

# Students Exploring Career Opportunities



## Central Louisiana

January 11th - 12th, 2017

### Our Funding Partners



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION



INVESTING *for Good*™



Louisiana



Weyerhaeuser

School Districts

Allen - Avoyelles - Catahoula - Grant

LaSalle - Natchitoches - Rapides - Vernon - Winn

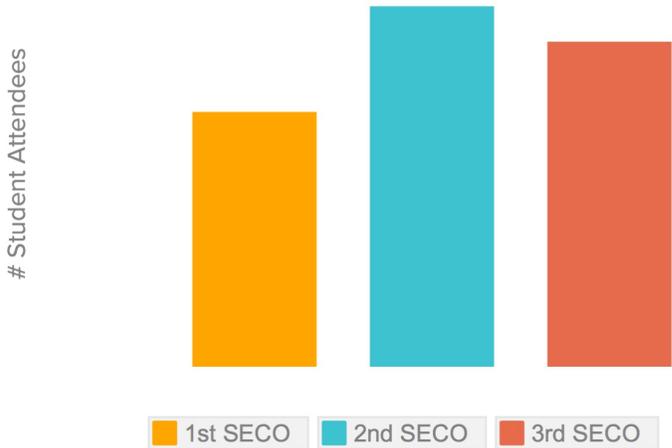
Presented by



# Key Event Stats

1

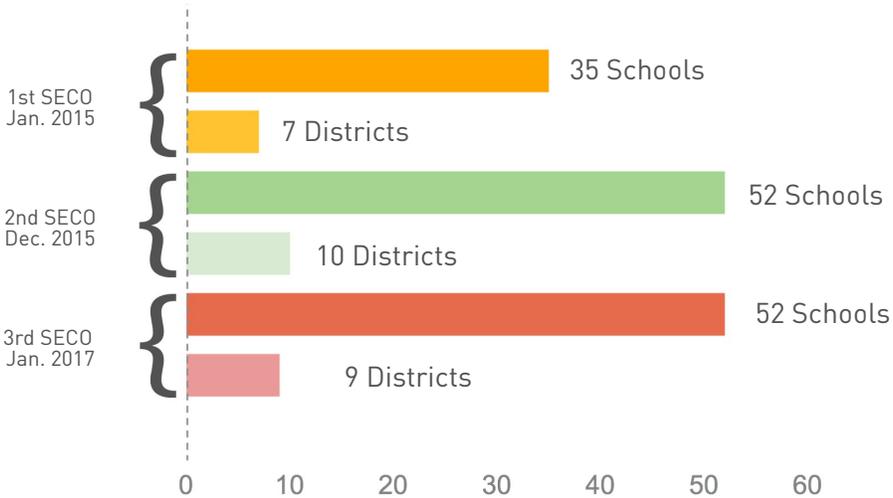
## Student Attendance



Student attendance increased 26% from the first year.

2

## Schools and Districts

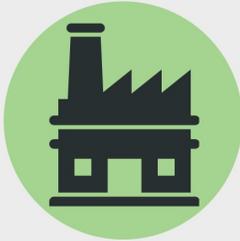


School and district participation remained steady from last year

# Career Clusters

3

## 11 Career Clusters and 31 Business Partners



Manufacturing (5)



Health Science (5)



Education & Training (4)



Business Mgmt. &  
Marketing (3)



Agriculture & Forestry (3)



STEM (1)



Architecture & Construction (2)



Transportation & Dist. (1)



Human Service (2)



Public Safety (3)



Arts & Audio/Visual (2)

## 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 different 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 include:

- Emulate working with animals in a veterinary environment with an injection simulation.
- 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.
- 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.
- Mimic heavy construction work with a bulldozer simulation.
- Don impairment goggles, designed to simulate consuming too much alcohol, while attempting to negotiate a course on a tricycle.

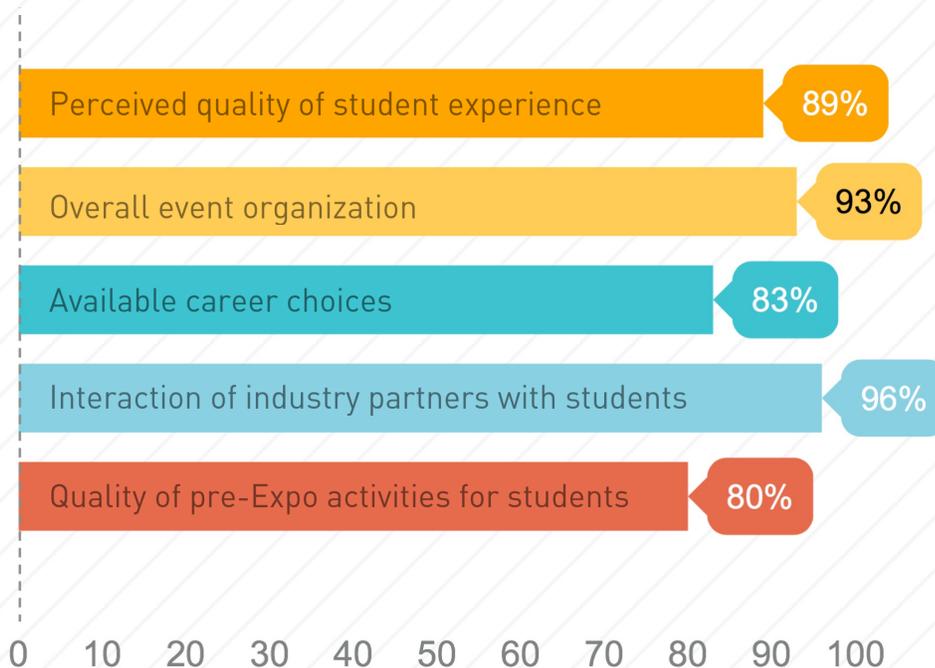
# What Are People Saying About SECO?

## Business Partner Feedback



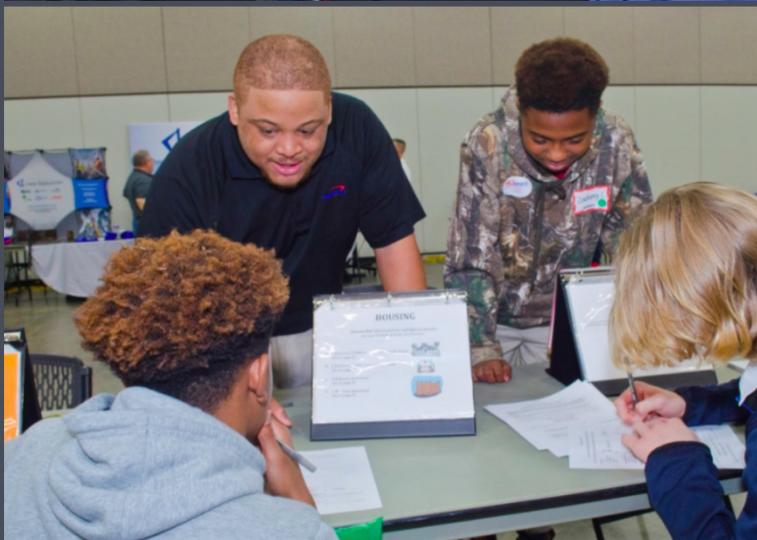
90% of business partners had an excellent or very good experience

## Educator Feedback



Educators were very satisfied with all aspects of SECO

# SECO Happenings



# Student Choice Awards by Zone

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1



Grant High School  
1st Responders  
in partnership with MedExpress



2



3



4

