

EDGE

OF THE LAKE



BUSINESS • PEOPLE • SUMMER CAMPS • FOOD • MUSIC

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St. Tammany NOW

St. Tammany NOW is a curated collection of the latest economic development information and business and industry insight in our community directly from St. Tammany Corporation, the economic development organization for St. Tammany. St. Tammany NOW highlights what and who makes the St. Tammany business community thrive and illustrates the opportunities to diversify and fortify our economy.

In this issue, we share insights on the Information Technology (IT) industry in St. Tammany Parish. The IT sector is a burgeoning industry in our community and across the Greater New Orleans region. Jobs in the IT family of occupations have demonstrated growth across the board over the past decade, with pay that is competitive with the regional, state, and national rates. There are around 1,100 IT and technology-related jobs in St. Tammany, and the industry contributes more than \$100 million to our local economy. These are well-paying jobs, with salaries well above the average annual earnings for other jobs in St. Tammany.

One of the fastest growing community colleges in the nation, Northshore Technical Community College (NTCC) proves year after year to be a nimble and supportive partner to businesses across the region. The college provides training at all levels including customized training options, dual enrollment, certificate programs, and associate degrees in specialties within the IT sector. Students in the IT Program earn credentials in Networking, IT Support, Cybersecurity Support, Fiber Optics Support, Cloud Computing Support, Linux Systems Support, and Servers Support. To encourage the industry's connection to local IT talent,



NTCC Career Center Staff Representing the school at their Inaugural IT Summit



Local Students Networking with Area Businesses

NTCC facilitated its inaugural IT Summit in February. The event was an opportunity for networking among regional employers and connecting job seekers, including area high school seniors earning industry-based credentials through dual enrollment programs at NTCC, as well as current NTCC students and alumni, to opportunities to launch their careers in IT. Local company BridgeNet and Amazon AWS representatives were on hand to give insights on IT industry trends and opportunities. Hornbeck Offshore, CDIT, North Oaks Health Systems, SYGNVS Integrated Solutions, St. Tammany Parish Government, LED FastStart, and Ochsner Health were career fair exhibitors where they met directly with job seekers.

Workforce and education partnerships are essential for supporting individuals throughout their lifelong learning experiences. In addition to the dual enrollment programs with area high schools, NTCC also has transfer pathways to other higher education institutions, including Southeastern Louisiana University. With over 500 students and enrollment that has more than doubled over the past decade, Southeastern Louisiana University's highly regarded Computer Science and Information Technology programs are recognized as a leader among (and one of the state's fastest-growing) computing and information technology programs. The college's Department of Computer Science is committed to preparing students to be nationally competitive both in the workforce and in graduate studies. Students are provided with the skills and experience to prepare them for a career in technology.



Chris Masingill
Chief Executive Officer
St. Tammany Corporation

The IT sector is about more than just helping you get your personal computer up and running. The industry spans a wide variety of products and services, many of which you might run across in your everyday life. Below are a few highlights of St. Tammany companies that utilize information technology to provide unique solutions and services.

Netchex is a cloud-based payroll and human capital management system designed to help businesses of all sizes manage the entire employee lifecycle—from recruitment to retirement. Founded in 2003, Netchex payroll software has become one of the industry’s fastest-growing payroll and HR service providers, empowering employees to access real-time information through dedicated individualized portals. “I can tell you that growing a company only happens with a great team in place. The amount of talent (both in tech and related roles) in St. Tammany is key to our success in scaling and competing nationally. Most people in this area do not realize the amount of great tech being delivered by companies here in St. Tammany that is leveraged by many organizations nationally. Netchex, for example, supports 6,000 businesses nationally utilizing our tech and services from our corporate offices here in Covington,” said Will Boudreaux, Netchex founder.

Since 2000, OffenderWatch has partnered with law enforcement agencies across the nation to develop solutions for sex offender registration, verification, and community notification. Working with more than 3,500 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in 38 states and Canada and the Caribbean, OffenderWatch enables users to



Current Students and Alumni Attending NTCC's Inaugural IT Summit



Group of Presenters at the Inaugural NTCC IT Summit



Area Students Networking with St. Tammany Parish IT Staff

efficiently monitor, report, and collaborate on the offenders within their specific jurisdictions.

For more than two decades, Microchip ID Systems has been a trusted manufacturer and retailer of microchip ID devices for pets and wildlife animals across the nation and world. Their kits employ a proprietary system that uses a less painful insertion process for all animals, especially domesticated pets. A registered microchip can reunite pets and families separated by natural disasters and help monitor the habits of endangered species across the globe.

Technology is revolutionizing the direction of pre-construction and a local company, BIM Solutions, LLC, is on the cutting edge of this transformation. BIM, Building Information Modeling, provides 3D models to analyze the constructability of a project prior to field installation. BIM Solutions, located in Mandeville, uses software to assist general contractors and mechanical contractors with virtually modeling their projects across seven states, reducing costs and delays. "Our team has doubled since partnering with regional partners at Tri-Parish Works and Northshore Technical Community College. Local organizations like St. Tammany Corporation have been so supportive and truly want to see our business grow. We get to work in big cities like Atlanta, Tampa, and Denver, but continue to enjoy all the benefits of living on the Northshore!" shared Amy Verges of BIM Solutions.

Globalstar is one of the world's largest providers of mobile satellite voice and data services. One of a few publicly traded companies in St. Tammany, the company serves more than 325,000 subscribers in over 120 countries, globally exporting products and all its integrated services from its headquarters in our parish. "As a satellite technology business with roots in Louisiana, we are proud to call St. Tammany Parish home. Our location on the Northshore has provided us with a great talent pool and opportunity for expansion in a central location with many amenities for

our employees. In fact, even our employees whom we've relocated to Covington tell us how much they enjoy the area! On the business development side, our neighboring partners like St. Tammany Corporation have created an ecosystem of support that not only elevates each individual business, but shares opportunities throughout the Parish. That spirit and culture is truly what sets St. Tammany apart from other locations," said Denise Davila, Corporate Communications Manager at Globalstar. Globalstar provides technology solutions across a broad range of industries including government and public safety, transportation, energy, construction, commercial marine, agriculture, and forestry.

We hope you found this overview of the IT industry enlightening. Whether providing HR solutions for your business, helping keep animals safe, or advancements in construction technology, the IT sector in St. Tammany is a diverse and vital part of our local economy. St. Tammany Corporation is proud to support IT companies and businesses of all sizes and sectors in our mission to position St. Tammany to be the destination of choice for highly skilled talent and business formation, attraction, expansion, and retention.

St. Tammany Corporation continues to be a resource hub for businesses and consistently shares timely, relevant information related to our economic landscape and upcoming business resource programming on our online platforms. Stay connected with St. Tammany Corporation on Facebook at [@StTammanyCorporation](#), Twitter at [@StTammanyCorp](#), our website at [StTammanyCorp.org](#), our data and research platform at [StTammanyStats.com](#), and our digital comprehensive resource center at [www.RESTOREStTammany.com](#).

Kate Moore is the lead staff contributor to this article. All photos are courtesy of Northshore Technical Community College.



Local Students Participating in NTCC's Inaugural IT Summit

