

# ExxonMobil News

A publication for neighbors, employees and retirees in the Baton Rouge area

## PROCESS TECHNICIAN INTERN PROGRAM LAUNCHES



In collaboration with Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC), ExxonMobil recently launched a process technician internship program. Six students are now working as the first process wage interns at the Baton Rouge Refinery.

“We are very excited to start a new chapter in our collaboration with local process technology programs, including BRCC,” said Brian Blades, operations excellence and process support department head. “Seeing interns in our basic operator training is an amazing achievement from a vision we had over a year ago. We are very thankful for the

leadership at BRCC for their drive to make this possible.”

*This program is another step in ExxonMobil’s investment into advanced education and the local community.*

*– Brian Blades,  
Operations Excellence and Process Support Department Head*

Congratulations to the six Refinery process interns: Austin Arnold, Austin Bizette, Destin Franklin, Danny Jones, Kendall Leblanc and Kevin Richard.

## INCREASING HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS WITH THE YMCA



ExxonMobil is now collaborating with YMCA Baton Rouge and Healthy BR on local initiatives that will impact healthy food access in North Baton Rouge. The YMCA of the Capital Area is offering healthy food access and healthy cooking demos at the ExxonMobil YMCA for residents and community members living in North Baton Rouge. The mobile Farmer’s Market is available weekly at the branch, and monthly cooking demos featuring the American Heart Association and Chef Traci Vincent are open to the public. Expanding community partnerships is the next step to impact access to healthy food in North Baton Rouge.

## STAKEHOLDERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS CELEBRATE “THE GREEN BOOK” EXHIBIT



As the curtain closed on The Green Book exhibit at the Capitol Park Museum, local community leaders, elected officials, stakeholders and friends gathered to celebrate. The evening culminated with remarks by Robyn Vie Carpenter-Briscoe of the Friends of the Capitol Park Museum along with Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, the Honorable Ted James, Capitol Park Museum Director Rodney Hart and Refinery Manager Dave Oldreive.

Exxon Mobil Corporation sponsored the Baton Rouge exhibit, which was developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and opened in August 2021. Visitors had the opportunity to get an immersive look at the reality of travel for African Americans in mid-century America and see how the annual guide served as an indispensable resource for the nation’s rising African American middle class.

You can still view the ongoing Safe Haven series presented by Louisiana Public Broadcasting, which features a history of The Green Book and its ties to our local area. The series is just another example of ExxonMobil’s early support as a diverse employer and of African Americans.

# SCOTLANDVILLE MIDDLE STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT CRAFT CAREERS



Joshua Byrd, mechanical first line supervisor at the Refinery and Chemical Plant, spoke to seventh and eighth grade students at Scotlandville Middle School about craft careers. As participants in the school's STEM program, the students engaged with questions and interest in various crafts, including

electrical, instrumentation, heavy equipment/crane operation, welding, carpentry, millwright and pipefitting. The presentation is part of our ongoing partnership with the East Baton Rouge Parish School System to educate students of the STEM field, craft careers and other workforce development initiatives.

## SCIENCE DAY WITH LOCAL STUDENTS

Several employees recently participated in Science Day at Baton Rouge Magnet High School. More than 300 students from elementary, middle and other high schools in the area attended the event to compete in Quiz Bowl and other engineering competitions. ExxonMobil employees conducted fun and interactive science demonstrations, including making square bubbles. Employees also showed off several products produced with ExxonMobil chemicals. Several students and teachers were surprised to learn about all of the different household products utilizing ExxonMobil materials.



## IMPROVING LIFE SKILLS FOR SINGLE MOMS

The Life of a Single Mom is a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of single mothers through support and education on parenting, finances, and health and wellness; it is one of many organizations that directly benefits from ExxonMobil's United Way campaigns.

The organization runs Single Mom University (SMU), the largest online platform in the U.S. for single moms. There are more than 160 online, self-paced courses to empower and educate women on important life skills, including positive parenting, mental health, responsible finances and career readiness.

ExxonMobil awarded a \$5,000 grant to the nonprofit, which will provide a one-year scholarship to SMU for 25 single moms in the Greater Baton Rouge area. After completing the courses, more than half of students achieve at least two of the following: reduced debt load; improved credit score; maintained a working budget; and/or created a resume



and submitted to five job sources. More than 85 percent of ExxonMobil-sponsored students reported reduced stress.

One student said of her SMU experience: "I really enjoyed Single Mom University in so many ways, and will continue to use the helpful information that I have learned to raise my son in a positive household and environment."

## SUSTAINABILITY GROUP MAKES SCIENCE FUN FOR JUNIOR AMBASSADORS

Junior Ambassadors of the Capitol Park Museum recently participated in fun experiments with our sustainability group. They made hand sanitizer using aloe gel and isopropyl alcohol (directly from ExxonMobil Baton Rouge!), built structures using marshmallows and toothpicks, created a density tower using eight different liquids, turned Coca-Cola white using bleach, created a traffic light demonstration using glucose and sodium hydroxide, and made lava lamps using vegetable oil, Alka-Seltzer and food coloring. After the experiments, the museum allowed the volunteers and students the opportunity to walk through The Green Book exhibition.



## Mentoring Future Leaders

ExxonMobil recently sponsored the BizTech Challenge by Nexus Louisiana during the historic Bayou Classic weekend. Several of our employees served as business mentors and attended the final pitch competition.

# NEAR-NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: MEMPHIS MAC



Carlos Thomas is the man behind Memphis Mac, and he knows good barbecue.

"I've had to educate some of our customers," explains Thomas, referring to the smoke ring inside the meat. "True barbecue is dark, brown and pink. We start our meat on the pits early in the morning. And we take pride in the way we make our food."

Thomas moved to the Baton Rouge area to attend Louisiana State University in 1999 to obtain his Master in Information Systems and Decision Sciences. He completed his doctorate and eventually taught at LSU and Southern University before accepting a teaching position at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. After 20 years in education, Thomas and his family moved back to the Baton Rouge area to care for his mother-in-law and decided a change in profession was needed.

Thanks to his wife's encouragement, he pursued his dream of serving delicious barbecue. Thomas recently shifted Memphis Mac's focus from restaurant service to catering and pop-up service. Thomas credits his success to the local community and the industrial corridor; ExxonMobil is working with several minority and female-owned businesses like Memphis Mac for various services.



We recently hosted local media, elected officials and key stakeholders for an inside look at the Polypropylene Growth Project at the Polyolefins Plant. As the largest ExxonMobil investment in Louisiana in the last decade, this more than \$500 million project brings economic impact, community investment and a first-ever virtual reality integration.



Employees gathered for the 31st Annual Jambalaya Under the Oaks, where hundreds of plates of jambalaya were served to raise funds for Capital Area United Way. Metro Councilman Cleve Dunn, Jr., Memphis Mac's Carlos Thomas, Baton Rouge Cowboy Kitchen's Kendell King, Metro Councilwoman Carolyn Coleman and WBRZ's Dana DiPiazza were part of the group of community representatives who judged nearly 30 teams. The event is part of the overall internal campaign, with a goal of raising \$1M for Capital Area United Way. The north plants also held jambalaya cookoff fundraisers this year for United Way.



Our Veteran Advocacy Support Team (VAST) recently participated in the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Baton Rouge National Cemetery to remember the fallen and their families, honor those who served and teach the next generation the true meaning of freedom. More than 2,600 wreaths were placed on headstones following the ceremony. The VAST team also participated in the American Legion's Veterans Appreciation Day event honoring more than 100 veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and the global war on terrorism.



ExxonMobil Public and Government Affairs Manager Stephanie Cargile chairs the Scotlandville Interact Club, and members attended a November Baton Rouge Rotary meeting to hear U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy speak. Club activities include meetings with Rotary members and other community leaders to learn about careers, community service and leadership.



From hurricanes to COVID, this past year was certainly challenging – but it highlighted those who keep our community running. It was our honor to thank the Environmental Services technicians at Baton Rouge General Medical Center with ExxonMobil gas cards in appreciation of their dedication to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for our families, our friends and our community.



In the true spirit of giving, the Black Employee Success Team (BEST) Employee Resource Group donated 60 turkeys and pies to help families in need this Thanksgiving. Employees volunteered at Greater Allen Chapel A.M.E Church to sort food and load boxes into vehicles. BEST has volunteered with Allen Chapel for more than seven years for the annual Thanksgiving food distribution.

# GRANT SUPPORTS NORTH BATON ROUGE SMALL BUSINESSES

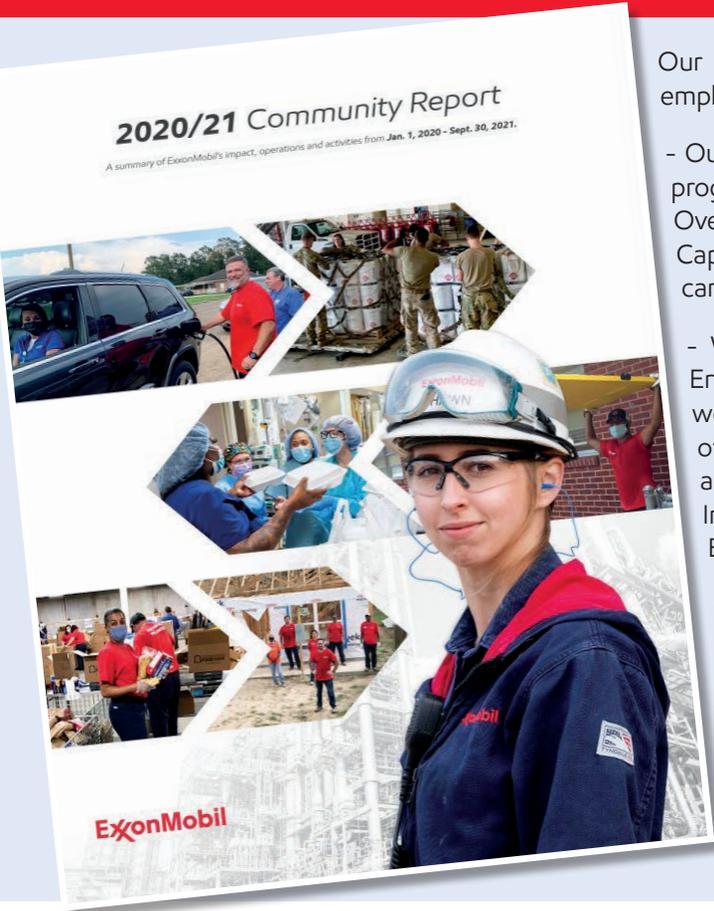
The Baton Rouge North Economic Development District recently announced a \$120,000 matching grant program for small businesses, designed to aid enhancements of building fronts within the Baton Rouge North Economic Development District (BRNEDD) boundaries. The Façade & Signage Improvement Program (FSIP) grant, supported by Senator Regina Barrow and Representative Ted James, is a matching grant and requires

the applicant to pay 50% of the total cost with the grant paying for the remaining 50%, not to exceed \$5,000.

The first round of seven applicants were recently presented to the BRNEDD Board of Directors for consideration, from simple façade features like painting and new signage to larger-scale projects that may include minor construction and landscaping.

Residents can begin to see façade and signage improvements at Bayou Cafe & Catering, Hair by Trademark Studios, The Red Table at Dunbar, TNT Smokehouse, The Luster Group, Northgate Land Development and Monte Cristo Cigar Bar & Bistro. For more information or to apply, visit [www.brnedd.com/facade](http://www.brnedd.com/facade).

## 2020-2021 COMMUNITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE



Our 2020-2021 Community Report reflects on the work of our more than 6,000 employees and contractors within our community. In 2021 alone,

- Our employees donated more than 13,000 hours of service to area nonprofits and programs, worth over \$240,000 in Volunteer Involvement Program grant funding. Over the past five years, we have invested nearly 9,000 hours volunteering for the Capital Area United Way and provided about 14 percent of Capital Area United Way campaign donations annually.
- We continued our work in education through our annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, our sponsorship for 12 LSU Diversity Scholars and our focus on workforce development, including the launch of our six-week high school internship program and ongoing work with the North Baton Rouge Industrial Training Initiative, a collaboration with Baton Rouge Community College.
- Our dedication to supporting local, small and diverse businesses continues, with more than \$364 million spent on diverse suppliers by all plants in Baton Rouge since 2017.
- Our direct impact on the community during Hurricane Ida provided more than 25 million gallons of fuel to the region and \$500,000 in relief efforts to area non-profit organizations.

Scan the QR code using your phone's camera app to read the Community Report.



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**PROTECT YOUR HEALTH. GET SCREENED.**  
ExxonMobil partners with Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center to fund the Early Bird, a mobile cancer screening unit that travels throughout the Baton Rouge area providing free cancer screenings and educational materials on cancer prevention. For more information call (225) 215-1234 or (888) 616-4687, or check out the site on [www.marybird.org](http://www.marybird.org).

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ExxonMobil News is published quarterly by the Baton Rouge Area Public & Government Affairs department.