

# Taking Care of Business

## A Work-Based Learning Program

Evangeline Parish School Board

Roxane West, Director

Kelli LaFleur, Supervisor

Tracey Jagneaux, Job Coach

Nichole Tate, Louisiana Rehabilitation Services

# Evangeline Parish Demographics

- Population 33,709
- 15.8% of population that is under 65 has a disability
- Median household income: \$30,009
- Total employer establishments: 513
- Persons in poverty: 25.7%
- 4 Public High Schools
- Rural District

# Opportunity Grant

- Board approves request for LDOE Opportunity Grant October 2015
- Monies to be used for students with disabilities to access opportunities aligned with course requirements for alternate pathway to career diploma
- Requested \$75,000 to purchase a bus for transporting students to work-based learning experiences.
- Coordinated efforts with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and Acadiana Works



Grant approved for  
\$68, 250 on 12/2/2015 by LDOE



# Grant Expenditures

- Bus purchase price-\$45,000
- CLD license cost-\$242
- Bus Maintenance, Oil Changes, License Plates-\$4233
- Pre-Paid Fuel-\$9000
- Curriculum-\$2020
- Technology Purchases-\$5932

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# Program Specifics

- One Job Coach employed by the district at no cost-Tracey Jagneaux
- Collaboration between EPSB and two other agencies
- Course requirements of work experiences fulfilled in conjunction with paid employment opportunities for the 11 students.
- Students are learning job related skills and networking with business owners in the community.



# Educational Impact

- 11 students will earn a High School diploma rather than a certificate of achievement.
- For district accountability purposes:
  - 11 diplomas = 1100 points
  - 11 Certificates = 0 points
- Hands on work experiences promotes academic and social success.
- Improved student motivation for paid employment opportunities
- Improved school discipline



# Scheduling

- Student assessed on the LAA 1 will be required to complete at least 23 course credits in either applied courses or Carnegie credit courses :

## 12 core subject course credits

- 4 courses in ELA
- 4 courses in Math
- 2 courses in Social Studies
- 2 courses in Science
- 2-4 elective credits • At least 2 of these credits must be earned in electives
- 7-9 career credits • At least 7 credits must be earned in workforce-readiness or career courses





# Job Coach Responsibilities

- Administer Interest Inventory Surveys to students in program.
- Seek out employers in community.
- Embed Customer Service in Transition classes.
- Help students construct working portfolio demonstrating work performance.

# Community Relations

- The EPSB has entered contractual services with Acadiana Works to find employment for students and obtain liability insurance for employment.
- Acadiana Works paid students hourly wages for employment at the following businesses.

Evangeline Parish School Board

Doug Ashy

Randy Deshotel, Clerk of Court

Evangeline Parish Public Library

Ace Hardware

Champagne's Grocery

Prairie Manor Nursing Home

Village of Pine Prairie

Deville's Grocery

# Louisiana Rehabilitation Services

- Help seek out employers in area.
- Worked in conjunction with Acadiana Works (vendor) to provide monetary compensation and liability coverage.
- Help counsel students into various career opportunities.
- Worked with parents to develop and support career decisions after high school.



# Colby Leggett



“I love my job. I think it will help me in the long run. It will help me with being able to deal with the public, to be on time and gives me experience in handling money. I will also learn skills that can be put to use later on in life.”

# Corinthian Robert

“I am really enjoying working for the Village of Pine Prairie. I am learning how to work hard and the benefit of getting work experience while being paid at the same time.”





# Baley Leggett



“Having this job shows me several different things. First, it shows me how to make hard work pay off. Secondly, it shows me that I must be ready to work no matter what. And finally, it shows me to have a positive mindset when I am working.”

# Caprica Goodwin



“I feel great about my job. I really enjoy helping cook meals and taking care of older people. My co-workers are very kind to me. This job will allow me to learn how to work in a restaurant or the food service industry.”

# Crystal Marcantel



“Working for the Clerk of Court was a lot of fun. I got to do things that I had never done before. Everyone was very nice to me and it made my job a lot easier. I hope to use those skills I learned there in future jobs.”





# Ronderkus Ben



“Earning a paycheck for the first time was really great. At Ace Hardware, I was able to help the customers and learn not just job skills but people skills as well.”

# Kaitlyn Richard



“At the Media Center, I learned how to scan documents, copy, answer phones, and take messages. I love my job!”



# Breonna Robert



“I enjoy making copies, cleaning the office, and helping people at the Media Center. I like my job—a lot!”



# Kanje Doucet



“At Ville Platte High School I helped the teacher with her classroom, help make copies, and worked in the café. It was wonderful.”



# Karondi Griffin



“It was good working at Champagne’s. It was good because I never did anything like this before. I stocked shelves, picked up buggies, and helped customers. Thanks for the experience.”

# Celebrate

- On March 15<sup>th</sup> Evangeline Parish Special Education Department in partnership with Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and Acadiana Works sponsored an appreciation luncheon for the employers, school board members, school personnel, families of the student participants and the students to celebrate this major accomplishment. It was our way of saying “Thank You” for their commitment to our students, community and education.



# Appreciation Luncheon



# Post Secondary Exposure

- Students went on a field trip to South Louisiana Community College in Lafayette to learn about post-secondary options.
- Louisiana Rehabilitation Services will continue to provide assistance and guidance with post-secondary options and employment opportunities.





# Next Steps

- Expand program to include students with significant disabilities and ACT 833 students.
- Use Kuder as a career planning program system to explore occupations, plan pathway, and construct a working portfolio.
- This working portfolio will be the student's "living document" of standards that have been met in order to acquire diploma.
- Employ a full time para-professional to help support the program.



# Challenges for 2017-2018

- Next year we will include all 4 high schools. One high school is 30 miles away from Central Location. How will we bus students and ensure that instructional time is being utilized?

# Our students are work ready

