy of our new members. They come into the Chamber family fired up, eyes facing forward, and are networking fiends. This month we are featuring New Chamber Member Phoenix Waste Solutions. We sat with Tamara Webb, President, and Yuen Li Chan, President of Sales to learn how they’re making a difference in our carbon footprint.

Phoenix Waste Solutions is a woman-owned business that is based in Chauvin in Terrebonne Parish. They have developed a machine that can thermally reduce 4-8 tons of mixed solid waste into 2% ash per day, without using any fuel or producing pollution, and at less than half the cost of landfill tipping fees. ‘The Phoenix’ is deliberately designed small so that communities can responsibly dispose of their own waste at source, saving both the cost and carbon footprint of transporting waste to centralized landfills. They also believe there are opportunities for beneficial reuse of the ash residue as a construction material for bricks or as a soil amendment. The machine is proudly manufactured in Chauvin! You can watch a video on the company’s website (phoenix-waste-solutions.com) about the exciting new green technology. Phoenix Waste Solutions is a new company that was incorporated in November 2019 and it’s currently ran by the two founders!

Tammy Webb and Yuen-Li Chan partnered to form Phoenix Waste Solutions to bring this breakthrough technology to fruition in order to sustainably and definitively solve the world’s trash problem.

Passionate outdoors women who love to kitesurf, whitewater kayak, mountain bike, rock climb and fish, they were moved by witnessing the effects of climate change in environments they love so much. They decided to throw their considerable energies and life savings into developing The Phoenix, both as a technology and a means of climate resilience. “We are just ordinary people who have committed ourselves to fighting for this planet.”

Tammy Webb is a petroleum and geological engineer with over 35 years’ experience as a key player at the forefront of deep-water wells operations technology both in the United States and around the world. With degrees in Petroleum engineering and Geological engineering from Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, Tammy worked in New Orleans for many years before retiring to Chauvin. After figuring out that she could not fish and kitesurf endlessly, she decided to come out of retirement for this venture.

Yuen-Li Chan hails from Malaysia where she was a successful entrepreneur and responsible for developing adventure tourism industry in that country. With her law degree from the University of Lancaster in the United Kingdom, and experience as an award-winning journalist, Yuen-Li has also been an environmental activist for the last 30 years. She moved to New Orleans in 2014.

The pair said that they were attracted to live here because of the area’s unique natural environment. It was very easy for them to start the business here as there are ample and quality manufacturing resources for them to tap into. They strongly believe that →
“Patience, critical thinking, integrity in decision making, and the ability to rise above outside influences are principles by which I plan to honor if elected as your next district judge. For too often, litigants come into court scared and fearful that the cards are stacked against them. People want to have faith that a judge is going to do all they can to be fair and that he or she will take the time and be willing to get down to the bottom of where the truth is sometimes hiding without being influenced by confirmation bias. I believe my passion and zeal for justice, combined with a wide array of diverse courtroom experiences over the past 21 years, places me in a unique position to honor and respect the rule of law.

I am a lifelong conservative Republican, who believes in personal responsibility and frugality regarding our tax dollars. My primary concern has always focused on being fair and seeking justice. I have built a reputation amongst my peers in providing honest and transparent representation to my clients. My word is my bond. I don’t consider myself to be tough on crime nor soft on crime, rather smart on crime. I will do my best to reduce recidivism with the goal of protecting our citizens and at the same time putting people in the best position to become taxpayers not tax burdens. I appreciate your consideration on November 3rd.” – Timothy C. Ellender, Jr.

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce does not endorse any candidates.
Girls on the Run Bayou Region Unveils GOTR at Home Activity Kit

Girls on the Run (GOTR) Bayou Region unveiled the GOTR at Home Activity Kit to help keep area girls active and healthy while inspiring creativity, encouraging movement, and teaching new skills. Girls on the Run Bayou Region is a leader in developing and delivering life-changing programs for girls through school program sites across the region and has served more than 3,500 girls since its founding in 2011.

“Providing girls with opportunities to develop empathy, build resiliency, and identify and understand their values, choices, and emotions, are important now more than ever before,” said Ashlee Laiche, Council Director, Girls on the Run Bayou Region, “it is never too early for girls to learn how to put these important skills into practice. This kit will help girls move, laugh and grow, and in the process find their inner girl power.”

The at-home kit includes 50 activities to fuel girls’ mind, body and spirit that emphasize the important connection between physical and emotional health. Each activity helps girls learn important skills such as how to cope when things get difficult, demonstrate care for self and others, and practice positivity. From the silly starters to the fun movement games and challenges, the activities were designed to get girls to laugh, create, and grow.

Available starting now at https://www.gotrbayouregion.org/GOTR-At-Home, the kit is $49 and includes: The GOTR at Home Activity Book, an exclusive GRL PWR t-shirt, Physical Activity Training Plan, Completion Certificate, and a few other fun surprises, delivered directly to her doorstep.

The nonprofit organization is also raising funds to provide sponsored kits to girls within the community, visit https://www.gotrbayouregion.org/Donate to make a donation.

Added Ashlee, “For almost 10 years, our council has done everything we can to support all girls as they navigate adolescence. This kit will help her grow her confidence and realize her full potential.”

Danos Wraps Innovative Coastal Restoration Project

Danos recently completed a project requiring the installation reef structure into the marsh of Golden Meadow. Planning for the project began in late February, and the installation in Catfish Lake was completed by a Danos construction crew at the end of July.

“Louisiana’s coast is vital to our local communities, as well as our industry,” said Owner Paul Danos. “We are excited to be a part of this innovative initiative to prevent erosion and strengthen our wetlands.”

The infrastructure was designed and fabricated through 3D printing technology by partner Natrx. Danos strategically installed 45 modules, ranging in weight from 350 to 700 pounds, to provide maximum protection to Louisiana’s marsh land. In the fall, oyster spat will be seeded into the barriers, allowing an expected 1-million pounds of oysters, vegetation and sediment to accrue over the next three years.

In addition to this latest project, Danos is working to restore Louisiana’s coast through participation in Partnership for Our Working Coast, an alliance of industry and environmental partners led by The Water Institute of the Gulf. Other members of the partnership include Chevron, Shell and the Greater Lafourche Port Commission. The partnership is working toward protecting vital infrastructure in Port Fourchon through nature-based solutions.

OMS is here to answer your Coronavirus concerns

Our prayers are with our community.

Since 1997, Occupational Medicine Services, LLS (OMS) has provided medical and testing services for business and industry at our clinic in Houma. Today, our certified staff remains committed to delivering quality care efficiently to promote your employees’ health.

- Pre-Employment Testing and Annual Physicals
- Drug & Alcohol Screening
- Ergonomic & Agility Assessments
- Injury Care

OMS Occupational Medicine Services

Celebrating 23 Years

144 Valhi Lagoon Crossing, Houma, LA 70360  ·  (985) 223-0032  ·  www.omshouma.com

Staff healthcare providers are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Nicholls, Tulane University School of Medicine Finalize ABA Partnership

Nicholls State University and Tulane University School of Medicine have finalized a partnership that will allow Nicholls graduate students in the ABA program to complete experiential rotations at the Tulane Center for Autism Related Disorders (TCARD) ABA Clinic.

This partnership provides Nicholls candidates the necessary experience to complete their degree, and Tulane will receive a steady workforce stream to help them operate their expanding center.

“The Tulane center provides necessary services to south Louisiana, such as diagnostic evaluations. It speaks to the quality of our program that they chose to work with us,” Dr. Gautreaux said. “Now, with the expansion of their center and with our candidates, they will be able to take the clients they were testing and offer them on-site services.”

The licensed behavior analyst at the TCARD ABA Clinic is Jenny Cronier, a former Nicholls graduate of the Nicholls ABA program. Eligible Nicholls candidates must be enrolled in the Master of Education in curriculum and instruction with a high incidence disabilities concentration with an applied behavior analysis option.

Under the agreement, Nicholls will set the curriculum and objectives of the rotation, while Tulane will oversee the candidates on their rotation. Nicholls ABA faculty, Dr. Grant Gautreaux, associate professor of teacher education, and Dr. Derek Shanman, assistant professor of teacher education, will visit the Tulane center once a week to supervise and observe the candidates.

“We are seeing more and more candidates from the New Orleans area and we want to make sure they have access to a high-quality, progressive workplace. So, we combined forces with Tulane,” Dr. Gautreaux said. “This is going to be important for the building and expanding of our program. This will benefit our recruitment, extend our reach and improve our research. This will be a fruitful partnership.”

Nicholls ABA program aims to prepare educators and clinicians to implement intervention strategies to reach students with a variety of challenges. The ABA option prepares candidates to become licensed behavior analysts in Louisiana as well as achieve national certification.

Nicholls’ program is only one of two in the world to offer certifications through the Behavior Analyst Certification Board and the Comprehensive Application of Behavior Analysis to Schooling Board, which are internationally recognized certifications. In 2018, Action Behavioral Centers named Nicholls’ program one of the best in the country. For more information on the ABA program, visit www.nicholls.edu/education/graduate-programs/curriculum-and-instruction-m-ed.

Shell Provides School Supply Donation for Local Students

Shell Oil Company (Shell) provided more than 250 backpacks filled with school supplies to Terrebonne Parish students. Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence (TFAE) helped to facilitate the donation among all 26 local elementary and middle schools.

“It’s an honor to work with local and regional businesses such as Shell to provide resources to our local students,” Katie Portier, TFAE Executive Director said. “We are grateful for Shell’s generosity and know these supplies will help students feel confident to succeed this school year.”

The backpacks include paper, folders, pencil holders, and other supplies appropriate for Kindergarteners through sixth graders. If in need of school supplies, parents can contact their child’s school main office.

“Shell is grateful for this opportunity to assist students and parents in Terrebonne to get the supplies that they need to have a safe and successful school year ahead” said Rick Tallant, Shell’s Vice President Gulf of Mexico.

A WORLD OF EXPERIENCE IN YOUR HOMETOWN.

You don’t have to search far and wide for professionals that can handle your most complicated accounting needs. Bourgeois Bennett brings the power of the industry’s leading staff right to your neighborhood. We are one of the state’s top accounting and consulting firms offering a myriad of services from tax planning for businesses and individuals and audit and assurance to litigation and forensic accounting. We are also your neighbors and eager to share our years of accumulated knowledge to help you reach your goals or prepare for the unexpected. Call us today and let us show you how we can help you thrive without leaving home.

bourgeoisbennett.com
Confidence comes with knowing who you can trust. LaPorte’s commitment goes deep.

Proving ourselves to our clients is a commitment we make every day – and have for over 70 years. We stand (and sometimes sit) by our clients over the long haul: as they face difficult challenges and new opportunities. With LaPorte, you gain industry knowledge, technical resources, and broad perspectives and understanding. As your trusted advisor, we instill the deep confidence you need to make big and bold decisions – over the lifetime of your business needs.

CALL US AT:
504.835.5522 (New Orleans)
985.892.5850 (Covington)
985.851.2433 (Houma)

© 2020, LaPorte, APAC
Local Education Foundation Celebrates 30 Years of Impact

Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence in Public Education (TFAE) is proud to celebrate 30 years of education and achievement in Terrebonne Parish. Since its inception, TFAE has funded more than $1.2 million dollars in grants to Terrebonne Parish public school teachers among other accomplishments.

TFAE’s mission is to establish a perpetual source of funding to provide additional resources to foster academic excellence in public education. Through the help of donors, local businesses, and community partnerships, TFAE continues that mission today through its established grant program and through the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

Through its grants program, TFAE has funded more than $1.2 million dollars in grants to local educators for classroom supplies, technology, and innovative projects. In the 2019-2020 school year alone, TFAE facilitated more than $120,000 in funding to directly benefit teachers and students. In 2012, TFAE brought the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to Terrebonne Parish as an early childhood literacy program. Through this program, registered children receive an age-appropriate book every month until their fifth birthday at no cost to their families. Research has shown that early reading increases literacy skills, motor skills, and Kindergarten readiness. TFAE also recognizes local Distinguished Scholars and Inspirational Educators and in recent years created a Lending Library book exchange program and a Girls Who Code technology camp.

“We celebrate this milestone with the many individuals, businesses, and organizations who have partnered with TFAE and donated to benefit local education over the last 30 years,” Katie Portier, TFAE Executive Director, said. “It is only with their support that together we have made an incredible impact on our community and will continue to do so for years to come.”

Portier notes that the organization’s efforts are matched by teachers and administrators who are making a difference in education every day.

“Our mission is to help foster academic excellence, but our local educators are the ones doing the hard work in creating safe and positive learning environments, connecting with children, and shaping our community’s future,” Katie said. “We are so proud to work alongside them to enhance education within our schools.”

TFAE will celebrate and take a look back at the last 30 years throughout the 2020-2021 school year culminating with a final celebration at their annual TFAE 5K Run for Excellence and Food Fest. You can follow along on their website at www.tfae.org/30-years and their Facebook page www.facebook.com/houmatfae.
The Foundation for TGMC Receives a Charitable Donation from the Burguieres Family

Terrebonne General Medical Center (TGMC) and The Foundation for TGMC would like to recognize and show their appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Bobby Burguieres and his wife Lauren along with Gary Daigle of Magnum Mud Equipment Company (MMECO) for their very generous donation to The Foundation for TGMC. A check presentation was held honoring the Burguieres Family and Magnum Mud.

“The Burguieres’ have been a long-standing pillar in our community and the Foundation thanks Mr. Bobby Burguieres, the late “Linda B”, current wife Gail, his son Paul H. Burguieres and his wife Lauren along with Gary Daigle of Magnum Mud for choosing to be a partner of the TGMC family,” said Tony Herques, Foundation for TGMC Board Chairman.

Mr. Chapman Hyams “Bobby” Burguieres Jr. was born in 1948 in New Iberia and has lived in Houma since 1974 when he married Linda Sue Greene. They had two sons, C.H. “Bumper” Burguieres III and Paul Henry Burguieres. Mrs. Linda and Bumper have since passed away. He was remarried to Gail Heard in 2019. Mr. Burguieres is a Vietnam War Veteran who was awarded a Bronze Star, achieved rank of E5 before being honorably discharged in 1970. Mr. Burguieres is the President and CEO of Magnum Mud Equipment Co., Inc. which he and his late wife, Linda, started in 1981. This specialty tank and logistics rental company has expanded covering most of the Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama Gulf Coast. MMECO at one time had four full service facilities and eight additional locations at strategic ports. It has grown into one of the largest privately owned specialty tank and logistics equipment rental businesses supporting the Gulf of Mexico Oil, Gas and Energy industry. Mr. Burguieres has served on the board of South Louisiana Bank Board for over 20 years, Chairman of the Board for two (2) years and currently remains a board member today. He is also a member of various business and civic organizations and this past January he joined The Foundation for TGMC as a board member. He and his family have always supported organizations, causes and needs of the community whether it be academic, athletic or charitable, and they will continue to do so on both the forefront as well as behind the scenes.

“Given the current conditions of our industry, community and our neighboring communities; it is with immense pride from humbled beginnings that at this time in our lives, we are honored to be able to give back to the area we all call home; where we have been blessed to live, work and raise our families,” said Mr. Burguieres.

“It is through the generous support of The Burguieres Family and Magnum Mud Equipment Company and their donation that the Foundation will be able to continue to assist TGMC in building upon its mission of providing exceptional healthcare with compassion,” added Herques. Funds will be used to initiate and enhance programs, activities and equipment at TGMC so that the residents of our community may enjoy healthier and more productive lives. “It is through partnerships with local business and families, The Foundation for TGMC is able to fund so many wonderful community programs,” Herques explained.

The Foundation for TGMC is eternally grateful to the Burguieres Family for being a part of our TGMC family and for truly making a difference in our community. The Foundation for TGMC believes that its donors are heroes, and to show their appreciation, The Foundation has recognized their donation with their name on the TGMC Donor Wall at the main entrance of the hospital. Signage was also placed in both the Women’s Center Waiting Area where the first grandchild of the family, Miss Lydia Emma Burguieres, was welcomed and the Critical Care Unit Waiting Room in honor of the late Mrs. Linda B and the families of all the loved ones who have needed and will continue to need use of this area. For more information please visit www.foundation.tgmc.com or call 985-873-4603.
Fletcher Technical Community College Earns Level 1 Wellspot Designation

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) recently designated Fletcher Technical Community College as a Level 1 WellSpot (the highest level of designation). WellSpots are spaces and places throughout our state that make the healthy choice the easy choice to help their communities live well.

LDH designates organizations as WellSpots after they voluntarily meet wellness benchmarks that correspond to their organization type - worksite, childcare center, school, college/university, restaurant, faith-based organization, healthcare facility, or hospital. This could mean going tobacco-free, becoming breastfeeding-friendly, offering healthy vending options, or implementing worksite wellness programming. These benchmarks not only affect the organization’s employees, but also those that it serves – students, patients, patrons and more.

“We at Fletcher demonstrate our commitment to the health and wellness of our college community,” commented Gina Marcel, Director of Human Resources, and Wellness Coordinator. “Healthier employees are happier, they miss less work, they are more productive, and their healthcare costs go down. Healthier students are better learners.”

In preparation for this designation, Fletcher has implemented a comprehensive tobacco-free campus policy, a breastfeeding-friendly policy, employee wellness programs, and student health and wellness services. Earlier this year, the college implemented “Who’s Walking Wednesday?” Every Wednesday individuals would take some time out of their day to walk one mile together and send photos of their time outside. After the COVID quarantine, faculty and staff still took time to walk and sent photos of their walks or bike rides with their families and pets. A few of the health-minded activities at Fletcher include Health Check-Ups, Immunizations, End of Semester Games, the Fresh Market, the Light-as-a-Feather Cookbook, and Little Free Library, which provides free resources to employees on the topics of professional development and work/life balance.

“I am proud of our Fletcher family for participating in our offerings, even during COVID,” commented Ms. Marcel. “The feedback we receive from our employees is great.” Below are a few of the quotes received from employees:

• “Living a happier & healthier life.”
• “Interacting and bonding with colleagues.”
• “Feel better throughout the day.”
• “ HOLDS them accountable.”
• “Seeing pictures is nice.”

As a WellSpot, Fletcher joins over 3,000 leaders throughout the state that are putting the health and wellness of Louisiana’s residents first. Together, WellSpots across the state can combat the prevalence of obesity, tobacco use and other chronic diseases. This shapes a future that gives all Louisiana residents the chance to feel better and enjoy life longer. To learn more about Well-Ahead Louisiana, visit www.wellaheadla.com.

Thibodaux Regional Welcomes Dr. Katie Flower, Urologist, to the Medical Staff

Thibodaux Regional Health System is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Katie Flower, Urologist, to the active medical staff. Dr. Flower is available to care for patients at Thibodaux Regional Urology Clinic located 504 North Acadia Road, Thibodaux, (985) 448-3055.

Dr. Flower received her medical degree from Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio, and completed her Residency at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina. She is a member of the American Urological Association and the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society.

Dr. Flower specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of genitourinary problems in men and women as well as conditions involving the male reproductive system.

According to Dr. Flower, the idea of being involved with a new urology team at Thibodaux Regional was very exciting to her. Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming, which has made the transition for her much easier. Dr. Flower looks forward to providing patients with well-rounded urologic care.
Talk with Your Doctor About Prostate Cancer Screening

A Conversation That Could Save Your Life.

Prostate Cancer Screening Guidelines:

AGE 50 FOR MEN WHO ARE AT AVERAGE RISK of prostate cancer and are expected to live at least 10 more years.

AGE 45 FOR MEN AT HIGH RISK of developing prostate cancer. This includes African Americans and men who have a first-degree relative (father, brother, or son) diagnosed with prostate cancer at an early age (younger than age 65).

AGE 40 FOR MEN AT EVEN HIGHER RISK (those with more than one first-degree relative who had prostate cancer at an early age).

And if no prostate cancer has been found as a result of a screening, the time between future screenings should be: Every 2 years with a PSA less than 2.5 and every year with a PSA of 2.5 or higher.

*Recommendations according to the American Cancer Society.

If you don’t have a doctor or would like more information, call: 985.493.4008.