

1. Collaborating with Key Stakeholders to Develop Workforce Pipelines



- » NOLABA is collaborating with the Louisiana Department of Education's Jump Start program and local non-profit Educate Now! to develop cluster-specific career pathways for high school students. This group will work with industry leaders to identify high-wage, high-growth job opportunities and skill requirements to ensure students gain access to applicable industry certifications, fostering a seamless transition from graduation to employment or continued schooling. NOLABA will also help facilitate connections with key industry partners to determine how to best align current training opportunities with projected job opportunities and incorporate apprenticeship programs. Jump Start's three target industries include digital media/information technology, health services, and skilled crafts, and were chosen to align with ProsperityNOLA's selected clusters.

2. Progress Within BioInnovation and Health Services Cluster



- » NOLABA continues to focus heavily on business and workforce development as key elements to securing long-term success within this cluster. NOLABA recently signed a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the BioDistrict Board of Commissioners that allows NOLABA to take on daily administrative tasks in direct support of the BioDistrict. In addition, the recent \$100,000 investment in NOLABA by LCMC Health will assist in supporting the further development of the BioInnovation and Health Services cluster and is a critical step to garnering anchor investment for the bio industry.
- » Last week Renaissance RX, a pharmacogenetic company that started out at the BioInnovation Center, announced the creation of 425 new direct jobs and an \$8 million capital investment in new downtown headquarters. This growing investment represents clear confidence in our local BioInnovation and Health Services cluster and helps to further position New Orleans as an industry leader.

3. Mayor Announces Economic Opportunity Strategy



- » On September 8th, Mayor Landrieu announced his Economic Opportunity Strategy. This strategy aligns with ProsperityNOLA's equity as a growth strategy by seeking to connect disadvantaged job seekers with employment opportunities at regional anchors. This strategy will include collaboration with some of the city's largest employers such as Ochsner, Sewerage and Water Board, Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, Tulane University, Xavier University, Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, LSUHSC, and LCMC health. It will also include strategic partnerships with training providers such as Delgado Community College.

WORK STRANDS



Coordinate & Collaborate Invest to Compete Workforce Entrep & Sm. Biz

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS



Equity Re-Brand New Orleans Think Internationally Advanced Manufacturing BioInnovation & Health Creative Digital Media Sustainable Industries Transport Trade Logistics

4. Small Business Gap Analysis to Identify Health Care Sector Opportunities



- » In September, NOLABA launched a three-month assessment, funded by the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, of local healthcare institutions' procurement needs and local small businesses' capacity to fulfill those needs. The goal is to better understand procurement policies of large employers to best determine where our local small businesses can participate in procurement opportunities. In addition, the study will assess local small business capacity to successfully contract with area anchor institutions and ability of local technical assistance providers to build such capacity. This study is the second phase of a procurement analysis conducted by The Network earlier this year, which drove the foundation for developing the Mayor's economic opportunity strategy.

5. City's Office of Workforce Development Announces New Grant



- » The funds are part of \$50.7 million from President Obama's "Workforce Innovation Fund" which seeks to strengthen public job training programs and build the pipeline of skilled workers necessary for competition in the global economy. Here in New Orleans, the \$5.8 million grant will be invested in the City's Office of Workforce Development and will go towards programs and projects that will lift low-income workers into higher paying jobs at participating companies.

Industry Council Advances 2014 Priorities



One year into implementing ProsperityNOLA, NOLABA has organized hundreds of community, business, and education leaders across nearly 50 working group sessions amongst each of our Industry Councils to identify top priorities and activate solutions.

BioInnovation & Health Services:

- » NOLABA is continuing to support Delgado Community College in finalizing the adoption of its new Associate in Science Laboratory Technology (SLT) degree program, which received final approval from this Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in September. The SLT program is a direct response to industry needs and is designed to allow students to graduate straight into high-wage bio sector jobs, or have further opportunities to attain an advanced degree. NOLABA is helping to ensure curriculum is directly transferable for employers' current and projected needs. In collaboration with the Recovery School District, NOLABA is helping to expand Delgado's SLT program across area high schools through dual enrollment options and promotion of a Summer STEM Academy. Last summer's STEM Academy at Delgado had nearly 150 middle and high school students enrolled. In its second year, the Summer STEM Academy is expected to double enrollment.
- » NOLABA is sponsoring a financing panel discussion at the New Orleans BioInnovation Center's Innovation LA conference, taking place November 17-18. The conference has a targeted focus on attracting venture capital to the market, and supporting retention and expansion of current and future bio startups.

Creative Digital Media:

- » The City's Office of Film and NOLABA are facilitating a panel and networking event on October 18th during the New Orleans Film Festival. This panel will host representatives from three of the world's leading talent agencies and will help drive representation and distribution opportunities for independent and small project content creators. The focus on representation and distribution is a first step in addressing the access to capital issues, initially identified as a key barrier to overall industry growth.
- » NOLABA is collaborating with Jump Start to execute a survey strategy that will be used to identify K-12 curricula focused on building skills for the broader creative digital media cluster. Data will be compiled by November 2014 and will be used to identify gaps in digital media training and to educate industry about existing programs.

Sustainable Industries:

- » This fall, the Council participated in two national conferences held in New Orleans, including the Society of Environmental Journalists the Water Environment Federation's Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference, (WEFTEC). In addition, Council members will also participate in the upcoming Greenbuild International Conference from October 22 -24. Involvement at these conferences will help to market our local companies and to rebrand New Orleans as a leader in resiliency and disaster recovery.
- » Earlier this summer, Council members submitted a letter of support for the sustainable practices included in the draft Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) to the City Planning Commission.
- » In September, GNO, Inc. launched the Coalition for Coastal Resilience and Economy (CCRE), a non-partisan group of Southeast Louisiana business leaders aimed to bring greater awareness to and advocate for stronger coastal protection policy. Recognizing coastal restoration as a regional issue, this group combines executives from the Greater New Orleans region, Baton Rouge and the Terrebonne-Lafourche region.

Trade, Transportation & Logistics:

- » On October 8th, the Port of New Orleans and the University of New Orleans sponsored the Maritime Workforce Summit. NOLABA participated in a panel discussion at this first-ever summit by facilitating a discussion on how to best connect the maritime industry with local universities and community colleges. The summit is designed to prepare our future workforce for maritime employment opportunities in response to this industry's changing employee demographics and retirement rate.
- » The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is hosting a Freight Roundtable on October 22nd to better inform regional agencies of infrastructure projects taking place, exchange information and receive feedback on potential congestions issues impeding business operations. At this roundtable, NOLABA is working to represent concerns of business leaders and outline an infrastructure strategy that will address traffic challenges affecting Port and City operations.

Advanced Manufacturing:

- » Delgado Community College has been awarded \$2.5 million Federal trade assistance career training grant as part of a \$7 million workforce development grant to three Louisiana community colleges from the U.S. Department of Labor. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant aims to educate veterans, displaced workers, unemployed and underemployed adults for good-paying, high-skilled jobs with manufacturing and energy companies in southeast Louisiana. The goal is to move these students into their new jobs in two years or less. Employers in Delgado's service area are anticipating hiring graduates of the programs funded by the grant. Announced last week, the three Louisiana awardees are Delgado Community College, Bossier Parish Community College and Central Louisiana Technical College.
- » NOLABA continues to monitor the progress of implementing the Michoud Front Door Project, which will invest ~\$6 million in structural and landscape renovations to Michoud Assembly Facility. Environmental review is finalized, and contracting work is scheduled to begin in October 2014, with a target completion date of spring 2015.