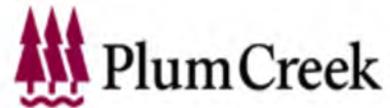




**Students Exploring Career Opportunities (SECO) in Central Louisiana**

**Our Funding Partners**



School Districts

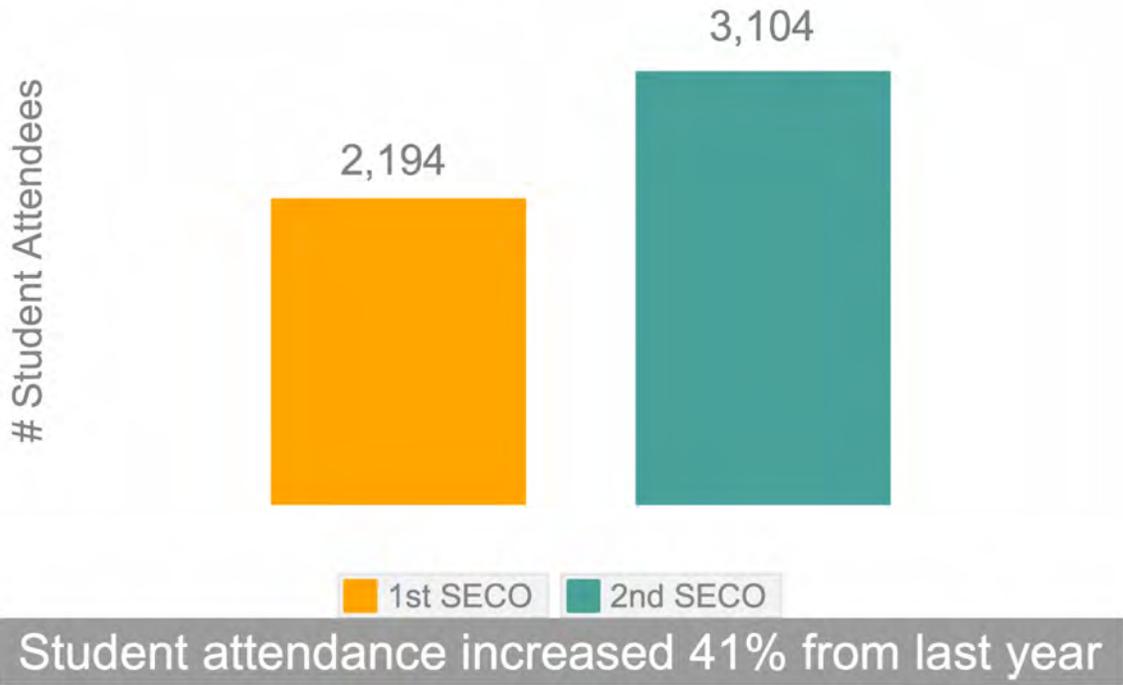
Allen - Avoyelles - Catahoula - Concordia - Grant  
 LaSalle - Natchitoches - Rapides - Vernon - Winn



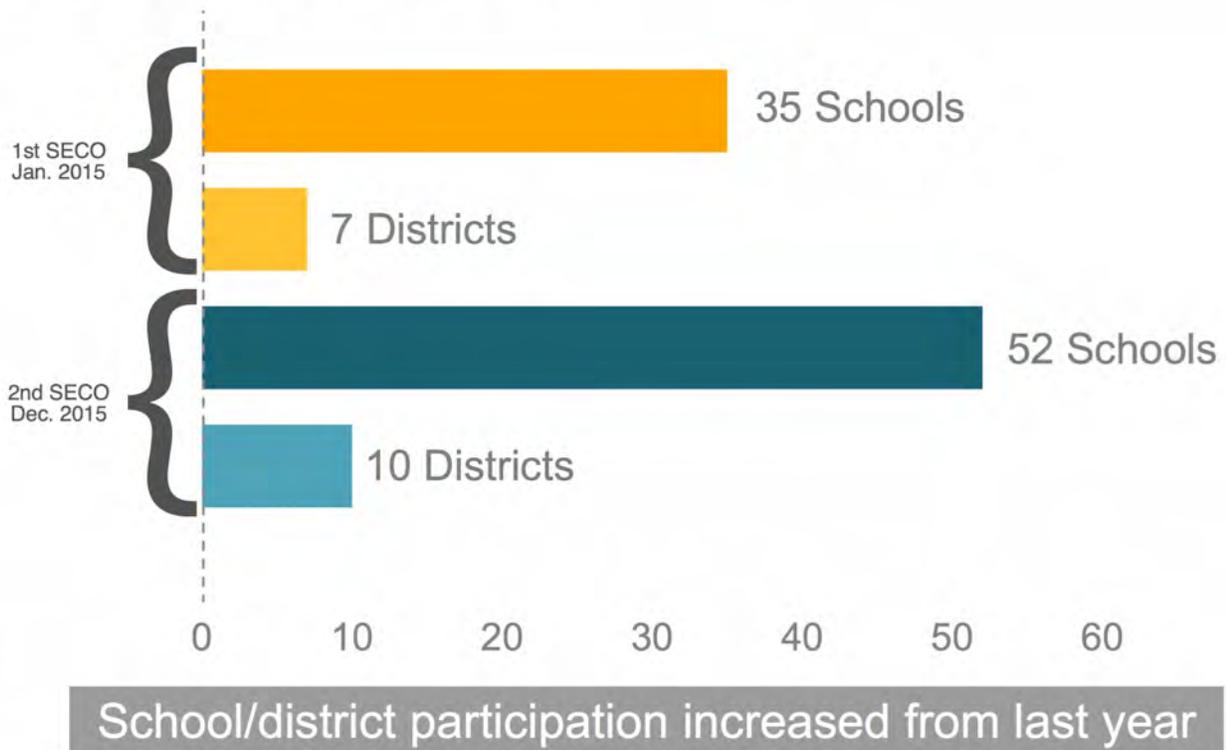
December 2 & 3, 2015 ~ Alexandria Riverfront Center

# Key Event Stats

## Student Attendance



## Schools and Districts



# Career Clusters



Manufacturing (9)



Health Science (7)



Education & Training (7)



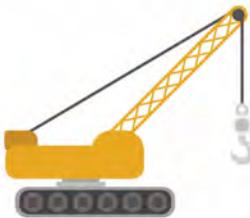
Business Mgmt./  
Marketing (5)



Agriculture & Forestry (5)



STEM (4)



Architecture & Construction (3)



Transportation/Dist. (3)



Human Service (3)



Public Safety (3)



Government & Public  
Administration (3)



IT (2)



Arts & Audio/Visual (2)



Hospitality (2)

Fourteen clusters and 58 business partners

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# Why SECO?

Research identifies adolescence as a significant developmental window in which youth explore and create their college and career identities. In middle school, students may disengage from, or begin to connect to the subjects that are key to many of today's most promising careers. What students believe about themselves in middle school has significant consequences for high school graduation and future success in life.

The Students Exploring Career Opportunities (SECO) Expo, a career awareness and exploration program for eighth grade students, provides 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.

## SECO in a Nutshell

The SECO Expo is the only interactive, student-focused event in Louisiana designed to introduce public school students to career possibilities at the middle school level. Available to all eighth 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. The event's long-term aim is to create more interest in careers crucial to the region and to provide pathways to education and training for high-wage jobs and high-tech jobs of the near future.

At SECO, students journey through fourteen career clusters, learning about job prospects from regional industries and educational opportunities from training institutions. They compile evidence of their career journeys in their Career Passport.

In keeping with the career exploration theme, students completed a career planning module back at school and brought their results to SECO to learn about the financial aspects of employment, and if their ideal vocation would enable the lifestyle they envisioned for themselves. They even built imaginary household budgets to see if their job would support their expenses.

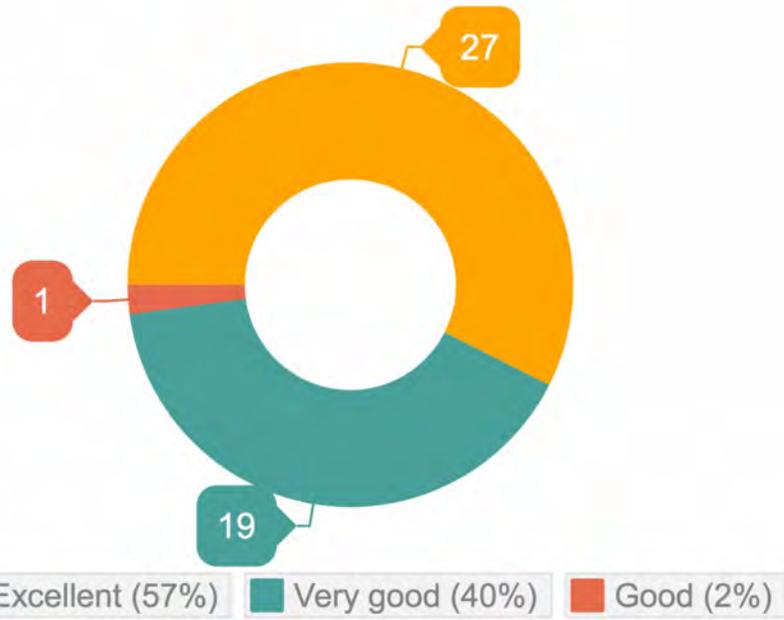
## Spotlight: Demonstrations and Simulations

Examples of demos designed and implemented by our partners include:

- Simulate working on a production line, making oriented strand board (OSB) using rice crisp cereal in place of wood chips and marshmallow cream in place of glue.
- Operate on a patient in a mock emergency room, dressed in the appropriate clothing and using medical terminology and concepts.
- Engage in a virtual welding simulation, using the appropriate safety gear.
- Use levers and pulleys (physics) to solve a problem, working with engineers and architects.
- Learn about the importance of circuit boards and power line construction and safety from a utility company.
- Use a laser beam and survey equipment to simulate an actual surveying job.
- Don impairment goggles, designed to simulate consuming too much alcohol, while attempting to negotiate a course on a tricycle. Students learn about chemistry while they explore jobs in public safety.

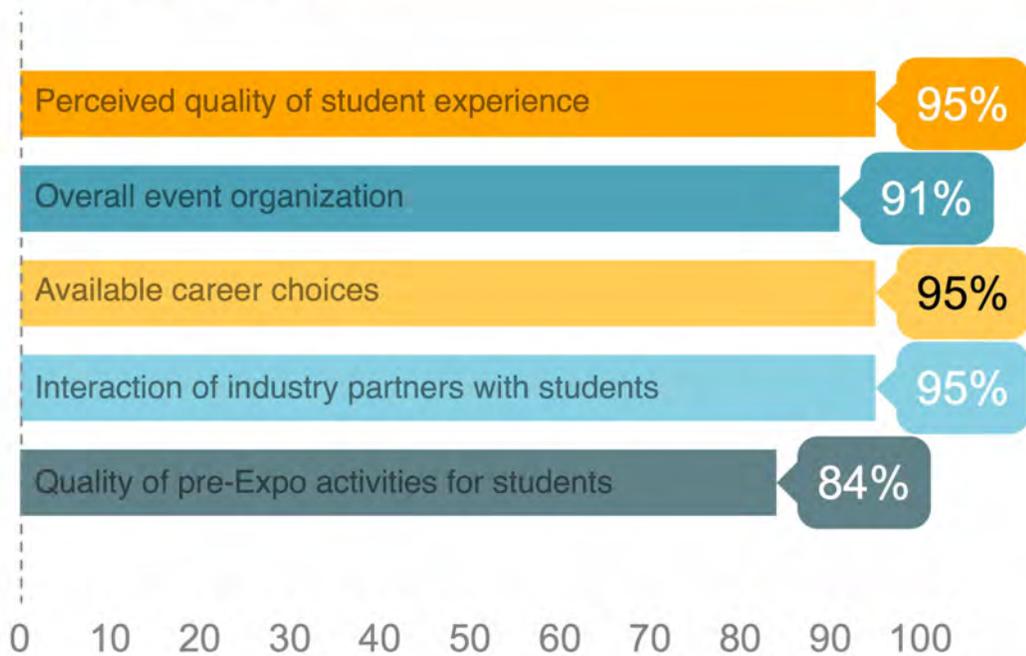
# What Are People Saying About SECO?

## Business Partner Feedback



98% of business partners had an excellent or very good experience

## Educator Feedback



Educators were highly satisfied with all aspects of SECO

# SECO Happenings



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# Student Choice Awards



Rapides Regional  
Medical Center



LOUISIANA  
NATIONAL GUARD  
PROTECT WHAT MATTERS™

2

Louisiana  
National  
Guard



Kisatchie  
National  
Forest

## The Orchard Foundation

would like to thank all the volunteers and businesses who participated in the Students Exploring Career Opportunities (SECO) career expo.

This educational event for Cenla eighth graders allows students to make informed career decisions as they move into high school. Booths set up by area businesses are key to the learning process, and hundreds of volunteers invest their time to ensure a successful event.

Thank you for investing your time in Central Louisiana's future workforce!

### Participating School Districts

- Allen
- Avoyelles
- Catahoula
- Concordia
- Grant
- LaSalle
- Natchitoches
- Rapides
- Vernon
- Winn



If you would be interested in participating in the next SECO event, please contact The Orchard Foundation.

A Special

Thank You!



Congratulations to the Student's Choice Award Winner, Rapides Regional Medical Center.



### Our Funding Partners



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION



Plum Creek

Presented by

THE ORCHARD FOUNDATION

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