

**Subscribe**  
 (http://offers.thenewsstar.com/specialoffer?  
 gps-  
 source=BENBjun&utm\_medium=nanobarap&utm\_source=bounce-  
 exchange&utm\_campaign=4THJULY18)

# Collaboration will expand engineering pathways for local students

Special To The News-Star, news@thenewsstar.com Published 10:04 a.m. CT June 26, 2018



(Photo: Courtesy photo)

A collaboration between Louisiana Delta Community College and Louisiana Tech University will create a program that will increase engineering technology career pathways for high school students, engage and retain these students through college and ensure they are employable upon graduation.

LDCC received a \$598,973 Advanced Technological Education Grant from the National Science Foundation for Project COMPLETE (Controlling, Operating, and Measuring: Pathways for Learners to Engineering Technology Employment).

"This grant award is the result of a strong collaboration between Louisiana Tech and Louisiana Delta Community College and will enable both institutions to continue to develop talent to advance the region's advanced manufacturing workforce," said LDCC Chancellor Dennis Epps.

According to Fred Dedrick, the executive director of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS), "In the American south, where advanced manufacturing is a relatively recent growth industry, the skills gap is very real..."

The skills gap is due to the retirement of Baby Boomers exiting the workforce, making the partnership with LDCC and Louisiana Tech University very timely.

"We are pleased to have the strong collaboration between our faculties that led to this grant being developed. This should have a major impact on enhanced pathways for education that will drive economic prosperity for our region," said Louisiana Tech University President Les Guice.

"We are extremely excited about this opportunity and the honor that comes with this prestigious award. Much credit goes to Dr. Mikey Swanbom at Louisiana Tech. It was his vision and leadership that made this grant opportunity possible.

He led throughout the entire process and we would not have this award if it were not for him. We look forward to working with our partners at Louisiana Tech and high schools throughout North Louisiana as we prepare students for valuable careers in advanced manufacturing engineering," said Doug Postel, campus director for LDCC-Ruston.

Hisham Hegab, dean of the College of Engineering and Science at Louisiana Tech University said, "This project will help further integrate the pipeline of students interested in instrumentation technology to create multiple pathways for those students to fill needed positions in industry."

Regional manufacturers will appreciate this news as well. Most already have relationships with both institutions and have partnered aggressively to fill their skills gap. This grant is a bonus in that effort.

"The region is committed to helping existing manufacturers grow and to attract further investment to the region to improve our economy and prosperity.

Both institutions are committed to this goal and working aggressively with K-12 systems to promote high-tech career opportunities and to develop interest in these opportunities among students. Economic development is a team sport and we are delighted to have a strong partnership with Louisiana Tech in this pursuit," Epps said.

**Join now**  
**\$1 For 3 Months**

**Subscribe Now**  
 (http://offers.thenewsstar.com/specialoffer?  
 gps-  
 source=BEAZjun&utm\_medium=agilityzone&ut  
 exchange&utm\_campaign=UWEB2017)

6/30/2018

Collaboration will expand engineering pathways for local students

Read or Share this story: <https://www.thenewsstar.com/story/news/education/2018/06/26/collaboration-expand-engineering-pathways-local-students/734167002/>