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## **SCIA: Students can learn technical skills**

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Now is the most important time to offer high-school students what it takes to link their education with career opportunities. To help do just that, Work It! Louisiana is offering parents and their high-school student the opportunity to participate in Career Link 2007.

Career Link 2007 is a "one-stop" shop where the student and parent will receive information on the career opportunities for the student with a career path through technical education. It is specifically planned with a definite purpose ... to provide the parent, the most influential person in a student's life, with information to help make career decisions that the student can act on now.

In one setting, this event will provide two important parts needed to make career decisions:

Regional businesses and industries will be available with information on occupations, required education/training, salaries, benefits and potential career advancement.

Louisiana Technical College program information will be provided identifying training offered to meet the needs of regional businesses and industries.

Career Link 2007 also will provide information on financial aid, scholarships and other financial-assistance services.

This is a unique opportunity. There are many jobs available in our region that offer excellent choices for our students. We are encouraging parents to attend with their child to receive valuable information towards their son or daughter's future. Career Link 2007 can truly open the doors to our regional industrial-business community. Our workforce is in dire need of employees who are willing to accept the responsibility of developing a career path for the future.

The event will take place from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday on the campus Louisiana Technical College campus, 1425 Tiger Drive, in Thibodaux. For information, you may contact the college directly at 447-0924, ext. 104.

About 60 percent of students graduating from high school do not attend a four-year university. This means these students need to be made aware of job opportunities in the workforce that do not require a four-year degree. Many of these jobs require technical training. Career paths offered through a technical education can generate exceptional salaries.

Our region is blessed with three of the best facilities in the state: Louisiana Technical College-Lafourche Campus, Louisiana Technical College-Young Memorial and the regional flagship school, L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College in Houma.

Our next Career Link function will be held in St. Mary Parish at Young Memorial, followed by an event at Fletcher.

Work It! Louisiana is a career-awareness program for students from kindergarten through 12th grade, GED and those students choosing not to return to a four-year university. It was designed and developed by South Central Industrial Association and is made possible through funding from the state labor department in cooperation with Terrebonne Economic Development Authority.

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