

Calcasieu Workforce Gazette

It is simple math –

High Skills = Good Jobs = Great Pay = Comfortable Lifestyle

It is an exciting time to be living in Southwest Louisiana. More than \$40 billion worth capital construction projects have been announced in the five parish area. Thousands of new jobs that pay good wages are coming. Many of these jobs offer career pathways open more opportunities to our workers.

In order to qualify for these jobs, you must have education, training, skills, and experience in a career discipline. In the 21st century Information Age workforce, everyone must have a high school diploma or GED at a bare minimum to qualify for an entry level position in any upwardly mobile career field. More than two-thirds of the jobs in Southwest Louisiana will require education and training beyond the high school diploma or GED, but less than a four-year Bachelor's degree.

Employers' expectations of new employees at all levels are that they not only have the technical skills but that they also conform to established workplace standards. This includes arriving on time and staying the full time each day, arrive rested, healthy and ready for work, good grooming personal hygiene, professional appearance, drug-free, alcohol-free, and dressed in attire appropriate for the working environment. Personal cell phones, text messages, e-mails, tweets, instant messages, etc... should not be used during working hours. Many workplaces require body piercings to be removed for safety reasons and tattoos must be covered out of respect for coworkers and customers.

As an employee, you must understand that your employer does not pay you to do nothing. You must use all of your time on the job being productive. This involves understanding the mission and goals of the company and making them your own. You must know what the company produces for its customers. That product brings in the revenue which allows your employer to pay you. Therefore, your work must support your company's product. You have to treat everyone you work for as your customer. Their satisfaction with your product will impact the revenue you take in the form of payroll wages. Remember also that raises are not given, they are earned.

The future is bright for our next generation of workers in Southwest Louisiana. It is up to them to stay in school, pursue education and training programs aimed at preparing them to enter the workforce in their chosen career field. By focusing on learning and perfecting higher and higher levels of job skills and productivity, the opportunities to advance their careers will be abundant. Just remember: high skills lead to job jobs that pay top wages affording you a comfortable lifestyle.

By: Richard B Smith, The SWLA Economic Development Alliance



Upcoming Community Events:

WIA Orientation Fall Semester

7/29/2013

Times: 9am & 1pm

Location: Business & Career Solutions Center

Address: 2424 3rd Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601

Back to School Bash

8/1/2013

Times: 6pm-10pm

Location: Lake Charles Civic Center

Address: 900 Lakeshore Dr, Lake Charles, LA 70601

Leadership Seminar Resume Builder

8/30/2013

Times: 4pm-5pm

Location: Business & Career Solutions Center

Address: 2424 3rd Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601

Trivia: Who invented the telephone?

Participant of the Month

Calcasieu Workforce Center
YOUTH DEPARTMENT

2424 3rd Street
Lake Charles , LA 70601

Phone: 337-721-4010
Fax: 337-721-4186
E-mail: cwc_youth@lwia51.com

This program is sponsored by the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, in conjunction with the Workforce Investment Board, and the Louisiana Workforce Commission and funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

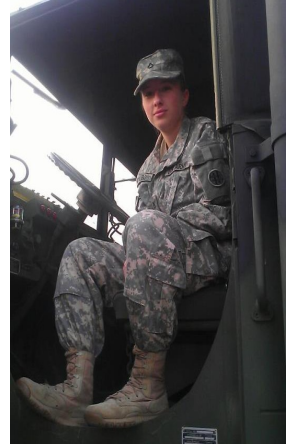


Motivational and honorable is Ms. Amanda Hidalgo. Amanda is enlisted in the Army National Guard. When she's not called away for basic training she still serve her community as a registered Certified Nurse Assistant.

Upon enrollment into the WIA program, Amanda's assessment results revealed she had several barriers to employment. Despite these obstacles, she was passionate about giving back to her community by caring for those in need.

Currently, Amanda is employed as a CNA at Lake Charles Memorial Hospital, working up to 60 hours a week caring for her extended family (patients). Since working as a CNA, Amanda has secured stable living arrangement and purchased a new car.

Amanda is truly phenomenal!



Congratulations Amanda!!!

We're on the web!

cppj.net/index.aspx?page=1301



Like us on Facebook: Calcasieu Workforce Center Youth Program

YOUTH GETTING INVOLVED



The Calcasieu Workforce Center, Youth Department would like to extend their thanks to Dr. Earl Soileau, Board Certified Adolescent and Family Medicine physician of Lake Charles Memorial Hospital and all the participants that attended the "Stress Management", Leadership Seminar. Leadership seminars are held once a month and open to the public.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!