



SUPPORT CHILDREN & YOUTH IN LOUISIANA BY:

**PROMOTING JOB READINESS FOR THE  
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EXPANSION  
COMING TO SWLA**

In the upcoming years, Southwest Louisiana will experience an economic growth and expansion as a result of the new developments. An abundance of jobs are going to be created to support these developments. We must transform our current policies and resources to meet the needs of today's youth and to prepare youth to become future workers, and leaders. Investments in pertinent skill-building services for the benefit of young people must result in valuable experiences that prepares young people for the workforce.

THE CURRENT PICTURE...

- According to the SWLA Regional Impact Study, there is an expected 4.7% annual employment growth between the years 2014-2019 (placing SWLA among the national leaders for employment and population growth).
- USA Today's website indicates, that the unemployment rate for young high school graduates is 22.9%.
- According to Economic Policy Institute, only 83% of Louisiana residents earn a high school diploma, the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest of the states. The unemployment rate for young college graduates is 8.5%, with Louisiana having a 6.7% unemployment rate.

AS YOUNG PEOPLE OUR HUMBLE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE...

- To promote and encourage community partnerships in order to create more employment readiness programs, internships, and workforce development strategies targeting incoming freshmen. These activities will provide valuable experience as well as prepare young people for the workforce.
- To implement more skill-building classes giving students a basic understanding of the skills needed in the workforce as well as basic experience.
- To introduce career workshops and assign college and career advisors at high schools, training schools, or colleges, to better understand, appreciate, and guide the students to a suitable and relevant career path that will allow students to excel.
- To fund on site job training initiatives and career exploration programs for high school youth, the workforce of tomorrow.