

GOV. EDWARDS' PLAN TO MAKE LOUISIANA'S WORKFORCE THE **MOST JOB-READY IN THE COUNTRY**



GIVE LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOLERS UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASSES.

Dual enrollment has proven to be a remarkably successful way of helping Louisiana students attend and complete two and four-year higher education programs. Unfortunately, these gains have disproportionately gone to students in cities and in close proximity to higher education institutions. African-American students make up nearly half of Louisiana's high school population, but only one-fifth of the dual enrollment participants. Those underserved students are less likely to wind up in a good-paying job. We can close this achievement gap by ensuring every high school student in Louisiana has access to dual enrollment courses.

INCREASE ACCESS TO THE INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM.

The Incumbent Worker Training Program helps businesses pay to train their employees and create or retain jobs. As the economy improves, Louisiana is seeing positive growth to the Unemployment Trust Fund, which employers pay into for every covered worker they employ. As that fund grows, we can and should increase access to the Incumbent Worker Training Program, making training services available to more Louisiana businesses.

RE-ENACT THE LOUISIANA APPRENTICESHIP TAX CREDIT.

The apprenticeship tax credit will incentivize businesses to employ apprentices, thus increasing apprenticeship enrollment. Those apprentices will learn the skills needed to get high-paying jobs, while allowing employers to train and retain the workers they need to expand their businesses.

KEEP LOUISIANA FASTSTART THE BEST WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY AND USE IT TO SECURE MORE RECORD-BREAKING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

Louisiana Economic Development's FastStart program works with new and expanding companies to tailor comprehensive recruiting, screening and state-of-the-art training solutions to prepare Louisianans for the new jobs being created. FastStart has been used to secure major economic development projects for Louisiana, like the record-breaking DXC Technologies Digital Transformation Center. For nine years in a row, Business Facilities magazine has named FastStart the best state workforce program in the country. We must continue to support FastStart as it evolves to meet complex workforce development challenges. We will keep this program America's best.

STUDY JOB TRAINING BENCHMARKS FOR COMPANIES RECEIVING PUBLIC CONTRACTS AND INCENTIVES.

Other states have required companies that receive public contracts or economic development incentives to dedicate a small percentage of man-hours in apprenticeable occupations to registered apprentices. We should study these benchmarks, and see if they could provide substantial benefit to Louisiana's workforce, without raising costs on taxpayers or hampering economic development.

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UPGRADE THE EXISTING WORKFORCE AND DEVELOP BRIDGE OPPORTUNITIES.

It is essential that we create "bridge opportunities" that connect the right people to the right job through the most direct path possible.

PROMOTE PORTABLE INDUSTRY-BASED CREDENTIALS.

Portable credentials are a key way to ensure Louisiana's workforce is nimble and fluid enough to meet the ever-changing needs of the economy. We should promote these credentials to individuals and businesses.

ENGAGE OUR YOUTH POPULATION, PARTICULARLY THOSE NOT PREPARING FOR TRADITIONAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION PATH AND THOSE THAT ARE UNDERSERVED.

We should expand on the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program that has demonstrated proven success under Gov. Edwards. We can promote occupational paths that provide work opportunities, such as apprenticeships in high demand occupations.

PROVIDE ADDITIONAL JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE RECEIVING FOOD ASSISTANCE.

We can increase support for the SNAP employment & training program, which brings unemployed or underemployed people into the workforce and off of public assistance. We will partner with nonprofit work training programs and Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges.

UTILIZE LOUISIANA'S NATIONAL GUARD TO PREPARE OUR YOUTH FOR THE WORKFORCE.

We can provide structured and targeted education, life skills coaching, and occupational training through Louisiana National Guard's three Youth ChalleNGe Programs, three STARBASE Programs, and a new Job ChalleNGe Program to increase opportunities for Louisiana's "At-Risk" youth.