

# Lafayette is a Top 10 Innovation Market

## Vision, drive and self-determination

**S**outhern Business and Development Magazine has named Lafayette one of the Top 10 Great Innovation Markets in the South for its efforts in nurturing and attracting innovation-driven industry and businesses to the region.

“Leaders in Lafayette understand technology’s role in our success, both past and current. To be ranked with Raleigh/Durham, Orlando and Austin reinforces much of our efforts aimed at fostering technology and innovation as economic drivers,” says Gregg Gothreaux, LEDA President and CEO. “Lafayette has a can-do and forward-thinking attitude that makes the community open to innovative ideas and concepts.”

The magazine points out Lafayette’s multicultural and multi-industrial makeup, along with innovative projects like the Fiber to the Home Initiative, Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI), and LITE as key contributors to the ranking.

“This ranking is another example of why we believe Lafayette is the Crown Jewel of Louisiana,” says Joey Durel, City-Parish President. “Lafayette’s progressive thinking and understanding of the importance of technology is being recognized across the country. We believe there is more to come as the LUS Fiber Program, LONI and LITE continue to evolve, coupled with the arts, culture and quality of life that we enjoy.”

“We are looking ahead not only to the futures of our children today, but to that of our children’s children.”  
— Gregg Gothreaux  
LEDA President & CEO

*Southern Business and Development* says the markets selected are “defined by vision, drive and self-determination.”

“The editors hit the nail on the head. Vision, drive and self-determination are buzzwords often associated with the people of Acadiana. Citizens and community leaders see the value in bringing technology and innovation to the community and are taking steps to make those innovations a reality. We are looking ahead not only to the futures of our children today, but to that of our children’s children,” says Gothreaux.

Other cities in the Top 10 include Hampton Roads, VA; Savannah, GA; Oklahoma City, OK; Raleigh/Cary/Durham, NC; Orlando, FL; Austin/Round Rock, TX; Huntsville, AL; Winston-Salem, NC; and Roanoke, VA.

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# Company Spotlight: FlightSafety International

## Lafayette facility to feature new innovative simulation technology

FlightSafety International's new Helicopter Learning Center, scheduled to open this fall in LEDA's Northpark Technology Center, will feature FlightSafety's latest advances in simulation technology.

"This significant investment demonstrates our commitment to provide our customers with conveniently-located, high quality training services using innovative simulation technology designed to enhance safety," says Bruce Whitman, President and CEO, FlightSafety International. "The opening of the Lafayette Learning Center highlights our dedication to helicopter safety and further strengthens our position as the world's leading aviation training provider."

The first full flight simulator to arrive at the Lafayette Learning Center, a Sikorsky S-76 C+/C++, will be equipped with FlightSafety's electric motion and control loading technology and the company's advanced VITAL visual system. The Center will also offer a series of next generation Flight Training Devices equipped with FlightSafety's VITAL visual system, simulation software and other key components used in full flight simulators.

"These new Flight Training Devices will enable us to provide high quality, comprehensive and cost-effective, mission-specific training on a wide variety of twin and single engine aircraft types," said George Ferito, Director Rotorcraft Business Development, FlightSafety International.

While the Lafayette Learning Center will emphasize training for offshore operations, it will also offer courses for the majority of helicopter types operating in the Gulf region, and for a wide variety of missions, including EMS, news gathering and law enforcement. Gulf Coast operators currently use approximately eight different rotorcraft models manufactured by Agusta, AgustaWestland, Bell, Eurocopter and Sikorsky.



FlightSafety's new state-of-the-art Center of Excellence for rotorcraft training will be able to accommodate up to eight full flight simulators and a full range of advanced technology Flight Training Devices. The Center will also feature classrooms equipped with MATRIX, FlightSafety's integrated training system technology, and ample customer service areas.

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Over 75,000 pilots, technicians and other aviation professionals train at FlightSafety facilities each year. The company designs and manufactures full flight simulators for civil and military aircraft programs and operates the world's largest fleet of advanced full flight simulators at over 40 training locations.

"The location of FlightSafety is a major step forward in our continued efforts to maintain and attract aviation companies to Lafayette and Acadiana," says Gregg Gothreaux, LEDA President and CEO. "One-hundred plus well-paying jobs will have a significant impact on our economy. We are very pleased that FlightSafety chose to expand in Lafayette."

For more information about tax incentives & other LEDA services, visit us online at [www.lafayette.org](http://www.lafayette.org) or call us at (337) 593-1400.

# Innovation on campus

## BeuSoleil shines brightly

UL Lafayette's BeauSoleil team was selected as one of only 20 teams from around the world to participate in the international design/build competition called the Solar Decathlon.

The Solar Decathlon is a competition for teams of university students that compete to design, build and operate an attractive, effective and energy-efficient solar powered house. In September 2009, these teams will assemble a "solar village" on the National Mall in Washington D.C.

The project is a collaboration between the UL Lafayette School of Architecture and Design, the College of Engineering and the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration.

Architecture, design, business and engineering students along with LA System Built Homes and other community partners will design and build the BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home over the next two years. The name, inspired by the Grammy-winning band, reflects the proposal's intent to relate the project to its Acadian roots.

LEDA has provided market information and research to College of Business and School of Architecture and Design students tasked with developing a marketing campaign for the final product.

For updated information about the project, visit [www.beausoleilhome.org](http://www.beausoleilhome.org).

## NIMSAT sets up base at UL Lafayette

Comprised of more than twenty public and private sector partners from across ten states, the National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT) Institute was established at UL Lafayette in 2007 with the goal of enhancing the resiliency of the Nation to natural and technological hazards.

NIMSAT is built on the foundations of three advanced technologies—supercomputing, visualization and high-speed optical communications. These assets are available to NIMSAT through its partnerships with the LONI, LITE, TeraGrid and the National

LambdaRail/Internet 2. Additional technology resources are available through NIMSAT's national-scale partnerships with various academic and private sector organizations.

Along with Senator Mary Landrieu and James Lee Witt, NIMSAT hosted the NIMSAT Gulf Coast Conference in April, which focused on the issues of critical infrastructure risk, protection and resiliency. Representatives from government, higher education and private industry were on hand to learn how to better prepare Louisiana, the Gulf Coast and the nation for natural and manmade hazards.

## Kolluru receives Technology Award

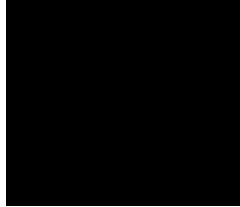
The 2008 Governor's Technology Award— University Technology Leader of the Year was presented to Dr. Ramesh Kolluru during a luncheon at TechSouth 2008. Kolluru serves as director of UL Lafayette's CBIT, lead technology transfer officer and assistant vice president for Research and Development at UL Lafayette.

In the last two years, CBIT has copyrighted 12 software projects developed by staff or students there, and seven have been commercialized in the public and private sectors, which generated licensing fees for UL Lafayette and new jobs.

"LEDA was proud to nominate Ramesh for this award, says Gregg Gothreaux, LEDA President and CEO. "He understands the important role technology plays in the future of economic development, not only for the University, but for Lafayette and Acadiana as a whole."

The Governor's Technology Awards honor individuals, companies, universities and organizations that advocate technology in Louisiana. Also receiving awards this year were: Bruce F. Hoffman, Engineering & Environmental Solutions Inc.; EATEL; iSeatz; and FutureProof, LLC.





# Lafayette: the IT place to be

TechSouth just produced it's fifth show and iDiDx wrapped up its second expo just a couple of weeks later. Lafayette also hosted the International Sesame Exchange in April. When paired with the biannual LAGCOE show and industry-specific shows such as the Gulf South Aviation Maintenance Seminar, Lafayette plays host to some of the most tech-savvy tradeshows and conferences along the Gulf Coast.



## TechSouth



When the idea of TechSouth was conceived five years ago, organizers were looking for a way to promote Acadiana's rich technology resources across the Gulf Coast. Fifty-two exhibitors from around the nation showed off the latest in IT support and innovation to curious tech-fans and business leaders over two days in April. ■

iDiDx is a digital media showcase that explores the intersection of entertainment and technology. For the second year, iDiDx concentrated on motion pictures and music production. iDiDx strives to align its efforts with the State in building an indigenous entertainment industry workforce and infrastructure, provide a forum for artists and content creators to showcase their unfinished projects, as well as host workshops, demonstrations and panels to bring together artists and entertainment industry professionals. ■

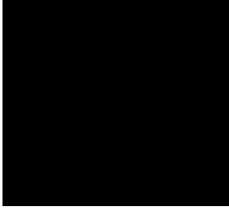


## SESAME 2008

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

The 2008 International Sesame Exchange (ISE), the annual conference of the SESAME Network, was held concurrently with TechSouth. This year's ISE focused on information and communication technologies and leveraging IT for the benefit of public and private development. The Sesame Network is comprised of 15 regions worldwide with the objective of assisting small and medium-sized companies with their global market outreach. ■





# Tech workforce on the grow in Acadiana

## Projections high for tech-oriented jobs

There is more to today’s technology workers than the idea of “tech guys” confined to cubicles waiting for a distress call from a co-worker. They are at the forefront of their industries developing new innovations and processes to make everyday dealings easier for both business and customer.

Technology jobs aren’t limited to IT companies. Nearly every business regardless of size uses some kind of technology—whether it’s just one PC to check emails or a network of hundreds of computers in multiple locations. And technology jobs can be found in just about every industry.

Every two years the Louisiana Department of Labor (LDOL) releases its 10-year Occupational Projection. LDOL with the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys a sample of Louisiana firms on the occupational composition of their workforce and the wages for those occupations. This data is used to develop staffing patterns for each industry, which are then used to develop specific occupational projections.

In the Acadiana region, four of the 25 fastest growing occupations (based on percent growth) are specifically IT-related, though you’d be hard pressed to find any job in the top 25 that doesn’t use some kind of technology on a daily basis.

It’s no secret that Lafayette is on the leading edge of some great technology—Fiber, LITE, LONI—and the growth in technology jobs reflects that. When compared to the state, the projected growth in Lafayette outpaces statewide

projections in these same jobs, in some cases 2-to-1.

While these projections offer valuable insight to our ever-changing workforce, it does have its limitations. The projections only reflect growth of existing jobs at the

time of the survey. It doesn’t take into account jobs that are yet to be created because of new technologies and innovation. For instance, virtual reality jobs at LITE are not reflected in the 2004-2014 projections because they did not exist at the time the base survey was conducted.

LEDA strives to keep the region one of the most tech-savvy areas in the nation through efforts, such as such as the recruitment of FlightSafety and the construction of LITE. With targeted recruitment, workforce development, and utilization of state and federal incentives LEDA continues to accelerate growth of the technology

sector in Lafayette Parish.

Occupational Title	Top 25 Rank	Acadiana % growth	Louisiana % growth
Network Systems & Data Communications Analysts	2	78.6	39.4
Computer Software Engineers-Applications	6	66.7	32.3
Database Administrators	11	60.0	30.2
Computer Software Engineers-Systems Software	22	50.0	32.1

Source: Louisiana Department of Labor

Occupational Title	Sample of Employing Industries
Network Systems & Data Communications Analysts	Administrative & Support Services, Broadcasting, Hospitals, Financial Institutions, Mining
Computer Software Engineers-Applications	Air Transportation, Waste Management & Remediation Service, Insurance
Database Administrators	Credit Intermediation, Educational Services, Museums & Historical Sites, Oil & Gas Extraction Petroleum Products Manufacturing
Computer Software Engineers-Systems Software	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, Support Activities for Transportation, Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing, Electronics & Appliance Stores

Source: Louisiana Department of Labor

# LEDA briefs

## Lafayette per capita income increases

Lafayette Parish's 2006 per capita income (PCI) is \$36,925, that's \$4000 more per every man, woman, and child than in 2005. Lafayette Parish has the third highest per capita income in the state and is in the top 9% of all counties in the U.S. (276 out of 3111). Lafayette's PCI has increased 84% in the last ten years, while Louisiana is up 61% and the US is up 52%.

The per capita income figures are a lagging indicator of the economy. Because the income statistic is historic in nature it's seen as an affirmation of our economic progress. Per capita income is LEDA's mostly frequently requested statistic. Site selectors, professionals, and business entrepreneurs look to it as a snapshot of the community as a whole.

## Employee highlights

Mark Mouton has been named Director of Business Retention and Expansion for LEDA. In this role he is responsible for managing LEDA's business visitation program, hosting the LEDA Networking Luncheon, and providing assistance with tax incentives, job training programs, and ombudsman services to existing businesses in Lafayette Parish.



Mark Mouton

Mark spent the last seven years employed with AT&T, most recently serving as a Senior Training Manager for AT&T call centers in the West Region. He is a graduate of UL Lafayette with a degree in Business Administration-Marketing.

Ryan LaGrange has been named Director of Workforce Development for LEDA. Ryan promotes workforce development programs to area businesses, coordinates LEDA's annual job fair, provides jobseeker assistance to clients and maintains LEDA's online job listings in coordination with JobsinSouthLouisiana.com.



Ryan LaGrange

Ryan has more than seven years of experience assisting businesses with workforce development services while working for the Louisiana Department of Labor. He is a graduate of UL Lafayette with a degree in Business Administration-Marketing.

Please help us keep our newsletter database up to date. Contact Stacey at 593-1417 or [staceys@lafayette.org](mailto:staceys@lafayette.org) to update name, company and/or address information.



Lafayette Economic Development Authority  
211 East Devalcourt Street • Lafayette, LA 70506  
337-593-1400 • 800-810-7771  
[www.lafayette.org](http://www.lafayette.org)

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Maria Spannuth, Accountant  
Stacey Strodman, Director of Marketing & Communications  
Lena Styles, Assistant Administrator  
David Travers, Maintenance Superintendent

### INTERNS

Katie Dallas, Nicole Gavin, Jenni Hensgens,  
Danielle Landry, Mike Larson, Rani LeGros,  
Greg Ohlenforst

### ALLIES

Todd Mouton, Director, Louisiana Crossroads  
Kristi Lumpkin, Executive Director, Acadiana Economic Development  
Abby Davis, Research Associate, Acadiana Economic Development

Lafayette Economic Development Authority  
211 East Devalcourt Street  
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