

CASE STUDY: LOUISIANA & MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST



AT A GLANCE

Greater New Orleans Inc. (GNO, Inc.) is the regional economic development non-profit organization serving the 10-parish region of Southeast Louisiana. The Greater New Orleans Regional Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (RAAMP) is an initiative of GNO, Inc.

OBJECTIVE

To create equitable employment opportunities in Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing, particularly for people from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in STEM jobs.

SOLUTION

Greater New Orleans Region One Center for STEM Internship Suite Program

GNO, Inc.'s Greater New Orleans Region One Center for STEM (GNORocs) Internship Suite, a leading STEM initiative, offers the HBCU Innovation Internship Program and the Black Engineering Collective of Greater New Orleans. The HBCU program provides hands-on experience and mentorship for students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities in STEM and Startup tracks. The Black Engineering Collective recruits minority engineering students at Louisiana's 4-year colleges. These programs merge industry, community, and education, creating a sustainable workforce pipeline. GNORocs cultivates talent, fosters collaboration, and promotes inclusivity, addressing STEM workforce needs and empowering individuals for innovation and economic growth.

Women In The STEM Economy (WISE) Women

W.I.S.E. Women NOLA is a mentorship program designed to engage young women in authentic conversations regarding STEM careers. The program inspires them to pursue STEM programming in their schools and encourages them to choose STEM pathways where they are underrepresented. This increases diversity and inclusion within the STEM business ecosystem of the Greater New Orleans region. Graduating mentees are pursuing engineering majors, and every eligible mentee is enrolled in STEM-based AP/Dual Enrollment courses.

Nunez Community College Solar System Exhibit + Aerospace Technician Training Program and Registered Apprenticeship Accelerator Partnership

Nunez Community College, situated in Chalmette, Louisiana, hosts the state's only Aerospace Technician Training Program. With NASA Michoud, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Vivace nearby, Nunez is primed to educate future aerospace and advanced manufacturing leaders. To meet industry demands and engage students, Nunez introduced a Voyage Mark II scale model solar system walking exhibit across campus and they plan to enhance the Aerospace Technician Training Program by adding a registered apprenticeship track, supported by industry partners like GNO, Inc., and Jobs for the Future. This earn-while-you-learn model will provide accessible opportunities for individuals to enter the space industry.

STEPS TO SUCCESS

- Identify underrepresented populations in STEM careers
- Collaborate with organizations who serve those populations
- Provide opportunities for education and experiences to inspire pursuit of STEM careers

