RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS

2026 APR 29 AM 11:55

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building.**This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification: *In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):
Jobs for the Future

Travel Dates:
04/07/2026 to 04/10/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$702.00	$358.00	$191.00	$0.00

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

04/27/2026
Date

Jose Garcia
Printed Name of Traveler


Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

4/27/2026
Date

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

○ Yes ● No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
There were no changes to pre-approved travel expenses.		

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

○ Yes ● No

Explanation: There were no changes to the pre-approved itinerary.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

○ Yes ● No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.

Jobs for the Future

Tuesday January 27, 2026

Dear Jose,

On behalf of Jobs for the Future, I'm writing to invite you to an upcoming Congressional Staff Network (CSN) site visit to New Orleans, Louisiana from Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9.

In New Orleans, staff will learn about regional, cross-sector efforts to strengthen pathways into the workforce for youth and adults – particularly those who are un- and underemployed. Chancellors from southeast Louisiana's community and technical colleges will discuss their industry-driven training models to strengthen talent pipelines for key industries, including training the workforce needed for the launch of NASA's Artemis II rocket. Secondary and higher education partners will share how they're supporting the Gulf Coast's maritime industry and the expansion of the Port of New Orleans, including a collaborative effort to develop a comprehensive "K-20" career pathways ecosystem for maritime manufacturing.

Leaders from NOLA's highly coordinated network of youth intermediaries, together with their industry partners, will share how they deliver career-connected learning that equips all young people for career success – especially "Opportunity Youth" who are disconnected from both school and work. Attendees will see these training programs, including youth apprenticeships, in action and hear directly from young people about their experience.

Staff will also learn about several workforce development initiatives that serve people with records and youth in the juvenile justice system, including Goodwill's Re-Integration Program (GRIP), supported in part by a U.S. DOL Reentry Opportunities Pathway Home award; Café Reconcile's implementation of a U.S. DOL Young Adult Reentry Partnership grant; and a welding dual enrollment program that equips juvenile detainees with the skills they need for high-wage careers post-release.

Please confirm your participation by Wednesday, February 25. Once you confirm your plans to participate, our team will share further information for the trip, including the agenda and the necessary ethics documentation.

Best,

Taylor Maag
Director, Workforce Policy
Jobs for the Future

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:
Jose Garcia

Employing Office/Committee:
HEALTH, EDUC, LAB, AND PENSIONS - DEM

Private Sponsor(s):
Jobs for the Future

Destination(s):
New Orleans, Louisiana

Travel Dates:

04/07/2026 to 04/09/2026

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

On this trip will be visiting sites such as a reentry program, and a visit to an organization that assist with opportunity youth. We will also be learning more about how New Orleans is developing a comprehensive k-20 career pathways ecosystem. These are all issues that I work on and lead for Senator Sanders on the HELP Committee.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip? ☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

Name and Relationship to Traveler: N/A

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

4/2/26
Date

Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

I Senator Bill Cassidy (Print Senator's/Officer's Name) hereby authorize Jose Garcia (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

4/2/2026
Date

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

Jobs for the Future: JFF Congressional Staff Network Site Visit to New Orleans, Louisiana

Jose Garcia

Title:
Education Policy Advisor

Employing Office/Committee:
HEALTH, EDUC, LAB, AND PENSIONS - DEM

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

New Orleans, Louisiana

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

On this trip will be visiting sites such as a reentry program, and a visit to an organization that assist with opportunity youth. We will also be learning more about how New Orleans is developing a comprehensive k-20 career pathways ecosystem. These are all issues that I work on and lead for Senator Sanders on the HELP Committee.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
Jobs for the Future

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
(●) Yes ( ) No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Private Foundation

Address
50 Milk Street, 17th Floor

Address 2 (Optional)

City, State Zip
Boston, Massachusetts 02109 United States

Phone Number
2145143431

Organization URL
jff.org

History of Congressional Travel

Jobs for the Future (JFF) has sponsored site visits and other educational activities for Congressional staff for over 17 years. Examples of this work include 3-4 DC-based forums per year, and approximately two site visits per year where senior Congressional staff see high-quality workforce programs first-hand and learn from experts, practitioners, and program participants about the impact of federal policy on the ground. Previous site visits have included travel to: Bridgeport, CT; Cincinnati, OH; Madison, WI; Philadelphia, PA; Detroit, MI; Wichita, KS; Nashville, TN; Seattle, WA; Eastern KY; Fredericksburg, VA; Memphis, TN; Denver, CO; Shenandoah Valley, VA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Wilmington, DE; Austin, TX; Asheville, NC; Las Vegas, NV; and Cleveland, OH. The purpose of these trips, and of the Congressional Staff Network, is to provide in-depth learning opportunities for staff on workforce, education, and economic security issues.

Educational Activities

JFF works with partners around the country to design and drive the adoption of education and career pathways that lead to upward economic mobility, especially for individuals who face systemic barriers to advancement. JFF improves pathways from high school to postsecondary education to family-supporting careers through relevant technical assistance, research, policy development, communications, and by hosting events, including national conferences.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyists.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ✓ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ✓ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ✓ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

The Congressional Staff Network (CSN) convenes a bipartisan, bicameral group of senior Congressional staff to focus on policy issues at the core of economic mobility: K-12 education, postsecondary education, workforce development, and human services. The purpose of this trip is to educate staff about evidence-based approaches to education and workforce development that prepare learners, workers, and jobseekers for high-wage careers, while supporting regional economic growth and resilience. Participants will see program models designed to promote economic advancement, align training with labor market demand, and accelerate the diversification of southeast Louisiana's economy. They will engage with stakeholders involved in developing and implementing these efforts, including public workforce and education system leaders, regional employers, and community-based organizations.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

JFF's mission is to drive transformation of the U.S. education and workforce systems to achieve economic advancement for all. Specifically, JFF aims to eliminate barriers to economic mobility by making our education and workforce systems more effective, better connected, and easier to navigate. JFF's mission connects directly to the purpose of this trip: highlighting innovative, evidence-based programs and policies that drive upward mobility.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

1. Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
2. Gates Foundation

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- [x] The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- [x] The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- [x] No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

- [x] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- [ ] The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- [ ] The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
04/07/2026 @ 11:40 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
04/09/2026 @ 08:55 PM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

○ Yes ● No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $702.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$482.00

Note
Round trip economy class airfare from Washington, DC's Reagan National Airport (DCA) to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY).

Ground Transportation	Coach	$220.00

Note
On the ground transportation via chartered coach bus in New Orleans.

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $358.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
04/07/2026	04/09/2026	New Orleans Marriott	New Orleans	Louisiana	United States	2	$179.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $191.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
04/07/2026	$0.00	$22.00	$38.00	$0.00	**$60.00**	New Orleans	Louisiana	United States	No
04/08/2026	$20.00	$22.00	$38.00	$0.00	**$80.00**	New Orleans	Louisiana	United States	No
04/09/2026	$20.00	$26.00	$0.00	$5.00	**$51.00**	New Orleans	Louisiana	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $0.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes

There are no miscellaneous expenses.

Additional Attachments

Document Name

There are no additional attachments.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: JFF Congressional Staff Network Site Visit to New Orleans, l

Travel Date(s): 04/07/2026 - 04/09/2026

Travel Destination(s): New Orleans, LA

Sponsor: Jobs for the Future

Maria K. Flynn
(printed name of sponsor representative)

President and CEO
(title)

Maria K. Flynn
(signature of sponsor representative)

2.23.2026
(date)

Grantmaking Organization Certification Form

Instructions: If a sponsor receives funds from a grantmaking organization, the sponsor must disclose this on the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and the grantmaking organization must complete the *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form.* The completed *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form* must be submitted to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics by the trip sponsor at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date.

Grantmaking Organization: Gates Foundation

Private Sponsor: Jobs for the Future (JFF)

Trip Name: JFF Congressional Staff Network Site Visit to New Orleans, Louisiana

Travel Date(s): 04/07/2026 - 04/09/2026

Destination(s): New Orleans, LA

In compliance with the *Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel*, I certify the following:

- ☑ The grantmaking organization is a § 501(c)(3) organization.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization is not a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or foreign agent, nor an entity that retains or employs a lobbyist or foreign agent.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization provides funds under an established grant program, or in a manner that is otherwise consistent with the mission and practices of the organization.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization is not involved, directly or indirectly, in organizing and conducting the trip. This includes selecting participants for a trip.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization does not directly pay or reimburse travel expenses for any Senate Member, officer, or employee.

Kathryn Young — *(Printed name of grantmaking organization representative)*

Senior Program Officer — *(Title)*

Kathryn Young Digitally signed by Kathryn Young Date: 2026.02.25 09:57:42 -05'00' — *(Signature of grantmaking organization representative)*

02/25/2026 — *(Date)*

Grantmaking Organization Certification Form

Instructions: If a sponsor receives funds from a grantmaking organization, the sponsor must disclose this on the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and the grantmaking organization must complete the *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form*. The completed *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form* must be submitted to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics by the trip sponsor at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date.

Grantmaking Organization: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Private Sponsor: Jobs for the Future (JFF)

Trip Name: JFF Congressional Staff Network Site Visit to New Orleans, Louisiana

Travel Date(s): 04/07/2026 - 04/09/2026

Destination(s): New Orleans, LA

In compliance with the *Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel*, I certify the following:

- ☑ The grantmaking organization is a § 501(c)(3) organization.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization is not a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or foreign agent, nor an entity that retains or employs a lobbyist or foreign agent.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization provides funds under an established grant program, or in a manner that is otherwise consistent with the mission and practices of the organization.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization is not involved, directly or indirectly, in organizing and conducting the trip. This includes selecting participants for a trip.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization does not directly pay or reimburse travel expenses for any Senate Member, officer, or employee.

Sonia Moldovan — *(Printed name of grantmaking organization representative)*

Officer — *(Title)*

DocuSigned by: Sonia Moldovan 9E0AF047055F4A4... — *(Signature of grantmaking organization representative)*

2/19/2026 — *(Date)*

Jobs for the Future

Congressional Staff Network (CSN) Site Visit to New Orleans, Louisiana

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

SENATE STAFF INVITEES

Congressional Staff Network Site Visit to New Orleans, LA

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

Julianna Collado
Legislative Aide
Senate HELP Committee

Jose Garcia
Education Policy Adviser
Senate HELP Committee

Jackson Hern
Education Policy Staff Assistant
Senate HELP Committee

Rebecca Howard
Legislative Assistant
Office of Sen. Tim Kaine

Trevor Hustus
Legislative Assistant
Office of Sen. Jim Banks

Amy Jones
Legislative Correspondent
Office of Sen. Ted Budd

Grace Scott
Legislative Correspondent
Office of Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester

Emily Slack
Professional Staff Member
Senate Appropriations Committee

Sarah Waddill
Legislative Correspondent
Office of Sen. Mark Kelly

Michael Waske
Senior Policy Advisor
Senate HELP Committee

Jobs for the Future

Congressional Staff Network (CSN) Site Visit to New Orleans, Louisiana

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

AGENDA

Congressional Staff Network Site Visit to New Orleans, LA

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

11:40 AM – 1:20 PM **Flight: DCA to MSY**

Southwest Airlines Flight # WN 2972

REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT

2401 Smith Blvd
Arlington, VA 22202

1:20 – 2:15 PM **Travel to Greater New Orleans, Inc.**

2:15 – 3:40 PM **Welcome Lunch: Introduction to Southeast Louisiana and its Labor Market**

GREATER NEW ORLEANS, INC.

1100 Poydras St #3475
New Orleans, LA 70163

Speakers will welcome staffers to New Orleans and provide an overview of key themes for the visit, where regional education and workforce stakeholders are focusing their efforts: strengthening pathways into the workforce for youth and adults, expanding career-connected and work-based learning, and aligning training programs with real labor market demand.

Experts from Greater New Orleans, Inc., southeast Louisiana's economic development agency, will then provide context around key economic and demographic trends: growth industries, average wage vs. cost of living, the "supply" of trained workers versus current and projected hiring demand, labor force participation rates, and the rate of youth disconnection (i.e., youth ages 16-24 who are disconnected from both school and work).

- **Jasmine Brown-DeRousselle**, Chief External Affairs Officer, Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- **Michael Hecht**, President & CEO, Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- **Taylor Maag**, Director, Workforce Policy, JFF *(moderator)*
- **Courtney A. Stuckwisch Wong**, Deputy Director, Office of Economic Development, City of New Orleans

3:40 – 3:50 PM **Break**

Jobs for the Future

Congressional Staff Network (CSN) Site Visit to New Orleans, Louisiana

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

3:50 – 5:15 PM

Mapping NOLA's Youth Career-Connected Learning Ecosystem

YOUTHFORCE NOLA

1100 Poydras St # 1405
New Orleans, LA 70163

YouthForce NOLA serves as the intermediary for career-connected learning across New Orleans, coordinating a network of education, business, and community partners who, together, equip public school students with the skills they need to confidently pursue a wide range of opportunities after high school. Staffers will gain a better understanding of how intermediaries support the expansion of high-quality work-based learning and career exploration, including through effective administration of Perkins V funds and federal competitive grants - in recent years, a U.S. DOL Apprenticeship Building America award and an early-phase Education Innovation and Research grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Speakers will also discuss the core components of quality career-connected learning, strategies to effectively teach durable skills, and updates that Louisiana recently made to the state's definition of work-based learning and school accountability framework.

- **Paige Boetefuer**, Director, Solutions Lab, YouthForce NOLA
- **Erica Cuevas**, Director, Education Policy, JFF *(moderator)*
- **Melissa Ehlinger**, Chief of External Affairs and Co-Founder, YouthForce NOLA
- **David Shepard**, Director of Policy and Data Strategy, YouthForce NOLA
- **Cate Swinburn**, Co-Founder, CEO, & President, YouthForce NOLA

5:15 – 5:45 PM

Travel to Dinner

5:45 – 8:15 PM

Dinner & Session: How State Policy Drives Louisiana's Talent Development Goals

MR. B'S BISTRO

201 Royal St
New Orleans, LA 70130

Over dinner, staffers will hear from state agency leaders who are working together to spearhead efforts to align and transform the state's approach to talent development, with the goal of expanding economic opportunity for Louisianans.

Specifically, we'll discuss key strategies like Louisiana Works' Business Workforce Solutions initiative, which positions economic development organizations as key drivers of the link between industry and the workforce system, the Louisiana Board of Regents' Talent Imperative to strengthen alignment across higher education and economic development, and the recently-launched statewide High Impact Jobs Program.

Jobs for the Future

Congressional Staff Network (CSN) Site Visit to New Orleans, Louisiana

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

- **Kim Hunter-Reed**, Commissioner of Higher Education, Louisiana Board of Regents
- **W. Chandler LeBoeuf**, Vice President of Education, Louisiana Community and Technical College System
- **Taylor Maag**, Director, Workforce Policy, JFF *(moderator)*
- **Susana Schowen**, Secretary of Louisiana Workforce Commission

8:15 – 8:30 PM **Travel to Hotel**

8:30 PM **Check in to Hotel**

NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT

555 Canal St
New Orleans, LA 70130

Wednesday April 8, 2026

8:15 – 8:45 AM **Travel to New Orleans Career Center (NOCC)**

8:45 – 10:45 AM **Breakfast & Session: Scaling Youth Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeship Programs**

NEW ORLEANS CAREER CENTER

1331 Kerlerec St
New Orleans, LA 70116

New Orleans Career Center (NOCC) is the city's hub for technical education and training, serving in- and out-of-school youth as well as adult learners. Staffers will learn how NOCC partners with employers to create on-ramps to high-wage careers in critical industries, and how they collaborate with New Orleans public schools (virtually all of which are charter schools).

Employer partners from the skilled trades, healthcare, and hospitality industries will share their experience partnering with NOCC to engage in youth apprenticeship and work-based learning, and how policymakers can encourage employer engagement at scale.

- **Jonathan Baynham**, Vice President and Executive Director, Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA)
- **Quentin Bradley**, Director of Talent Management, Ochsner Health
- **Carlin Jacobs**, Chief Programs Officer, NOCC
- **Claire Jecklin**, Chief Executive Officer, NOCC
- **Ryan Orgeron**, Chief Executive Officer, A1 Electric Contractors

Jobs for the Future

Congressional Staff Network (CSN) Site Visit to New Orleans, Louisiana

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

Youth apprentice and trainee panelists:

- **Luis Alverenga**, Association of Builders and Contractors Apprentice (Level 3), A1 Electric
- **Bri Blunt**, LRA Apprentice, Cochon Restaurant
- **Temon Crawford**, Apprentice, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 130
- **Kristina Thompson**, Year 1 Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Trainee

10:45 – 11:45 AM

Site Tour: NOCC Onsite Training

NEW ORLEANS CAREER CENTER

1331 Kerlerec St
New Orleans, LA 70116

NOCC leaders will guide staffers through onsite training facilities and continue conversations from the morning panel around what's needed to scale high-quality work-based learning and mentorship opportunities.

- **Carlin Jacobs**, Chief Programs Officer, NOCC
- **Claire Jecklin**, Chief Executive Officer, NOCC

11:45 – 12:30 PM

Travel to Nunez Community College

12:30 – 1:45 PM

Lunch & Session: Models for Postsecondary Access and Success in New Orleans

NUNEZ COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Testing & Career Counseling Center
3710 Paris Rd
Chalmette, LA 70043

Leaders from Nunez Community College will share how their institution is taking a holistic approach to promote postsecondary enrollment, retention, and completion for students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Discussion will cover key models to serve students in rural areas and adult learners, and how federal programs including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) support these efforts.

Speakers will also dive deep into a key model for student access: dual enrollment. Half of Nunez Community College's total student body are dually enrolled, meaning they are high schoolers who are earning college credit concurrently. In addition to the institution's successful CTE dual enrollment programs with local high schools, they recently expanded the model to provide dual enrollment welding courses and hands-on internships to students from the juvenile detention center. Students in the summer internship program fabricate park benches, bicycle racks, and other products that outfit public parks and trails throughout St. Bernard Parish.

- **Erica Cuevas**, Director, Education Policy, JFF *(moderator)*
- **Samantha DaLuz,** Executive Director for Strategic Partnerships, Nunez Community College
- **Aleen LeBoeuf**, Career and Technical Education and Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Chalmette High School
- **Reggie J. Poché**, Interim Vice Chancellor for Strategic

Jobs for the Future

Congressional Staff Network (CSN) Site Visit to New Orleans, Louisiana

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

Initiatives and Engagement, Nunez Community College

1:45 – 1:55 PM **Break**

1:55 – 3:15 PM

Community Colleges as Engines of Economic Mobility: Industry-Driven Training Models

NUNEZ COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Testing & Career Counseling Center
3710 Paris Rd
Chalmette, LA 70043

This session will explore how southeast Louisiana's community and technical colleges are taking a collective - rather than competitive - approach to building industry-responsive training programs. Leaders will highlight regional sector-based training initiatives, including a mechatronics apprenticeship model; the Greater New Orleans Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (GNO RAMP) sector partnership; and the Maritime Workforce Imperative – Gulf Coast, an initiative led by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers in collaboration with six community colleges across the Delta region.

Speakers will also discuss how their institutions leverage federal funding to support employer partnerships, including WIOA dollars and competitive grants like the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities (WORC) program.

- **Jim Carlson**, Chancellor, Northshore Technical Community College
- **Larissa Littleton-Stieb**, Chancellor, Delgado Community College
- **Taylor Maag**, Director of Workforce Policy, JFF *(moderator)*
- **Monty Sullivan**, Former Chancellor, Louisiana Community and Technical College System
- **Deb Volzer**, Vice President of Workforce Development, Society of Manufacturing Engineers
- **Tina Tinney**, Chancellor, Nunez Community College

3:15 – 4:00 PM **Travel**

4:00 – 5:30 PM

Site Tour: Laitram's Mechatronics Apprenticeship

LAITRAM

200 Laitram Ln
Harahan, LA 70123

Laitram's talent and recruitment team will walk staff through the mechatronics apprenticeship model in action, highlighting how apprentices apply technical and problem-solving skills in a real-world manufacturing environment and how employer engagement directly shapes training outcomes. This on-site experience will provide tangible context for the strategies discussed during the session and demonstrate how regional collaboration translates into workforce impact on the factory floor.

- **Jason Enrique**, Talent Acquisition Recruiter, Laitram

Jobs for the Future

Congressional Staff Network (CSN) Site Visit to New Orleans, Louisiana

Tuesday, April 7 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

- **Brian Gibson**, Director of Workforce Development, Nunez Community College
- **Reggie J. Poché**, Interim Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Engagement, Nunez Community College
- **Allison Thomas**, Talent Acquisition Recruiting Supervisor, Laitram

5:30 – 6:15 PM **Travel to Dinner**

6:15 – 8:15 PM **Dinner & Discussion**

SIDECAR PATIO & OYSTER BAR

1114 Constance St
New Orleans, LA 70130

Over dinner, Hill staff will sit down with practitioners to reflect further on the implications of the day's sessions for federal policy. Specifically, conversations will focus on federal policy levers to expand access to and awareness of high-wage career pathways in the skilled trades, and bolster community colleges as key drivers of regional economic uplift.

8:15 – 8:30 PM **Travel to Hotel**

Thursday April 9, 2026

8:30 AM **Meet in Lobby, Check out**

NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT

555 Canal St
New Orleans, LA 70130

8:30 – 9:00 AM **Travel to Port of New Orleans**

9:00 – 10:15 AM **Breakfast & Session: Sector-based Workforce Development in the Maritime Industry**

PORT OF NEW ORLEANS

1350 Port of New Orleans Pl
New Orleans, LA 70130

The Port of New Orleans (Port NOLA) is central to the state economy – one in five jobs in Louisiana are connected to the maritime industry – and demand continues to grow. This pressure has accelerated industry efforts to reach untapped talent and hire from local communities. To support the port's expansion and drive regional economic prosperity, the city designated Port NOLA the official facilitator of the region's Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics sector partnership, launched with $400k from ARPA funds.

Speakers will highlight a few key initiatives, including how employers partnered with Nunez Community College to

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co-develop a new Certificate of Technical Studies in Maritime Operations to equip residents of St. Bernard Parish with the skills they need for high-wage maritime careers. Staffers will also learn about efforts to engage youth and their families, such as career exposure activities for elementary schoolers delivered in partnership with the nonprofit We Work the Waterways and free youth swimming classes with the community-based Open Waters.

- **Jeanne Ferrer**, Pilot, Crescent River Port Pilots Association; and Board Member, Port NOLA, We Work the Waterways, and Open Waters
- **David Kearney**, CEO, The Kearney Companies
- **Kylie Mills**, Government and Community Affairs Manager, Port of New Orleans
- **Reggie J. Poché**, Interim Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Engagement, Nunez Community College
- **Susannah Rodrigue**, Senior Manager, Policy & Advocacy, JFF *(moderator)*

10:15 – 11:00 AM

Site Tour: Port NOLA

PORT OF NEW ORLEANS

1350 Port of New Orleans Pl
New Orleans, LA 70130

During this guided tour, staffers will see career exploration and on-the-job training facilities firsthand, and engage further with employers who are leading efforts to develop a robust talent pipeline for the maritime industry.

- **Kylie Mills**, Government and Community Affairs Manager, Port of New Orleans

11:00 – 11:30 AM

Travel to Café Reconcile

11:30 AM – 1:15 PM

Lunch & Panel: Workforce Development Strategies to Re-engage Disconnected Youth

CAFE RECONCILE

1631 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70113

Speakers will explain how community-based organizations are implementing interconnected solutions to foster an ecosystem that buoys young people as they find stability and momentum on their path toward education and employment. Discussion will elevate strategies to effectively braid funding across WIOA, SNAP E&T, and competitive grants like U.S. DOL STRIVE, and the role of the city's Youth Master Plan in strengthening coordination.

Staffers will also learn about Café Reconcile's exemplary model for youth workforce development, which provides paid career exploration, job readiness training, and work-based learning in tandem with robust case management services.

Among other partnerships, Café Reconcile is working across community colleges, employers, and the legal system to expand occupational training for youth impacted by the criminal justice

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system, with support from the U.S. DOL Young Adult Reentry Partnership program.

- **Kheri Billy**, Chief Executive Officer, Café Reconcile
- **Taylor Maag**, Director, Workforce Policy, JFF *(moderator)*
- **Monique Robinson**, Chief Program Officer, Café Reconcile
- **Caitlin Scanlan**, Chief Development Officer, Café Reconcile
- **Morgan Shannon**, Executive Director, New Orleans Children & Youth Planning Board

1:15 – 1:25 PM

Break

1:25 – 2:45 PM

Talent Strategies for People with Criminal Records

CAFE RECONCILE

1631 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70113

Over one-in-three Americans has a criminal record, from arrest to conviction, triggering tens of thousands of barriers to work that drain an estimated $78 billion to $87 billion in annual GDP from the U.S. economy. Southeast Louisiana has become a laboratory of solutions for this population of workers, leading the piloting and scaling of exemplary workforce training and reentry models. This session will explore some of those efforts and how federal policymakers can help replicate nationwide.

Staffers will learn about Goodwill's Re-Integration Program (GRIP), which is funded in part by the U.S. DOL Reentry Opportunities Pathway Home program and offers skills training to individuals who were released from prison within the last seven years. Speakers will discuss how the region's sector partnerships are overcoming policy barriers to economic mobility for people with records such as difficulties accessing federal Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) cards while supporting employers in need of skilled workers.

- **Noah Bein**, Director, Justice Policy, JFF *(moderator)*
- **Andrew Hundley**, Executive Director, Louisiana Parole Project
- **Ken Jones**, Vice President of Community Relations and Public Affairs, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana
- **Kristina Kent**, Senior Director, Workforce Programs and Economic Mobility, Greater New Orleans Foundation
- **Frank Morse**, President, Morse Homes, Inc.

2:45 – 3:00 PM

Wrap Up & Reflection

En Route to Airport

Informal discussion with staff about key takeaways from the trip – reflecting on learnings and ways that federal policymakers can assist states and localities to improve systems alignment,

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programming, and worker and learner outcomes.

- **Taylor Maag**, Director, Workforce Policy, JFF

3:00 – 5:25 PM **Flight Check in**

5:25 – 8:55 PM **Flight: MSY to DCA**

Southwest Airlines Flight # WN 3199

LOUIS ARMSTRONG NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT

1 Terminal Dr
Kenner, LA 70062