The River Parishes are rich in industry and employment opportunities. More than 8,500 individuals in St. Charles Parish, for example, are employed in full-time industrial positions, with several thousand also working for contractor companies.

According to Louisiana Community College system representatives, the need for trained technicians in diverse areas continues to grow. “The main part of the chemical industry is right here in the River Parishes,” said River Parishes Community College Chancellor Dr. Dale Doty. “Sustaining that industry and related industries is vital to the economy of the area. Our focus as community college educators is to serve the needs of the industry as well as the people who are going to work in the field.”

DR. DOTY, South Central Louisiana Technical College Director DR. EARL MEADOR and SCL Technical College - Reserve Dean PENELlope Freeman were guest speakers at a recent meeting of the Norco Community Advisory Panel (CAP). They discussed new facilities at the River Parishes Community Reserve campus and highlighted college programs.
Saudi Arabian Oil Company ("Saudi Aramco") and Royal Dutch Shell announced the signing of binding definitive agreements between Saudi Refining, Inc. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Saudi Aramco) and SOPC Holdings East LLC (a U.S. downstream subsidiary of Shell) on the separation of assets, liabilities and businesses of Motiva Enterprises LLC.

The definitive agreement, signed in early March, marks a major milestone toward closing the transaction. Subject to regulatory approval, the transaction is expected to close in the second quarter of 2017.

The Norco community can expect to see a return to the name “Shell” for the full Norco Manufacturing Complex, which is the home of both a refinery and a chemical plant. “While the signage on our facility will be updated, we remain fully committed to safe, reliable, and environmentally-responsible operations,” emphasized NMC General Manager Brett Woltjen. “For our site and the Norco community, we are celebrating our roots that began 88 years ago with Shell’s acquisition of the New Orleans Refining Company (NORCO).”

Abdulaziz Al-Judaimi, Senior Vice President of Downstream, Saudi Aramco, said: “This transaction is well aligned with Aramco’s global downstream strategy. Motiva is a strong competitor among U.S. refiners, and we value this important link with the dynamic U.S. energy sector. Our intent is to continue providing Motiva with strong financial support as it transitions into a stand-alone downstream affiliate. We have a long history with the Motiva team, and we’re proud of the impressive strides it has made in recent years toward building on the company’s core strengths.”

John Abbott, Shell Downstream Director, said: “A simplified, integrated business structure will emerge from this deal for us in the United States and that’s consistent with the stated goal of making Shell a world-class investment opportunity. We have today created a set of assets that plays to our strengths. This portfolio upgrade will increase optionality and strengthen Shell’s Downstream business.”

The discontinuation of the joint venture and redistribution of the assets allows each company to focus its downstream business. Per the terms of the non-binding letter of intent the partners signed in March 2016, both companies have evaluated options and through constructive and successful negotiations selected an optimal deal structure to divide and transfer Motiva Enterprises LLC’s assets, liabilities and businesses between the companies. The final negotiated transaction includes the following:

• SRI will assume full ownership of the Motiva Enterprises LLC name and legal entity, including the refinery at Port Arthur, Texas and 24 distribution terminals. Additionally, Motiva will have the right to exclusively sell Shell-branded gasoline and diesel in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., as well as the eastern half of Texas and the majority of Florida.

• Shell will assume sole ownership of the Norco, La., refinery (where Shell operates a chemical plant), the Convent, La., refinery, 11 distribution terminals, and Shell-branded markets in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, a portion of the Florida panhandle, and the Northeastern region of the U.S. These assets will be fully integrated with Shell’s downstream business in North America.

Dan Romasko, Motiva President and CEO, said: “We are nearing completion of our preparations to support stand-alone operations upon transaction close. As always, we remain focused on safe and profitable operations and serving our customers exceptionally well.”

20 Years
Cedric Aucoin
Kenneth Cambre
Paul Chauvin
Michael Fabre
Kelvin Kenney
Bret Lovetro
Troy Robert
Bret Roussel
Zip Zimmer

15 Years
Kim Jackson

5 Years
Mitchell Bueto
Webb Guillory
Bo Harris
George Lou
Brent Ockman
Jack Rozman
Rochelle Touchard
FREEMAN NOTED THE OPENING OF THE CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, a new facility featuring a computer lab and eight fully-equipped classrooms, to accommodate the growing enrollment in Process Technology curriculum at the Reserve campus. “Thanks to the support of area industry, we were able to add not only a gorgeous facility to our campus, but equip it with state-of-the-art teaching instruments to enhance knowledge and hands-on training,” she said.

The new building also includes a media center, a customized training classroom, available to local Industry partners for training new hires and re-training employees, and an assessment center, equipped to handle testing criteria for multiple types of certifications as well as industry testing.

“We are anticipating up to 1400 students on our campus by the fall of 2017,” said Freeman, an increase from the almost 900 enrolled in the 2016-2017 academic year.

“We HAVE 10 ACCREDITATION TRAINING PROGRAMS ON CAMPUS WITH THE PROCESS TECHNOLOGY BEING THE LARGEST AT 450 STUDENTS. There are more than 130 students enrolled in instrumentation technician training. In addition, we offer medical programs, business training, refrigeration, welding and a large industrial maintenance training program. An industrial electrician program is also expected to open this fall.”

“It is the support of the community and the support of industry that continues to grow our community colleges, expand facilities and add programs,” said Dr. Meador. “It’s the quality of our students, our faculty and employers who hire our students. Most importantly, it is feedback from groups like the Norco CAP and industry representatives who are making sure we are training our students to be good candidates for area jobs. Our goal is to have you want our students to work in your business.”

DR. EARL MEADOR
South Central Louisiana Technical College Director

For additional information or to submit an application for admission, contact SCL Technical College – Reserve at www.scl.edu/rp, 985-536-4418.

Penelope Freeman is Campus Dean for South Central Louisiana Technical College. She is at the Reserve Campus. Email her at penelopefreeman@ scl.edu.
Members from United Way Committee were recognized at the United Way of St. Charles (UWSC) 2016-2017 campaign at the organization’s annual Victory Celebration.

NMC employees were recognized as one of the top industries supporting the United Way of St. Charles (UWSC) 2016-2017 campaign at the organization’s annual Victory Celebration.

UWSC has raised a total of $3,348,902 to date, making the campaign the largest fundraising effort in the organization’s history with a 12% growth since last year.

NMC employees contributed more than $1,068,149 to the campaign which represents a significant increase over the site’s last several workplace campaigns.

“It is a great honor to be recognized by the United Way of St. Charles as a leader in supporting the community,” said NMC General Manager Brett Woltjen. “It is even more of an honor however, to know that the funds raised are directed to programs that assist people in the community where we live and work. Thanks to the generosity, care and concern of Norco employees, we can help ensure a better quality of life for those in need.”

United Way of St. Charles is a non-profit organization working to create lasting changes in St. Charles Parish by funding local agencies and developing programs that target education, income and health.

Members from United Way Committee were recognized at the United Way of St. Charles Victory Celebration in March. Pictured are left to right: Carmine Frangella, Angele Chauvin, Rochelle Touchard, Brett Woltjen, Claudia Jenkins and Steve Hernandez.
The view is mighty and awesome.
So is the cause.

Thousands of runners and walkers had a once-a-year opportunity to view the Mississippi River bridge from a new perspective this April in the 21st United Way of St. Charles Bridge Run. Participants in the 5K and 10K Run/Walk ran up, over and down the Hale Boggs Bridge – many stopping at the top to enjoy a panoramic view – in the annual United Way fundraising effort.

Norco Manufacturing Complex served as the presenting sponsor of the event which also included a post-race celebration at the West Bank Bridge Park.

NMC General Manager Brett Woltjen joined site and community volunteers congratulating racers as they crossed the finish line. “It’s an honor to support the United Way and its ongoing response to need in our community,” Woltjen said. “When we hand out medals to those crossing the finish line, we are not only recognizing their personal commitment to health and fitness, but also acknowledging their roles in assisting others. It’s a fun event with a special purpose.”

United Way of St. Charles Bridge Run is a Winner

Go Team Norco! It was no fooling for NMC employees and their families who participated in the 21st United Way of St. Charles Bridge Run April 1. NMC was the presenting sponsor for the event featuring a 5K and 10K Run/Walk across the Hale Boggs Bridge.
Thanks to a grant from the Norco Community Fund, Norco Elementary School third-graders participate in Destrehan Plantation’s Heritage Day activities.

What’s the best thing about being in third grade? The answer just might be “a field trip to Destrehan Plantation.”

It’s a free field trip, thanks to the Norco Community Fund (NCF) and Destrehan Plantation’s Heritage Education Program. The program is part of the third graders social studies curriculum in Louisiana history.

Destrehan Plantation is one of six area organizations awarded a grant from the NCF at a recent awards dinner in Norco. More than $54,700 in grants benefitting schools and nonprofit organizations serving the Norco area were presented.

Additionally, the Norco Economic Development Fund (NEDF) awarded $183,360 to two area groups focusing on economic development projects.

NCF and NEDF Representative Lily Galland welcomed grant recipients, recognizing their commitment to making Norco a great place to live and work through projects and programs. “More than three million dollars in grant funds have been invested in diverse programs directly benefitting Norco since the funds were established more than 15 years ago,” she said. “From helping to bring back the Norco Christmas Parade to supporting education enrichment programs and building funding improvements, the funds continue to make a positive impact on the community.”

The NCF and NEDF were established with respective one million and five million dollar endowments by Shell and Motiva to sustain and enrich the quality of life in the Norco community. The Greater New Orleans Foundation manages the Donor Advised Funds.

“St. Charles Parish is like no other parish. Our unique culture here sets us apart. It’s the hometown atmosphere in an area that is also progressive and growing in the right way.”

ROCHELLE TOUCHARD
NMC External Relations Manager

NEDF grants were awarded to:
• Norco Civic Association/River Parishes Community Development Corporation for the Norco Revitalization Project – Phase III.
• Destrehan Plantation/River Road Historical Society to assist in a matching grant for a building renovation as part of the plantation’s master plan.

NCF grants were presented to:
• American Legion Post 195 for restroom renovations at the group’s home.
• Knights of Columbus – 3634 Red Church Council for new Bingo machine equipment.
• Norco Civic Association for flooring in the NCA building.
• Destrehan Plantation for the Heritage Education Program.
• Sacred Heart School to replace doors and enhance security.
• River Region Ballet to replace audio and lighting equipment.

For additional information about the NCF or the NEDF, contact the Greater New Orleans Foundation, www.gnof.org.
The nationally recognized LaBranche Wetland Watchers Program encourages students to become stewards of Louisiana’s wetlands. Harry Hurst Middle School science teacher and Wetland Watchers Project creator Barry Guillot is appreciative of the support the program has received over the past 18 years.

The LaBranche Wetland Watchers is a school-based service-learning project at Harry Hurst Middle School, one of Norco Manufacturing Complex’s partner in education schools. More than 1,100 fifth through seventh grade students attend service trips to the group’s adopted site in the Bonnet Carre Spillway each year.

Throughout the school year, students participate in activities such as water quality monitoring, macro-invertebrate collection and identification, litter clean-ups, soil and plant identification, and tree planting. NMC has supported the program since its inception by providing financial assistance as well as hands-on volunteer contributions at the annual celebration and clearing pathways for a nature trail.

“Every year we have a celebration at the end of the school year to share everything the kids have learned with some of the younger kids in St. Charles Parish schools,” said Guillot. “I couldn’t do it on my own. My wonderful Harry Hurst teachers and these incredible partners give their time. I’m excited that people think it’s worthwhile to share their knowledge with us.”

This year, Guillot was presented with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation Educator of the Year award. “I love what I do. The judges were impressed with what they saw. It means so much.”

Over 800 fourth and eighth-graders rotated through interactive demonstrations and activities. “Norco is out here to support the Wetland Watchers program,” said Administrative Assistant Angele Chauvin. “We’re here for the kids.”

NMC retiree Joel Ocmd, representing the site’s Science is Fun team, enjoyed showing the children how to simulate the weather. “We started the Science is Fun program back in the late 80’s,” he stated. “Most of the same experiments we can re-create out here with the kids.”

Production Excellence Administrative Assistant Lauren Rayburn demonstrated the way to make a tornado out of two soda bottles. “Hopefully, the kids will see this as a fun way to learn something new. Maybe they will be inspired to conduct experiments at home,” she said.

Reliability Specialist Marty Duhon taught students about distillation using a model distillation unit. “We use this same process to make gasoline,” he noted. “When they see this equipment from the road, they’ll now know what’s happening.”

Conner and Timothy, fourth-graders at R.J. Vial Elementary, were impressed with the demonstrations. “This place is pretty cool,” said Conner. “They show you stuff you didn’t know about Louisiana,” added Timothy.

“I couldn’t do it on my own. My wonderful Harry Hurst teachers and these incredible partners give their time. I’m excited that people think it’s worthwhile to share their knowledge with us.”

“I want to be an engineer when I grow up,” said Madelyn, a fourth-grader at Lakewood Elementary. “I need to know this stuff.”

“The kids were exposed to a lot of information,” said Henri Rowe, fourth grade Special Education teacher at Luling Elementary. “It’s a great educational experience,” agreed Kaitlin Gacobi, fourth grade Reading and Writing teacher at St. Rose Elementary. “There’s so many different things they can touch and it’s very interactive. The kids are very excited.”
Annual Wetland Watchers Celebration

NMC Science is Fun team volunteers spark interest in science with a hands-on demonstration at the Wetland Watchers Celebration.

Yes, you can conduct electricity through potatoes and lemons. NMC volunteers demonstrate the process for students attending the Wetland Watchers Celebration.

Norco Manufacturing Complex will host the Ninth Annual Date with Destiny forum for women on Thursday, June 20, 2017.

The free event is designed to Educate, Empower and Encourage women to consider careers as operations technicians or maintenance craft technicians in the oil and gas industry.

THE FORUM FEATURES THREE SESSIONS:

• Morning session
  8 am to 12 pm
  Shell employees will share best practices for employment including resume building, interviewing techniques, and transferrable skills. Participants will have the opportunity for a mock interview and a resume review.

• Afternoon session
  1 pm to 4 pm
  Representatives from area community colleges will discuss internships, scholarships and financial assistance programs. Equipment used in day-to-day operations and maintenance will be on display.

• Evening session
  5:30 pm to 9 pm
  Shell employees participate in a panel discussion to share personal testimonies and answer questions.

The event will be held at the Edward A. Dufrense Community Center in Luling.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact NMC Learning Advisor-Leadership Development Deidra Alexis at deidra.alexis@shell.com or 504-465-6969.