

# Students Exploring Career Opportunities

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Central Louisiana

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November 15 – 16, 2017

## Our Funding Partners

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School Districts  
Allen - Avoyelles - Catahoula - Grant - LaSalle  
Natchitoches - Rapides - Vernon - Winn

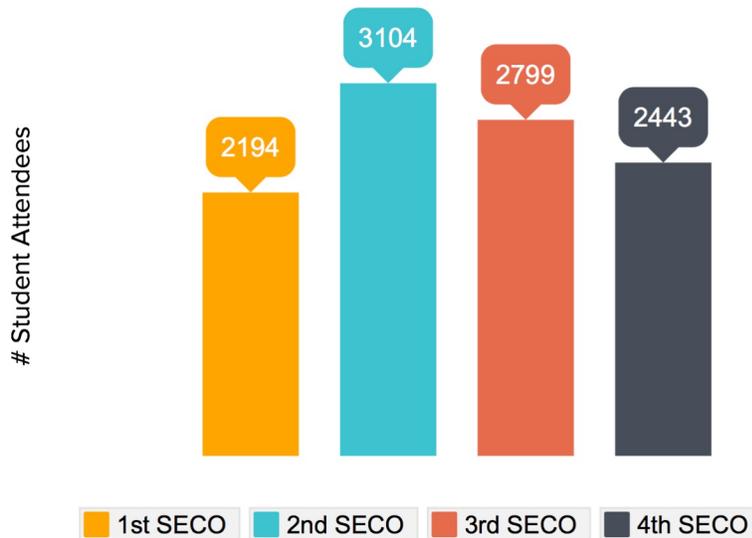
Presented by



# Key Event Stats

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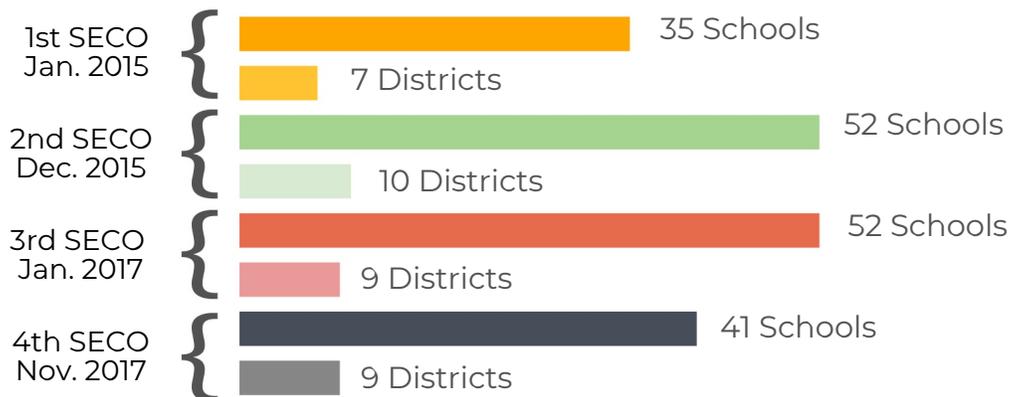
## Student Attendance



\*Note: Years 1 – 3 focused on 8th graders, while Year 4 focused on 10th graders.

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## Schools and Districts



\*Note: Years 1 – 3 focused on 8th graders, while Year 4 focused on 10th graders.

# 3

## Career Clusters

12 Career Clusters and 45 Business Partners



Manufacturing (7)



Health Science (9)



Education & Training (10)



Business Management & Marketing (1)



Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources (3)



STEM (4)



Architecture & Construction (2)



Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (1)



Arts (1)



Law, Public Safety, and Corrections & Security (4)



Finance (2)



Government, Public Administration & Military (1)

# Why SECO?

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The Students Exploring Career Opportunities (SECO) Expo has evolved into one of Central Louisiana's premier college/career awareness and exploration events. In collaboration with a diverse set of regional industry partners, we seize students' attention and inspire them to envision an educational and career pathway.

We know that students' beliefs about themselves have significant consequences for high school graduation and future success in life. Research identifies adolescence as a critical developmental window in which youth explore and create their college and career identities. In high school, students may unknowingly disengage from coursework that is key to many of today's most promising careers. This unintentionally, but effectively, closes the doors to potentially fulfilling career pathways.

The Orchard Foundation is determined that every student in Central Louisiana will have the ability and opportunity to apply to and enroll in a post-secondary school (technical, community, four-year) to pursue their career of choice in a regional industry.

The SECO Expo helps us reach this goal by providing a fun, educational space to:

- Promote career awareness through authentic experiences;
  - Engage students to explore their different interests, talents, and graduation pathway options;
  - Animate subject areas by connecting classroom learning to career settings; and
  - Empower students to make informed choices about high school and post-secondary options.
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## SECO in Brief

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The SECO Expo is the only interactive, student-focused event in Louisiana designed to introduce public school students to career possibilities at the 10th grade level. Recently, the expo transitioned from an 8th grade-level event to a 10th grade focused event, a decision based on feedback from education stakeholders that students would benefit most from SECO while in 10th grade.

Available to all 10th graders from Central Louisiana public school districts, SECO provides a dynamic venue for students to experience simulations and demonstrations from industries such as agriculture and forestry, information technology, health care, advanced manufacturing, construction, business management, and more. Far from a typical job or college fair, SECO is designed to provide tangible activities aimed at fostering student engagement and ultimately sparking an interest in future careers.

At SECO, students journey through different career clusters, learning about job prospects from regional industries and educational opportunities from training institutions. Students also complete a financial literacy simulation, during which they learn about the financial aspects of employment. They build imaginary household budgets to see if their ideal job would enable the lifestyle they envision for themselves.

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## Spotlight: Demonstrations and Simulations

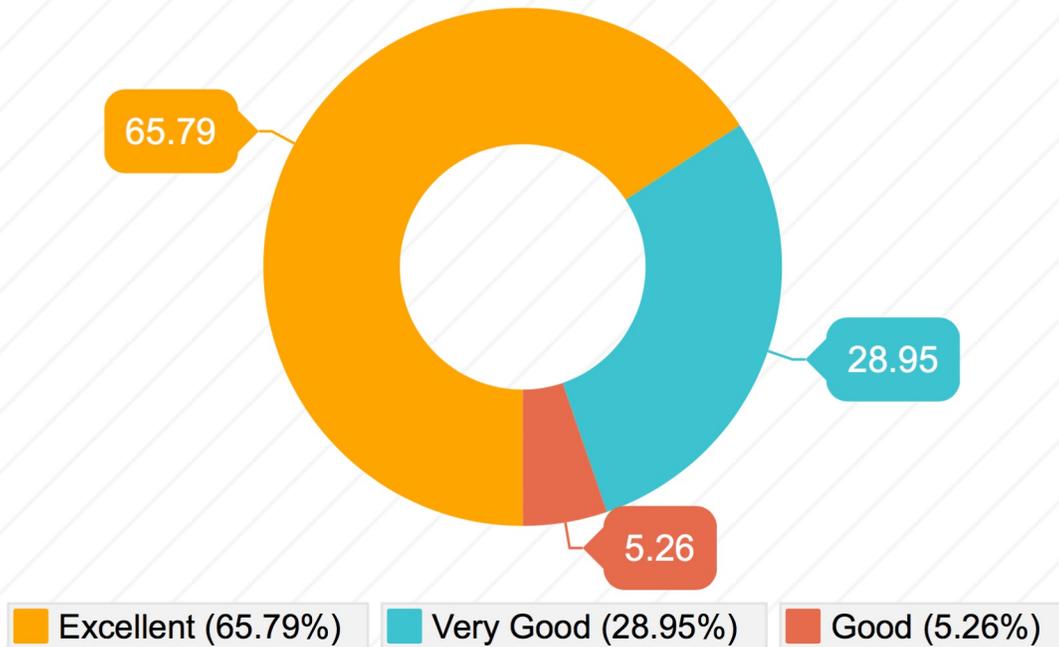
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Examples of demonstrations include:

- Operate on a patient in a mock emergency room, dressed in proper clothing.
- Engage in a virtual welding simulation, and an auto body painting simulation.
- Learn about the importance of circuit boards and power line construction and safety from a utility company.
- Experiment with hissing cockroach races and laboratory chemicals to engage students in biology and chemistry concepts.
- Simulate working on a production line, making oriented strand board (OSB) using rice crisp cereal as wood chips and marshmallow cream as glue.
- Mimic heavy construction work with a bulldozer simulation.
- Interact with attorneys and police officers to learn their roles in the justice system.
- Don impairment goggles, designed to simulate consuming too much alcohol, while attempting to negotiate a course on a tricycle.

# What Are People Saying About SECO?

## Business Partner Feedback



94.74% of business partners had an excellent or very good experience

## Educator Feedback



Level of Satisfaction

Educators were very satisfied with all aspects of SECO

# SECO Happenings



# Student Choice Awards by Zone

## Zone 1



**1st Place**  
Grant High School Emergency Medical Responder Class and MedExpress



**2nd Place**  
Rapides Regional Medical Center



**3rd Place**  
Alexandria Police Department

## Zone 2



**1st Place**  
Gilchrist Construction Company, LLC and CAT



**2nd Place**  
CLTCC – Automotive and HVAC



**3rd Place**  
CMAP Express

## Zone 3



**1st Place**  
Procter and Gamble



**2nd Place**  
USDA Forestry Service  
Kisatchie National Forest



**3rd Place**  
UTLX Manufacturing, LLC

## Zone 4



**1st Place**  
Unitech Training Academy



**2nd Place**  
LSUA Math and Physical Science Department



**3rd Place**  
Rapides Business and Career Solutions Center