

Local News

Ruston LDCC receives nearly \$600K grant

By:

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Updated: Jun 26, 2018 01:19 PM CDT



RUSTON, La. (Press Release) - Ruston-Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC) is the recipient of a \$598,973 Advanced Technological Education Grant from the National Science Foundation.

Project COMPLETE (Controlling, Operating, and Measuring: Pathways for Learners to Engineering Technology Employment) is a collaboration between Louisiana Delta Community College and Louisiana Tech University. Says Dennis Epps, Chancellor for LDCC, “This grant award is the result of a strong collaboration between Louisiana Tech and Louisiana Delta Community College and will enable both institutions to continue to develop talent to advance the region's advanced manufacturing workforce.”

According to Fred Dedrick, the Executive Director of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS), “In the American south, where advanced manufacturing is a relatively recent growth industry, the skills gap is very real...” The skills gap is due to the retirement of Baby Boomers exiting the workforce making the partnership with LDCC & Louisiana Tech University very timely.

The goals of the program are to increase engineering technology career pathways for high school students, engage and retain these students through college, and ensure they are employable upon graduation.

“We are pleased to have the strong collaboration between our faculties that led to this grant being developed. This should have a major impact on enhanced pathways for education that will drive economic prosperity for our region.” shares Dr. Les Guice, Louisiana Tech University President.

Doug Postel, Campus Director for LDCC-Ruston is both excited and grateful. “We are extremely excited about this opportunity and the honor that comes with this prestigious award. Much credit goes to Dr. Mikey Swanbom at Louisiana Tech. It was his vision and leadership that made this grant opportunity possible. He led throughout the entire process and we would not have this award if it were not for him. We look forward to working with our partners at Louisiana Tech and high schools throughout North Louisiana as we prepare students for valuable careers in advanced manufacturing engineering,” explains Postel.

An official announcement will take place at the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce located 2111 N.

Trenton Street in Ruston, Tuesday, June 26, 2018 beginning promptly at 2:30 and concluding at 3 p.m.

“We are excited to have this partnership with Louisiana Delta Community College, our high school partners, and the College of Engineering and Science at Louisiana Tech. This project will help further integrate the pipeline of students interested in instrumentation technology to create multiple pathways for those students to fill needed positions in industry,” says Dr. Hisham Hegab, Dean of the College of Engineering and Science at Louisiana Tech University.

Regional manufacturers will appreciate this news as well. Most already have relationships with both institutions and have partnered aggressively to fill their skills gap. This grant is a bonus in that effort.

“The region is committed to helping existing manufacturers grow and to attract further investment to the region to improve our economy and prosperity. Both institutions are committed to this goal and working aggressively with K-12 systems to promote high tech career opportunities and to develop interest in these opportunities among students,” says Epps, “Economic development is a team sport and we are delighted to have a strong partnership with Louisiana Tech in this pursuit.”

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