



NORCO

Newsline

Norco Manufacturing Complex



NMC Introduces **CAREER POSSIBILITIES** to St. Charles Parish Students

St. Charles Parish Public Schools Instrumentation Technology students get ready to tour the Robert Training Facility to get a better understanding of the real world of work in the petrochemical industry.

Instrumentation Technology students from Destrehan and Hahnville High Schools recently spent the morning at the Robert Training Center, touring the grounds and speaking to instructors about a career in instrumentation technology. Interested in getting more young people to consider the field, Norco Manufacturing Complex provides support and resources to both of the St. Charles Parish Public Schools curriculum.



Destrehan and Hahnville High School students are intrigued with a close up look at the equipment and processes involved in the Instrumentation Technology field.



Students answer questions about industrial equipment they studied in the classroom.



A Lifeboat Load and Launch demonstration for Instrumentation Technology students included a pedal boat ride.

The students were greeted by Facilities Manager **Larry Blakely** with a welcome and safety briefing, then split into two groups to get the full Robert Training Center experience. Training Center Instructors **Steve Cantrell** and **John Stout** introduced them to the Production and Electrical Labs, asking and answering questions, putting the knowledge the students learned in school to the test. Instructor **Curt Bourgeois** presented Basic Offshore Operations Skills Training (BOOST), showcasing the high-tech control room and leading them on a tour of off-shore responsibilities.

A highlight of the tour was the Helicopter Underwater Egress Training Theatre Demonstration (HUET). The 75-mph wind machines and high waves quickly peaked the students' interest. Instructor **Jamie Truett** led a Fire Field demonstration and Instructor **Derek Joyner** directed them to put on life jackets, helmets and safety glasses to participate in a Lifeboat Load and Launch demonstration.

"This was pretty awesome," said **Dylan Blai**, a Destrehan High School junior.

"The tour was really nice," agreed **Kalyn Joseph**, a Hahnville High junior.

"My favorite part was the boat ride in the lake."

Jacob Spanier, a senior at Hahnville was also impressed. "It was a good learning experience. All the demonstrations and trainings showed me what I should expect in the future. Seeing the whole facility and what the job would look like was really good."

"We got to see what it's like in the field and did a lot of hands on stuff which gave me a real-life perspective on things instead of just reading it out of a textbook," added Destrehan junior grader **Kyle Vicknair**. "It seems like something I could really get into."

"I was really surprised at the interaction between the kids and the instructors," NMC Electrical and Instrumentation Support Supervisor **Frank Matherne** noted. "A lot of questions were asked. I asked them what they thought of it all and all of them were really interested, which is exactly what we want."

Destrehan High School Career Development Facilitator **Stefanie Ward** believes that the field trip opportunities broaden student horizons. "I appreciate NMC allowing our students to have the opportunity to experience, not only the training that people in the working world experience, but also opening the opportunity to solidify the vision of what they want to do with the rest of their lives."

"My hat is off to Shell," said St. Charles Parish Public Schools Instrumentation Instructor **Jaime Wilson**. "They have a class A facility at the Training Center."

"This is a great program," noted Blakely. "We live in South Louisiana, the industry corridor, and instrumentation is a great field for them to be in. Shell is putting time and effort into the training and advertising so we can get them

excited about it at an early age."

NMC Electrical and Instrumentation Technical Support Manager **Tim Casey** is encouraged by what he's seen so far with the program. "In the past, we visited Destrehan and Hahnville to make ice cream for the kids. We measured the temperature of the ice, the current mode of the motor, and gave them an idea of how what they're learning applies in the real world. The instructor said that they talked about that visit for a week after. That's just making ice cream. This training facility is huge so I can see this opening their eyes and making them think about what this career is all about and generating more questions and interest."

"This is a long-term plan," he continued, "but it does start somebody off in high school, gives them an opportunity to get an early start to get the education that eventually ends up

with them being employable in industry, and, in particular I see this as a way for us to create a pipeline to get people trained and available when we need them."

"I definitely want to see this program continue," Matherne adds. "Not only with these high schools, but we're expanding, so I would like to see programs in other schools as well. We want to keep them interested and possibly pursuing a career in instrumentation."



It looks like a swimming pool but the underwater training facility is an important training tool for petrochemical employees.

"We live in South Louisiana, the industry corridor, and instrumentation is a great field for them to be in. Shell is putting time and effort into the training and advertising so we can get them excited about it at an early age."

LARRY BLAKELY

Facilities Manager, Robert Training Center

Teachers Enhance Education in the River Parishes



Teachers from St. Charles, St. James and St. John Parishes were honored with grants to assist in programs encouraging parental involvement in their children's education.

Teachers from St. Charles, St. James, and St. John Parishes were honored with grants for projects focusing on parental involvement at the Annual River Parishes Education Foundation (RPEF) Teacher Grants Dinner in Laplace.

Norco Manufacturing Complex External Relations Manager and RPEF President **Rochelle Touchard** said the organization presented \$6,000 in grants to educators developing programs to encourage parental involvement in education and to develop a richer learning environment for students.

RPEF Grants Chair **Mary Lou Sumrall** and Touchard presented the awards, acknowledging the teachers' commitment and imagination in the development of innovative methods to enhance the classroom and home learning environment at the annual banquet.

"RPEF grants recognize programs that help parents not only understand contemporary education methods and terms to assist their kids, but also learn a few things themselves," Sumrall said as she explained the philosophy of the foundation. Established in 1993 through an NMC initiative as a collaboration among River Parishes industries, educators and government officials to improve the quality of education, the RPEF focused on parental involvement career choices, and the funding of teacher of grants to enhance classroom learning. "Parental support, and community involvement, makes such a difference in developing the whole child," Sumrall emphasized. "We envision the grants program as one tool to assist our teachers as they build a strong community for the future."

THE 2017 RPEF TEACHER GRANT RECIPIENTS AND THEIR GRANTS ARE:

- **NETTIE AMEDEE** and
- **ERIKA RODRIGUE**,
**St. James Parish Gifted Center/
Science and Math Academy,
St. James Parish**

Connecting History and Community, a program to inspire students to learn more about regional history through discussions with veterans, archaeologists, history experts and other regional experts with an emphasis on the military service perspective.

- **ANGELA FARNELL**,
**West St. John Elementary,
St. John Parish**

Twenty-First Skills, a series of workshops to enhance collaboration and teamwork, creativity and imagination, critical thinking, and problem solving by introducing coding/mobile technology to students and parents.

- **CALLY HEBERT**,
**R.K. Smith Middle School,
St. Charles Parish**

Books and Blankets, the literacy-based activity invites families, faculty and community members to visit the school for a holiday party featuring read aloud sessions. Each child is presented with a free book to take home.

- **SHERRY EDWARDS**,
- **KATIE GABRIEL** and
- **DENISE PEINADO**,
**St. Rose Elementary,
St. Charles Parish**

Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon, invites former teachers, staff and students for an interview session by current students to develop a special edition of the school newsletter enhancing, reading, writing and photography skills along with community building.

- **ALECIA JOHNSON**,
**St. John Child Development
Center,
St. John Parish**

Loving Louisiana 2, a month-long program filled with interactive activities celebrating Mardi Gras, Louisiana music, festivals, culture and food. The celebration culminates with a family day for students, families and the community.

- **KELLY MAGENDIE**,
**St. James Parish Career &
Technology Center,
St. James Parish**

Industrial Careers, an extension of a 2016 grant to introduce students to industrial careers with this year's emphasis on upper-class students with tours of local business and industry.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

“The more that you **READ**, the more things you will **KNOW**.
The more you will **LEARN**, the more places you’ll **GO**.”

– Dr. Seuss



It’s hard to argue with the wisdom of Dr. Seuss. Books open windows and doors to a world of learning and entertainment. And reading aloud to young children may be the best way to encourage a life-long enthusiasm for the love of books.

Norco Manufacturing Complex Partners in Education volunteers are bringing the reading aloud experience to Norco Elementary School students. “Once a month, a group of NMC employees head back to school and into the classroom,” explains Reading Program Volunteer Coordinator Stacey Zeringue. “Pre-kindergarten through second grade students listen to stories selected by their teachers during our morning visits. The kids are great listeners and definitely welcome us into the classroom.”

AARON POURCIAU

Volunteer reader **Aaron Pourciau** agrees that the children are receptive and great audiences. “I have been surprised at how the young children are able to retain the stories’ plots and ask questions about character development from the beginning of the story to the end,” he says. “They really retain the details of the stories being read to them. I have kids of my own, and I see the value in reading to them, and how it aids in their development of being future readers themselves. The Norco Elementary Readers Program is an opportunity to assist in the development of learning and reading to our future youth.”

KELLY HONDA

“My students love when the NMC volunteer reader comes in to read,” says Norco Elementary First Grade Teacher **Kelly Honda**. “My students are more engaged when outside readers come into the classroom, and my students love to hear which book they are going to read each month. The reader who comes to my room is actually the mother of one of my students, and he is so proud and excited that his mom gets to read to his class. It definitely makes a difference for the students to hear people other than their teacher reading to them. For some students, this is the only other person that they get to experience reading to them.”

An avid reader, Honda adds that her favorite books from childhood which continued on into her adult life, were the Harry Potter series books along with the poems in Shel Silverstein’s books. “When I was in first grade, I loved reading the Junie B. Jones series, written by Barbara Park, which is about a sassy first grader and



“Can you guess what happens?” **Nicole Rowley** entertains and educates Norco Elementary School students when she reads aloud as a volunteer in the NMC Partners in Education Reader Program.



Michael Heath talks to Norco Elementary School students about his favorite book before reading aloud to the class.

her adventures,” she recalls. “Quite a few of my students have started reading some of the books from the Junie B. Jones series and they love them as well. They also love Mo Willem’s books such as Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus, Don’t Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late, and The Duckling Gets a Cookie!?. These books are interactive and funny, which keeps the students engaged and interested in learning.”

“Once a month, a group of NMC employees head back to school and into the classroom.”

STACEY ZERINGUE

Reading Program Volunteer Coordinator

“It is very important for my students to see how the reading skills I am teaching will help students become successful adults in the future. Being able to read is a life skill that they will benefit from and be able to share with others just as our NMC readers share with us.”

GINA BURST | Kindergarten Teacher



NMC volunteer reader **Kate Parenteau** makes sure the audience looks at the illustrations as she reads aloud.

DIANE SWIBER

There’s no question why **Diane Swiber** takes an active part in the Reader Program. “I volunteer to read because I love children and I love reading,” she explains. “I have loved reading for as long as I can remember and have done my best to instill my love of reading in my own children as well as my classes. We had literally hundreds of books in our house and some of my favorite memories with my children are of snuggling together reading a book. By reading, we can learn things we never knew or it can take our imaginations to faraway places.”

While the Norco readers are giving something to Norco Elementary students, volunteers like Swiber are also taking home wonderful experiences. “Last year, I had a foot injury that put me in a walking boot for about 10 weeks so the kids I read to saw me at least twice with the boot,” she recalls. “The first time, they wanted to know what happened. The second time, they asked how my foot was healing. At some point during that time, they were learning how to write thank-you letters so their teacher had them write a thank you letter to me. I was truly touched by their kind words and almost all of them mentioned that they were sorry about my foot injury and hoped it didn’t hurt too much. They were incredibly thoughtful.”

BRANDON DUFRENE

Brandon Dufrene also has a special reason for volunteering in the Reader Program. He has two grandchildren at Norco Elementary, and his “little sister” Becky Weber is the principal. “This is a great opportunity to interact with my grandkids and their friends while supporting my sister, too,” he said. “The last book I read to the kids was one of the best. It was all about a little girl who turned into chocolate candy. That book helps the kids understand ‘you are what you eat.’ And it was cute, because one little girl already read the book and was trying hard not to give away the ending to the rest of the kids.”



NMC VOLUNTEER READERS INCLUDE:

- Brandon Dufrene
- Richard Green
- David Haug
- Michael Heath
- Ken Jones
- Donna Keller
- Troy Oncale
- Jolene Page
- Kate Parenteau
- Aaron Pourciau
- Nicole Rowley
- Linda Scharwath
- Court Sheppard
- Dianne Swiber
- Stacey Zeringue

HOW TO READ ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD

One of the very best things you can do is simply read to your child. However, there are ways you can make the experience even richer! For our very young children, they are learning vocabulary and a love of books. Children who are readers love to hear you read as well. Sharing that timeless classic, best loved tale, or new favorite is a special time together.

- ▶ Try to establish a regular time for reading aloud.
- ▶ Find a quiet, comfortable place.
- ▶ Select a book both you and your child can enjoy.
- ▶ Point out the cover illustration and the author and illustrator’s names.
- ▶ Read with expression; have fun bringing the characters and events to life.
- ▶ Read slowly so your child can take in the words and look at the pictures.
- ▶ Encourage questions.
- ▶ If your child becomes fidgety, take a break.
- ▶ Talk about the book afterward.

Information from the Reading is Fundamental organization

NMC Participates in Sulfur Dioxide Monitoring

The Norco Manufacturing Complex is one of seven area industries in the River Region working with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine attainment, or compliance, with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO₂). The standards specify maximum amounts of sulfur dioxide present in outdoor air to ensure the protection of human health and the environment.

In 2010, the EPA issued a new sulfur dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard in 2010 as part of the Clean Air Act. NMC Environmental Engineer and Air Quality Specialist **Claudia Nethery** explained EPA regulations and the regional

“EPA issued regulations to help states determine whether the areas in their state were in compliance with the standards. There are several such areas throughout the state, generally those with high industrial activity, and Norco is one of these.”

CLAUDIA NETHERY

NMC Environmental Engineer and Air Quality Specialist

SO₂ monitoring system at a recent meeting of the Norco Community Advisory Panel (CAP). “EPA issued regulations to help states determine whether the areas in their state were in compliance with the standards,” she said. “There are several such areas throughout the state, generally those with high industrial activity, and Norco is one of these.”

Nethery explained that NMC and other area industries in Norco and Gramercy took a proactive approach to monitoring SO₂. The industrial group determined that the installation of an ambient air monitor would be the best option to determine attainment. “There are several areas in the state that need to be classified as attainment or non-attainment,” she said. “There’s one that we called the Gramercy Circle, right next to Norco;

some in Baton Rouge, and there’s also some in Lake Charles. It was a huge task for DEQ to make these determinations, conduct modeling, and put in monitors. We wanted to make sure that our area was in compliance by the January 1, 2017 deadline and moved forward with the monitoring project.”

Ambient air monitoring equipment, specifically designed to measure SO₂ over a one-hour time frame, is now located behind the former Bill’s Dollar Store parking lot in Norco. The monitor was approved by the EPA and the DEQ. The equipment will remain in place for the next three years. At that time the DEQ will make a recommendation to the EPA whether the area is non-attainment or attainment. If the concentrations are less than 50% of the standard, the monitor will be removed.

Nethery emphasized that the SO₂ regulations apply to all industrial facilities that emit sulfur dioxide, by combustion of fuels, or by using equipment that combusts fuels to generate SO₂. “The EPA is trying to determine the ambient air quality - the concentration of sulfur dioxide in the area,” she said. “It is not targeting any facility, but rather trying to figure out what we’re breathing in this ambient air and the concentrations of SO₂ in it. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards are there to protect us and the air that we breathe.”



An EPA and DEQ Sulfur dioxide monitor is housed within a small building behind the former Bill’s Dollar Store. The SO₂ monitoring project represents a cooperative program among seven area industries.

SO₂

Sulfur dioxide

Sulfur dioxide is an invisible gas with a sharp smell, especially when it reacts with other substances to form compounds such as sulfuric acid. Most people come in contact with SO₂ as a food preservative in dried fruits or remember when automobile exhaust was offensive prior to emission standards. Today, the largest sources of SO₂ emissions are from fossil fuel combustion at power plants and industrial facilities. Smaller sources of SO₂ emissions include: industrial processes such as extracting metal from ore; natural sources such as volcanoes; and locomotives, ships and other vehicles and heavy equipment that burn fuel with a high sulfur content.



Walking at Work

Studies show that a healthy worker is a safe and productive employee. And the first step in a healthy lifestyle is often literally a step. NMC workers have a new incentive to add extra steps to their day with a recently opened on site walking trail.

More than 50 NMC employees joined in the official path opening by putting in up to a mile of steps following a ribbon cutting. "Walking is great exercise," said General Manager BRETT WOLTJEN at the ceremony. "I encourage all of our employees to use our new trail safely for everyday walking. Every extra step we take is the right step for a healthy life."



NO FOOLING, IT'S TIME FOR THE BRIDGE RUN

Early bird registration for the United Way of St. Charles 21st Annual Bridge Run is now open.

Sign up before March 1 to save money and ensure your spot in the race across the Destrehan-Luling Bridge.

This year's race is Saturday, April 1, starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Eastbank Bridge Park.

Presented by the Norco Manufacturing Complex, the race offers runners and walkers a choice between a 5K and a 10K. You will have a great view of the Mississippi River as you race across the bridge.

Registration and more information is available at www.uwaysc.org.

Service ANNIVERSARIES

Someone You Know Works for Norco

35 Years

David Masson

25 Years

Larry Blakes
Molly Freeman
Ricky Lee
Scott Thiel

20 Years

Douglas Bergeron
Joachim Troclair

10 Years

Robert Applewhite
Dan Calais
Richard Green

5 Years

Dennis Coughlin
Bo Harris
George Lou
Brent Ockman
Eugene Rayneri
Katrina Rowan
Jack Rozman
Guillory Webb



Norco Newsline is published regularly to inform the community about activities at the Norco Manufacturing Complex. Please address inquiries to:

Rochelle Touchard, External Relations Manager
Norco Manufacturing Complex
 15536 River Road | P.O. Box 10 | Norco, LA 70079
504-465-6667

Numbers and Addresses to Know:

St. Charles Emergency Operations Center:
985-783-5050

Norco Site Supervisor:
504-465-7342

NMC Community Information Line
504-465-7483

www.shell.us/norco
www.motivaenterprises.com
www.norco-air.info

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 NORCO, LA
 PERMIT #50

POSTAL PATRON

SCHOLARSHIPS

RECOGNIZE COMMUNITY SERVICE



APPLY NOW!

LIVE UNITED Scholarship applications are available at

- Hahnville High School
- Destrehan High School
- United Way of St. Charles office

Download an application at

- www.uwaysc.org (under Our Work tab)

DEADLINE IS APPROACHING!

Applications must be submitted by mail or presented in person to the United Way of St. Charles office by **March 17, 2017**.



2016 LIVE UNITED scholarships- recipients from Destrehan and Hahnville High Schools display their awards at the United Way of St. Charles Awards Banquet.

United Way of St. Charles awards six \$750 scholarships to high school or GED graduates at the end of each school year to help defray the cost of educational expenses. In addition, two ROTC students receive a onetime award of \$250.

The LIVE UNITED Scholarships are designed to recognize individuals who help make a positive impact in the community. Awards will be based on the applicant's demonstrated commitment to community service and the extent to which the applicant has impacted the community through leadership and service. The LIVE UNITED scholarships are not a need or academic based scholarship.

To qualify, applicants must be residents of St. Charles Parish and plan to attend a post-secondary accredited degree or certified program in Louisiana. An educational facility in another state is acceptable if a program desired by the applicant is not available in Louisiana.

Applications for the LIVE UNITED Scholarships are available at Hahnville and Destrehan High Schools. Applications can also be picked up from the United Way of St. Charles office, 13207 River Road in Luling.

Applications must be submitted by mail or presented in person to the United Way of St. Charles office by March 17, 2017.

To download the scholarship application, go to www.uwaysc.org and pull down the Our Work tab or for more information call 985-331-9063.

Norco at Night

Thanks to Kennyn Productions for sharing a colorful perspective of the town of Norco during a late December evening.

