

An aerial photograph of an industrial facility, possibly a refinery or chemical plant, with various structures, pipes, and storage tanks. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue gradient. A thick, curved white line separates the top half from the bottom half of the page.

# COLLAB

2025  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



BAYOU  
BUSINESS  
SUMMIT

# One Year Strong

## One Year. One Region. One Voice.

2025 marked the first full year operating as COLAB. What began as a bold step to unify our region quickly evolved into measurable impact across industry, advocacy, leadership development, and site competitiveness.

This year proved something important. When the Bayou Region aligns, we compete with purpose. We advocate stronger. We grow faster.

From doubling certified sites to exceeding existing industry visit goals, from graduating executive leaders to supporting historic project announcements, COLAB elevated both visibility and execution.

**The foundation is set. The trajectory is upward.**

The COLAB logo is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font. The letters 'O' and 'L' are connected, and the 'A' has a unique, stylized shape with a horizontal bar extending to the right.

# Message from the CEO

One year ago, we committed to collaboration at a higher level.

In 2025, that commitment translated into action.

We strengthened internal operations with new leadership. We doubled our site inventory. We met and exceeded Business Retention and Expansion goals across four parishes. We graduated the first CEO Roundtable class. We represented the Bayou Region on regional, state and national stages.

COLAB ensures the Bayou Region is not just reacting to opportunity, but shaping it — and 2025 confirmed that we are doing exactly that.

**Christy Zeringue, PCED**

President/CEO



**Christy Zeringue, PCED**  
President/CEO



**Christian Bergeron**  
COO

**Linda Tabor**

Finance Manager

**Alyssa Dubois**

Finance & Administrative  
Coordinator

**Paige Gisclair**

Program Director - CTAC

**Bridget Malbrough**

Program Coordinator - CTAC

**Lori LeBlanc**

Director of Industry Relations

**Cody Blanchard**

Communications Consultant

### Hiring of Chief Operating Officer

COLAB strengthened its operational leadership with the addition of Christian Bergeron as Chief Operating Officer, bringing deep expertise in federal grants, policy navigation, and economic development strategy.

A Houma native with extensive experience connecting local communities to Washington, Christian has successfully secured federal funding and built strong public-private partnerships that drive measurable impact. His ability to align stakeholders, leverage strategic relationships, and execute complex initiatives positions COLAB to operate at a higher level across the Bayou Region



### Business Retention & Expansion Success

In 2025, COLAB exceeded its Business Retention and Expansion visit goals across the four-parish region. Through structured site visits and direct employer engagement, COLAB worked to understand workforce needs, operational challenges, and expansion opportunities.

These conversations allowed COLAB to advocate effectively at the local and state levels while connecting businesses to the resources needed for growth. Retention remains one of the most impactful drivers of regional economic stability.

### Doubling Certified Sites

Site readiness became a defining advantage in 2025. Through coordination with parish and state partners, the Bayou Region doubled its Louisiana Economic Development Certified Site inventory for shovel-ready sites.

This dramatically improves competitiveness for industrial, maritime, manufacturing, and energy recruitment. Prospects evaluating Louisiana now see more development-ready opportunity in the Bayou Region than ever before.



### **900-Acre LNG Development Site**

Port Fourchon acquired 743 additional acres for the proposed Argent LNG facility, bringing the total project footprint to 900 acres.

This strategic expansion prepares the region for one of the most significant LNG infrastructure developments in the Gulf of America. The multi-billion-dollar proposed facility would generate hundreds of construction jobs, permanent operations positions, and thousands of indirect jobs across the supply chain. Port Fourchon continues to solidify its role as a leader in global energy innovation.



### **\$100 Million Innovation Campus – Houma**

Neuro.io announced a \$100 million Innovation Campus in Houma, marking one of the largest technology investments in regional history. The campus positions the Bayou Region as a growing center for advancements in brain research via artificial intelligence, advanced systems, and next-generation innovation.

The project is expected to create high-paying technical and professional careers while generating secondary economic impact through local contractors, service providers, and workforce partnerships. This development reinforces the region's diversification while building future-focused career pathways.



**\$250 Million  
Investment –  
Franklin**

With a \$250 million investment into the Gulf Craft shipyard in Franklin, Saronic is transforming the Bayou Region into a national center for autonomous marine vessel production.

The project upgrades shipyard capacity, integrates advanced manufacturing technologies, and creates high-wage engineering and technical jobs. By combining next-generation autonomy with legacy shipbuilding expertise, the Bayou Region is positioned at the forefront of maritime defense innovation



**U.S. Coast Guard  
Fast Response  
Cutters**

Bollinger Shipyards began contract negotiations with the U.S. Coast Guard to build at least 10 new Fast Response Cutters as part of a historic \$25 billion investment in the Coast Guard.

This funding supports more than 650 jobs at Bollinger Lockport and strengthens a supplier network across 37 states. The continuation of the FRC program reinforces the Bayou Region's critical role in national defense manufacturing and long-term industrial stability.

### 2025 Bayou Business Summit

**The 2025 Bayou Business Summit brought leaders and partners together for conversations that matter and connections that will carry our region forward.** Energize, Elevate, and Innovate were topics at the heart of the event, sparking ideas about how the Bayou Region powers Louisiana's economy, creates opportunities for our people, and embraces bold new possibilities. We were thankful to have had Louisiana Economic Development Secretary Susan Bourgeois with us and grateful to our sponsors, moderators, and panelists who made this event such a success.



### Bringing the Bayou to Washington

**The inaugural Bayou Bash brought the spirit, strength, and story of the Bayou Region to Washington, D.C.** Held during Washington Mardi Gras, the event served as both a celebration and a strategic moment, formally unveiling the new name COLAB and introducing a unified regional identity on a national stage.

Bayou Bash showcased the industries, talent, energy leadership, and economic impact that define our region. More than a reception, it was a declaration that the Bayou Region moves together and that COLAB is the platform driving that alignment forward.



## First Ever Bayou Region Day at the Capitol

In 2025, the Bayou Region showed up at the Louisiana State Capitol unified. Business leaders, parish officials, and industry partners advocated with one coordinated message. The event highlighted each of our four parishes, strengthened relationships with state leadership and elevated regional priorities.



## First Offshore Lease Sale in Five Years

COLAB applauded the Administration for holding the first offshore lease sale in two years, generating high bids totaling \$279,433,757 from 30 companies.

A strong lease sale is welcome news for the Bayou Region and for the thousands of families whose livelihoods depend on a stable Gulf energy economy. Continued investment in offshore leasing reinforces the Gulf of America as a cornerstone of national energy strength.

## CERAWeek Representation

COLAB Energy Advisor Lori LeBlanc represented the Bayou Region at CERAWeek, participating in discussions at the Louisiana Future Energy House. Energy innovation and economic growth were central themes, ensuring the region remained part of global conversations shaping the future.



## CEO Roundtable Graduation

In 2025, COLAB graduated its inaugural CEO Roundtable class. The program brought top executives together for structured peer collaboration, strategic dialogue, and leadership growth.

Participants engaged in confidential discussions centered on workforce, operations, competitiveness, and long-term growth. The program strengthened executive alignment and trust across the region.



## Energy Executive of the Year

Congratulations to Chett Chiasson, COLAB Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, on being named Energy Executive of the Year at the 2025 Louisiana Energy Awards.

COLAB proudly nominated Chett for this first-ever award, which highlights both his leadership and the strategic importance of the Bayou Region's energy corridor to Louisiana's future.





# CTAC

COASTAL TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE CENTER

Coastal Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) is a program of COLAB that is generated and funded through Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) in order to assist Louisiana-based businesses in obtaining contracts with entities involved in the restoration and recovery efforts of coastal Louisiana.

[louisianactac.org](http://louisianactac.org)

## COLAB Board of Directors

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*Greater Lafourche Port  
Commission*

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**Bart Folsie**

*AMG Specialty Hospital*



# COLAB

**COLAB** is the regional economic development organization serving the Bayou Region of South Louisiana, encompassing Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, and Terrebonne Parishes. COLAB exists to champion collaboration and long-term economic resilience by aligning business, workforce, infrastructure, and community priorities. Through strategic partnerships with industry, education, and local leadership, COLAB works to attract investment, support entrepreneurs, strengthen workforce development, and advocate for policies that position the region for sustainable growth.

[bayouregion.com](http://bayouregion.com)