On February 15, 2003, while enjoying his favorite hobby, quail hunting, Crow was accidentally shot. Within seconds he was permanently blinded. “My life changed that day, but it also changed the lives of my family, my friends, my co-workers and the people who lived in my small town of Winnsboro, Texas,” he explains. “There was a whole bunch of people - 72 people the nurse said – waiting to see me while I was recovering. When you come from a town of 3,000, 72 visitors from that town is significant. That’s when I realized it was not just about me. You know sometimes you get the idea that if something happens to you, it is not going to affect anyone else. It is never just about you.”

The former utility worker and motivational speaker reminded Norco Manufacturing Complex employees about the importance of safety at all times during a recent presentation at the site. Crow used humor and his real-life story to demonstrate that a blind person can make a difference in a sighted world.

“LIFE IS NOT JUST ABOUT ME. Everyone recognizes that Recognizing and understanding are two different things, however, especially when it comes to safety practices. Tony Crow knows the differences.”

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The former utility worker and motivational speaker reminded Norco Manufacturing Complex employees about the importance of safety at all times during a recent presentation at the site. Crow used humor and his real-life story to demonstrate that a blind person can make a difference in a sighted world.

“We are good with safety at work,” Crow told the NMC audience. “But a lot of times we want to leave our safety at work and never want to take it home with us. Why is that? I have heard every excuse there is. You know some people say, ‘I feel like at work I am bogged down with safety rules and when I go home, that is my time.’ Or maybe it is just the idea that you have always done something at home the same way for 40 years and it has always worked. So why change it? But hopefully, when I get done, you will understand that when I talk about safety we are talking about safety 24 hours a day, 365 days.”

he Texas Utility Company (TXU) employee worked in one of the safest companies in the country. He was introduced to safety practices, policies and protective equipment within the first five minutes on the job. He knew safety first as well as anyone and never went off to work without safety glasses, protective clothing, ear plugs, gloves and hard hat. When the day’s work ended he brought his safety mindset home – most of the time.
Backtracking to 1977, and two years out of high school, Crow had the opportunity for a job with TXU. On his first day at work, his supervisor drove him to the company warehouse and gave him a hard hat, safety glasses and ear protection. “The supervisor started talking about safety; how dangerous it was to work at TXU and how to watch out for yourself. I had never even heard the word safety. So, I was starting to think it might be too dangerous for me to work there. But that is how important safety was at that facility where I worked for 26 years.”

Fast forward to Valentine’s Day, 2003. “Our son was 17, a junior in high school, and we decided we were going to fit in that last quail hunt of the year,” he recalled. “Hunting was my passion, I looked forward to it more than anything else. It was February 14. When we were traveling from northeast Texas to west Texas we came up behind this pickup truck and my son says, ‘hey dad they are going hunting, too.’ They had dogs and hunting gear in the truck, but that is not what caught my eye. The guy who was driving the truck had on a bright hunter orange shirt and a bright hunter orange cap. That’s what caught my eye, and I said something that day to a 17-year old son that I wish I could take back. In the mindset I had away from work, I said ‘son, those guys are city slicker bird hunters wearing that orange.’ I made fun of them in front of my son. My way of thinking was that I hadn’t worn that gear for hunting in 46 years, and if you have always done something the same way for 46 years, doesn’t that make it the right way?”

The father’s and son’s first day of hunting was great – until the next day when Crow’s life, his family’s life and his friends’ lives changed in the blink of an eye. Dressed in khaki clothes and cap, Crow told his son he was heading toward a fence line. However, as his dog pointed to quail in the field, he decided to follow the quail and changed direction – without communicating the change to his son.

“My son thought I was by the fence and not seeing me in camouflage, he turned toward the quail and shot me in the face with a two-gauge shot gun,” he said. “I went from uncorrected 20/20 vision to no eyesight, and unless there is a miracle, I will be blind until I die. I will never forget the sound of my son running through the grass screaming ‘oh my God, what have I done?’”

Although Crow knew he could not see, the realization hit hard when he finally asked, “Doc, will I ever see again?” “I will never forget when the doctor spoke up and said, ‘No Tony, you will never see again.’ I was 46-years-old and I would never see my wife’s face again, never see our daughter’s - my baby girl’s - face. And you can’t imagine how bad I wanted to look my son in the face and say, ‘it’s okay son, we are going to walk through this together.’ I remembered making fun of those people with the orange shirts and caps. What I would have given to have had that gear on.”

The dagger to his heart hit the hardest, however, when he heard his wife ask the doctor if safety glasses would have saved his eyesight. The answer was “yes.” “I had worn safety glasses every day for 26 years, but not when I was hunting,” Crow explained. “When I walked out the door at work, I forgot about safety because if anything was going to happen to me, it would have been on the job.”

Crow advised NMC employees to remember that safety is everyone’s job, all the time and everywhere. “If you are going to depend on a small group of safety department people out here to keep you safe, it is not going to work,” he said. “My challenge to you today, is to participate in safety and not sit on the sidelines.”

“On February 15th, 2003, nothing physical happened to our son, but he walks around with something on his shoulders that will always be there,” Crow said. “I take all the responsibility for what happened from making fun of the guys with the orange shirts to not wearing safety glasses. I would give anything to take that burden away from my son, but I can’t. It is not just about me.”

“It is a lot better for us to smile than it is to frown and a lot better to laugh than cry,” he encouraged. “If something dovetails in our life we tend to ask ‘why me?’ But it is important to remember that we have something important to offer to this world. The best thing we can do is to take what we can offer and do the best we can do.”

After Tony began sharing his story with so many others, he and his wife, Cheryl, decided to turn their story into a non-profit corporation, INJAM (It’s Not Just About Me). INJAM is dedicated to providing scholarships to high school seniors who have overcome physical, mental, or emotional disabilities. It also helps to fund local charities and mission work in and out of the United States.

“Safety is everyone’s job, all the time and everywhere.”

TONY CROW | Motivational Speaker
Production Team Support Engineer Giselle Medina, and PEI Engineer Kathleen Prilutski visit Norco Elementary on a regular monthly basis to get third graders enthusiastic about science.

“We have a bunch of topics,” Prilutski said. “We’ve talked about the water cycle, magnets and today’s lesson is on sound. We hope to get future generations excited about something we do every day.”

“The kids will play with tuning forks to listen to the different pitches of noises,” Medina added, “and we’ll play with Slinkys to show how sound waves travel depending on how far they’re stretched. We’ll also talk about how animals can hear different ranges of frequencies. It gives them an understanding about something they deal with on a daily basis. Growing up and seeing companies come and give science presentations really impacted me to join a company like Motiva. It’s really important, especially early-on, getting that engagement and excitement.”

The program is well received by the audience. “We saw them do the water cycle last week,” Gage, age 8, volunteered. “I like this a lot. It’s pretty cool!”

Roneisha, age 8, who wants to be a doctor when she grows up, smiled, “I kind of like science and like to do experiments. It’s fun!”

Becky Weber, Principal of Norco Elementary agreed. “It’s a great partnership. Shell and Motiva are aligning with our science Grade Level Expectations. Learning is done on a higher level when the children can visualize it and when they can experience it, so when they go back to the text, it makes more sense to them. We’ve been in a partnership with Shell and Motiva for a long time and without them we couldn’t do some of the things that we are doing. I am very thankful for the Norco Manufacturing Complex.”

Norco Elementary is one of NMC’s Partner in Education schools.
Fifty-seven Shell and Motiva volunteers donated hours to sort and pack food items at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank in the weeks before Thanksgiving as part of a special community outreach program demonstrating support for the thousands affected by August flooding in south Louisiana.

Volunteers represented the Norco Manufacturing Complex, Motiva Convent, Shell Geismar, Deep Water and Port Allen sites.

South Louisiana general managers emphasized that assisting others is more than just donating money. As leading industries in south Louisiana, Shell and Motiva have the opportunity and obligation to support the communities where its employees live and work.

Supporting the Food Bank with hearts and hands is a demonstration of the Shell and Motiva culture which respects community and family.

“We can’t survive without volunteers,” said Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Manning. “The challenge is especially great this year. Our facilities were flooded, just as many areas of Greater Baton Rouge, but thanks to the efforts of our staff and community volunteers, we are up and running again in time for the holidays. This time of the year, the tremendous help from Shell and Motiva volunteers is definitely needed. The Food Bank receives thousands of pounds of food that require the sorting and processing that is taking place with your help.”

According to the Food Bank staff, Shell and Motiva volunteers processed more than 60,000 pounds of food providing meals for almost 10,000 families.

NMC employees lent helping hands to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank to support those affected by recent flooding in Louisiana.

NMC General Manager Brett Woltjen, far left, HR Account Manager Claudia Jenkins second from right, and External Affairs Manager Rochelle Touchard, far right, present a donation to CASA representatives, Rob Carlisle and Ginger Cangelosi. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocates for abused or neglected children in order to provide them with a safe and healthy environment in permanent homes. Cottages for CASA is a playhouse fundraiser to generate public awareness and funding to support the work of CASA local builders, painters, and designers create unique playhouses to be raffled. This year’s activity was delayed until early 2017 due to to the August flooding in south Louisiana.
St. Charles Parish President Larry Cochran presented a State of the Parish overview to members of the Norco Community Advisory Panel (CAP) attending the group’s annual Thanksgiving meeting.

“Thank you for inviting me to share information with the community,” said Cochran, who is reaching the end of his first year as parish president. He discussed his administrative goals and provided highlights of the activities underway since he took office.

In doing more with less, Cochran noted that the parish chose to adjust only three of 14 existing millages. “We focused on road maintenance and improvement, recreation, and levee millages — those that touch everyone,” he explained, emphasizing that levee millages will not be enough to complete levees, but rather to build matching funds necessary to receive federal and state assistance.

By doing more with less revenue, the St. Charles Parish 2017 budget will end with the highest general fund balance in recent years.

“This year we were able to cut budgets and put more than $5 million in the general fund,” Cochran said. “In addition to eliminating excess spending, Cochran said that departments working together are contributing to the savings. “It is the taxpayers’ money — your money. We are doing the right thing with the taxpayers’ money.”

While building better relationships among parish departments, the new president is also meeting with others including St. Charles Parish Schools and the Sheriff’s Office as well as taking an active part in a Parish Presidents’ “Club” in an effort to bring a stronger voice to the Louisiana Governor, and state and federal legislatures.

A media night encouraging regional journalists to learn more about St. Charles Parish is helping to strengthen parish efforts.

“One of the things we want to do is to make sure we keep our tax dollars at home,” Cochran said, referring to his commitment to small businesses. “We will bring small businesses together with the industry leaders in the parish to keep those dollars here. That helps all of us and is extremely good for our tax base.”

Cochran stated that one of the first series of complaints he received right after taking office focused on recreation. Pledging to enhance the quality of life in St. Charles, Cochran held meetings across the parish to discuss opportunities for recreational improvements. Of the 141 suggestions received in seven meetings, 52 suggestions have been implemented or are in progress at this time.

“I am proud to say that our recreational facilities are looking better, park usage has increased, and we are expanding with new facilities in some areas,” he said. Cochran also added that his administration is looking to build a blacktop road leading to the parish-maintained Wetland Watchers Park and to identify funds for a bike trail as well.

He also noted that the parish is promoting the utilization of the Edward A. Dufresne Community Center on the Westbank. “This is a jewel of a building that has been underutilized,” Cochran said. “Today, we are seeing an increase in usage and continuing to work with groups and organizations to take advantage of the facility.”

Updating CAP members on hurricane protection, Cochran emphasized the importance of levees to the parish and the need to keep flood insurance at reasonable costs. “We need to stay on top of our legislators in Washington so that flood insurance does not increase,” he said. “Some areas of our parish would be ghost towns because of the projected high cost of flood insurance.”

Cochran advised that there is still much work to be done to find matching funds to complete the Westbank levee as well as to address the existing needs on the Eastbank. “We are moving forward and need to keep working with our federal and state partners to totally fund hurricane protection levees. I am proud of the work we have done so far and looking forward to more progress in the year ahead,” he concluded.
Patriotism, a sense of duty, family tradition, opportunities ... there are many reasons an individual chooses to serve his or her country as a member of the United States Armed Forces. Whatever the reason, the decision to follow a military path is a generous gift to fellow citizens. In this end-of-the-year issue of the Newsline, the Norco Manufacturing Complex recognizes employees and relatives of employees who have served or are currently serving as members of the military.

James D. Acosta  
Son of James Acosta  
Army National Guard • 2001–2009

Marcus Adams  
Son of Timmy Adams  
Army/Army Reserves • 1970–1977

Ronald J. Allen  
Brother of Donald Allen  
Army/Army Reserves • 1970–1977

Angel L. Alvarez Sr.  
Father of Angel L. Alvarez  
Marine Corps • 1965–1967

Art Armenta  
Army • 1986–1993

Jessie Arriaga  
Navy/Navy Reserve • 1976–1989

Shawn Arriaga  
Son of Jessie Arriaga  
Navy • 2006–2011

Nick Avocato  
Marines Corps • 1996–2004

Russell Avocato  
Brother of Nick Avocato  
Navy • 1990–Present

Vincent Avocato  
Brother of Nick Avocato  
Navy • 2000–2006

Karl Barrett  
Marine Corps • 1982–1988

Mark Batiste  
Navy • 1987–1995

John Baum  
Air National Guard • 2001–Present

Ronda Bennett  
Francé of Richard Riley  
Navy • 2010–2014

Douglas Bergeron  
Army • 1989–1992

Eric Billingsley  
Army • 1991–1997

Wilbert Blanchard Jr.  
Brother of Clifford J. Blanchard  
Army • 1971–1974

Wilbert Blanchard Sr.  
Father of Clifford J. Blanchard  
Army • Served during WWII

Johnnie Bonds  
Army National Guard • 1985–1992

Robert Bordelon  
Air Force • 1976–1979

Michaele Boyd  
Army Reserve National Guard 1989–1995

Tyrell Braud  
Marines Corps • 1993–1998

Carl Breau  
Brother of Lynn Breau  
Marines Corps • 1982–1987

Ken Breau  
Army/Army National Guard 1983–1988

Ellery Bridges  
Navy/Army/Army Reserves 1988–2005

Damone Brignac  
Army • 2001–2004

Dawn M. Brooks  
Granddaughter of Ellen Brooks  
Marine Corps/Reserves • 2011–2015

Ben Canales  
Navy • 1984–2008

Gilbert Casimire  
Air Force • 1992–1996

Ronald Chiasson  
Father of Karl Chiasson  
Air Force • 1966–1970

Mike Cisneros  
Air Force • 1988–2002

David Clouate  
Air National Guard • 1991–2007

Gregory Cooper  
Marine Corps • 1978–1983

Gerald Cosentino  
Father of Jason Cosentino  
Nav • 1988–1974

Christopher Costanza  
Army • 2002–2005

Christopher Cousler  
Son-in-law of Ronnie Millet  
Air Force • Currently Serving

Christopher David  
Coast Guard • 1986–1990

Keenan Defrisco  
Son of Roy Defrisco  
Air Force • Currently Serving

Gary Disotell, Jr.  
Army National Guard 2010–Present

Wayne Dobard  
Army National Guard 1975–1981

Barry Domic  
Marine Corps • 1984–2000

Elizabeth Dow  
Sister of Landon Melton  
Army • 20+ years of service

Jesse Dunn  
Navy • 1977–1983

Vince Edwards  
Army • 1982–1992

Lorenzo Ennis  
Army • 1993–1997

Bill Faulkner Sr.  
Father of David Faulkner  
Navy • 1950–1972

Francis J. Flood  
Father of Gerald Flood  
Army WWII • 1941–1945

Anthony Fuentes  
Navy/Navy Reserve • 1993–2001

Harold “Johnny” Fussell  
Grandfather of Joshua Hinten  
Army • 1944–1946

Norman (Trey) Gaubert III  
Son of Leslie and Pee Wee Gaubert  
Army National Guard • 2002–Present

Cliff Gendron Jr.  
Father of Cliff Gendron  
Marine Corps • 1954–1956

Charles Georgel  
Navy • 1993–1997

J. Kirby Giroir Sr.  
Father of John K. Giroir Jr.  
Nav • 1943–1946

Wes Gripshover  
Navy • 2001–2008

Mark Guarino  
Army/Army Reserve 1984–1990

Kevin Harrell  
Army Desert Storm • 1989–1993

Kita Harry  
Army Reserve • 2002–2006

Edward Hernandez  

Ed Hetherington  
Air Force • 1970–1974

Robinson Hetherington  
Father of Ed Hetherington  
Air Force • 1949–1953

Robert Hill  
Navy • 1963–1967

Jason Hull  
Air Force • 1973–1979

Kim M. Jackson  
Arma Reserve • 1991–1995

Stanley Johnson  
Army National Guard • 1980–1986

Louis Jumonville  
Father of Kirk Jumonville  
Marine Corps • 1942–1945

Kyler Keegan  
Son of Michael Keegan  
Air National Guard • 2009–Present

Michael Keegan  
Army • 1966–1969

Albert Kelly  
Marines Corps • 1962–1988

Dale Koontz  
Air Force (Air National Guard) 1991–2013

Lisa Krupe  
Air Force • 1990–1999

Larry Laborde  
Father of Michele Carmouche  
Air Force • 1985–1989

Paul Lacy  
Navy • 1984–1990

Shanon Laiche  
Navy • 1987–1995

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Motiva Enterprises President and CEO Dan Romasko led a salute and video tribute to NMC employees who served or have served in the United States Military during a special Veterans Day Town Hall meeting at the site. “Thank you to the men and women who have given years of their life to keep our country safe,” Romasko said, noting that his two sons are active members of the military.

More than 80 NMC employees are retired or active members of a United States Military branch.

“There is a strong military representation among NMC employees and we are definitely grateful for their efforts and service,” said NMC Production Manager Dai Nguyen, who added his ‘thank you’ with a personal note. “Many of you know that I am an immigrant, coming over to the United States when I was a little boy. I was picked up during the Vietnam War and saw my first American – I didn’t know what they looked like before then. I certainly appreciate your service to give me the opportunity to come and live in this great country.”

Grant P. Landry
Father of Elke Landry Molliere
Army • 1967–1989

Lionel J. Lassere
Father of Lionel Lassere
Navy • 1952–1956

Jamie Latiolais
Air Force • 1965–2001

Cameron Laurent
Son of Marcel J. Laurent
Army • 2014–Present

Stacey Leathers
Wife of Asa Leathers
Navy • Desert Storm, DAV

Blaise LeBlanc
Navy • 2000–2005

Anthony Lech
Brother of David Lech
Army • 2003–2012

Noel Louvriere
Army National Guard
1998–2006

Paul Madere
Army • 1985–1989

Frank Matherne
Army Reserve • 1988–1994

Jack McCully
Grandfather of Shane McCully
Army • 1944–1953

Shane McCully
Army National Guard
2007–2010

Thomas J McCully
Father of Shane McCully

Patrick Meche
Army • 1986–1995

Landon Melton
Marine Corps • 1970–1974

Robert Metcalf
Son-in-law of Bradley Emerson
Air Force • 2011–Present

Travis Mitchell
Marine Corps • 2003–2007
Army National Guard
2012–Present

Chris Newman
Navy • 1989–1995
Air National Guard
1996–Present

Ronnie Newman
Wife of Chris Newman
Air Force/Army National Guard
1986–2014

Thomas Parsons
Air National Guard • 1993–1996

David Pfeifer
Army • 1997–2001

Robert Piasance
Marine Corps • 1978–1982

Edward Resh
Father of Kyle Resh
Army • 1966–1974

Carl Richards Jr.
Army • 1992–1996

Raymond Richard Jr.
Father of Ray Richard III
Navy • 1987–2000

Richard Riley
Navy • 1997–2012

Ricky Rivas
Brother of Robert Rivas
Army • 1967–1969

Rudy Rivas
Brother of Robert Rivas
Army • 1969–1971

Stanley Robert
Father of Melissa Robert
Navy • 1972–1974

Brian Robin
Brother of Kenneth Robin
Navy • 1994–1996

Kenneth Robin
Navy/Army National Guard

Whitley Robinson
Daughter of Edward Robinson
Navy • 2007–Present

Joseph Rosiere
Air National Guard
1997–Present

Raymond Roussell
Father of Lynn Breaux
Army • 1967–1969

Junior E. Ruiz
Father of Ellen Brooks
Navy • 1945–1947

Agnes Johnson Shirer
Mother of Paul Shirer
Navy • 1952–1956

Mike L. Smith
Army Reserves • 1989–1997

Stephen Smith
Army National Guard
1990–1998

Mike L. Spanier
Brother of Jeff Spanier
Army • 1987–2007

Randy Spears
Navy/Reserve • 1986–1994

Louis Swann
Army • 1990–1993

Arthur Swiber, Jr.
Father of Diane Swiber
Army National Guard • 25 Years

Lionel Tamplain
Father of Bertis Tamplain
Navy • 1959–1962

Myron Tamplain
Brother of Bertis Tamplain
Air Force • 1989–1993

Emmett Tate
Father of Linda Tate Scharwath
Father-in-law of Keith Scharwath, Sr.
Grandfather of Kevin Scharwath
Air Force • 1950–1954

Michael Teas
Brother of Philip Teas
Navy • 1976–2000

Armond Thomatis
Navy • 1974–1978

Brandon Thompson
Son of Robert Thompson
Army • 2005–2011

Chris Touchard
Husband of Rochelle Touchard
Army National Guard • 1990–2003

Rochelle Touchard
Army National Guard • 1990–2002

Jeffrey Tucker
Army • 2008–2012

Cody Tudor
Son of Joe Tudor
Marine Corps Reserve • 2002–2008

John Turcich
Father of Johnnie LeBlanc
Marine Corps • WWII

Edward Vinnett
Army National Guard • 1997–2006

Eric Von Wagener
Marine Corps • 1945–1947

J. D. West
Father of Suzanne West
Navy • 1951–1955

Joe Whitney
Marine Corps • 1985–1989

Michael Williams
Army • 1989–1991

David Wright
Marine Corps • 1983–1987

Grant P. Landry
Father of Elke Landry Molliere
Army • 1967–1989

Lionel J. Lassere
Father of Lionel Lassere
Navy • 1952–1956

Jamie Latiolais
Air Force • 1965–2001

Cameron Laurent
Son of Marcel J. Laurent
Army • 2014–Present

Stacey Leathers
Wife of Asa Leathers
Navy • Desert Storm, DAV

Blaise LeBlanc
Navy • 2000–2005

Anthony Lech
Brother of David Lech
Army • 2003–2012

Lonnie Lemoine
Navy • 1997–2001

Cory Lemonier
Army • 1996–2004

Gary Lebron
Son of Katrina Lebron
Marine Corps Reserves
2010–2013

LeVar Lewis
Navy • 1997–2005

Stephen Lewis
Army • 1990–1998

Curtis Lloyd III
Son of Curtis Lloyd
Air Force • 2007–Present

Christopher Louque
Son of Dale Louque
Air Force • 2008–Present

Army National Guard
1998–2006

Army • 1985–1989

Army Reserve • 1988–1994

Army National Guard
2007–2010

Army National Guard
1992–1996

Air National Guard
1996–Present

Army National Guard • 1993–1996

Army • 1997–2001

Marine Corps • 1978–1982

Father of Kyle Resh
Army • 1966–1974

Army • 1992–1996

Father of Ray Richard III
Navy • 1987–2000

Navy • 1997–2012

Brother of Robert Rivas
Army • 1967–1969

Brother of Robert Rivas
Army • 1969–1971

Father of Melissa Robert
Navy • 1972–1974

Brother of Kenneth Robin
Navy • 1994–1996

Navy/Army National Guard

Daughter of Edward Robinson
Navy • 2007–Present

Air National Guard
1986–2014

Army National Guard • 1993–1996

Army Reserves • 1989–1997

Army National Guard
1990–1998

Brother of Jeff Spanier
Army • 1987–2007

Air National Guard • 2007–Present

Navy • 1950–1998

Navy/Reserve • 1986–1994

Army • 1990–1993

Father of Diane Swiber
Army National Guard • 25 Years

Navy • 1950–1954
The St. Charles Parish School Board recognized NMC for its effort and for a $25,000 contribution at a reception and the October School Board meeting.

“One of the goals of St. Charles Parish Public Schools is to prepare students for the next step in life,” said School Superintendent Felecia Gomez-Walker at the recognition ceremony. “We certainly want them to graduate from high school, but we also want them to be prepared to pursue a career through a four-year university degree program or through a post-secondary education institution. When industry approached us about an instrumentation technology program, we welcomed the opportunity to prepare students so that they can stay in our community and work in the industry surrounding us. Norco Manufacturing Complex and Dow made a commitment to support us financially and in many other ways to bring the new course to our students.”

Gomez-Walker noted the assistance of NMC Electrical and Instrumentation Manager Tim Casey and Electrical and Instrument Support Supervisor Frank Matherne in developing the program, and thanked NMC General Manager Brett Woltjen for the company’s involvement.

“...This is an exciting program and an exciting partnership with St. Charles Schools,” Woltjen said. “I can tell you that the instrumentation skillset is critical for our facility. It is important to keep all of our instrumentation working well to maintain the safety and reliability of our organization. Individuals who choose this field for a living carry a lot of weight in our facilities.”

Woltjen told the Instrumentation students from Destrehan and Hahnville High Schools attending the recognition event that the work is challenging. “There is an incredible teamwork environment in this field,” he said. “If this is the kind of thing you want to do, test your passion for it, and if you pursue it aggressively, you will be successful.”

The Superintendent also acknowledged Instrumentation Technology Instructor Jamie Wilson, who came to the educational field after several years in industry. “This course is a great opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to learn a skill in a hands-on environment,” he said. “We have an enthusiastic group of kids who are interested in learning as they prepare for a possible career in the field.”

Twenty-six students are currently enrolled in the Instrumentation Technology curriculum.