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Working with REDOs, LCEE and Nepris to Increase Student Access to WBL (In-Person and Virtual)

Regional Economic Development Organizations (REDOs)

Regional Economic Development Organizations – REDOs – galvanize government, industry and educational stakeholders to develop effective economic development activities and build regional prosperity.

REDOs are the best source of statistical information about local workforce trends and future industry growth. Perhaps more importantly, REDOs are staffed with talented, motivated team members whose mission is to serve local stakeholders while attracting new high-demand-industry employers.

CTE leaders should partner with their REDOs to: a) determine which CTE pathways to offer, reflecting the best high-demand career opportunities for students; and b) develop WBL opportunities.

- a) CTE leaders should use REDO data and advice to make sure their pathways reflect the best opportunities for students to gain entry-level employment in the careers that will build local prosperity. *Statistical data on employment trends and future employment opportunities - not past practices - should drive which CTE pathways each high school offers.*
- b) REDOs are also a great source of WBL opportunities, both on-site and virtual. For example, CTE leaders can recruit in-person and virtual mentors from each REDO's Small Business Council. REDOs are also terrific partners when developing job fairs.

The table below lists many of Louisiana's most prominent REDOs. Most cities have chambers of commerce and/or local economic development agencies that are also great partners for effective CTE leaders.

Louisiana REDOs	
BRAC – Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce	NLEP – North Louisiana Economic Partnership
CLEDA – Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance	One Acadiana
GNO, Inc. – Greater New Orleans, Inc.	SLEC – South Louisiana Economic Council
LEDA – Lafayette Economic Development Authority	SWLA – Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance
LED – Louisiana Economic Development (the state agency that pursues forward-looking economic development strategies)	

Louisiana Council for Economic Education (LCEE)

The mission of the LCEE is to promote personal financial literacy. The LCEE provides all K-12 educators with materials that promote financial literacy for students of every age.

LCEE is also the hub of the Louisiana Mentor Network, a statewide network of individuals who have volunteered to: a) help students attain their Micro-Enterprise Credential as mentors for their self-assessment presentations; and b) participate in other types of virtual and in-person WBL.

CTE leaders can contact Laura Smith (LCEE CEO) at laura@lcee.org to request help in creating WBL opportunities.

Nepris

Nepris is an online platform that connects classrooms with workplace experts in every industry sector students want to explore. A classroom with Nepris provides students with unlimited WBL opportunities. www.nepris.com

Nepris has developed an international mentor network that includes workplace experts in every livelihood and industry sector imaginable. Teachers can request live one-on-one interactions with experts that match every student interest, or download recorded sessions that CTE and academic-subject teachers can use as planned curricular resources.

Virtual Workplace Experience (VWE) courses use Nepris mentors to help students prepare for adult success and gain exposure to high-demand industry sectors. In Louisiana VWE II student enrollments earn districts incremental CDF funds. Academy participants can download VWE instruction resources from the *All Things Jump Start* web portal: <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/jump-start-pilot-programs-virtual-workplace-experience-resources-vwe>

In Louisiana, CTE leaders can request free Nepris training from the state's Nepris representative, Ashley Aleman: ashley@nepris.com When grant funds are available, the LDOE also offers districts "performance grants" that reimburse Nepris license costs when Nepris usage targets are reached. (Note: CDF funds can be used to purchase Nepris licenses.)