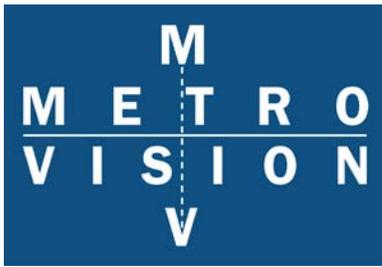


## PROJECT BACKGROUND & AGENDA

*POWER SOURCE: PLUG INTO THE POWER OF THE  
LOUISIANA WORKFORCE*

OCTOBER 2002



## BACKGROUND

### **Project Overview**

Labor market statistics as well as anecdotal information indicate that workforce development will play a critical role in determining the success of New Orleans region business and industry in the coming years. The Community Audit Report commissioned by the 4 New Orleans area Workforce Investment Boards that comprise Louisiana Labor Market #1 charts key workforce issues and training/education/recruitment system disconnects for the 8 strongest industry clusters in our area. This Report proposes solutions to meet these critical workforce-related challenges.

To showcase the findings and recommendations of the Community Audit Report as well as key regional workforce resources available to meet these challenges, MetroVision is organizing the *Power Source* workforce learning forum to be held on December 5, 2002. This forum will continue to build on the momentum and public attention generated by the series of three focus groups held in conjunction with the Community Audit Project. The forum will present key workforce-related solutions such as:

- Workforce Investment Act on-the-job training
- One Stop recruitment services
- Welfare-to-Work recruitment & training programs
- Louisiana Department of Labor Incumbent Worker Training and more

The session participants will mainly be comprised of area Human Resources Professionals. The forum will also showcase best case practices of local and national companies in diverse industries that have developed and implemented innovative, out-of-the-box human resources practices that truly maximize the potential of company employees.

This session will provide an arena for business, workforce service providers, Workforce Investment Boards, community leaders, Louisiana Department of Labor and other government representatives to come together to develop a common language, definitions, and understanding of workforce development that can be put to work to implement the workforce-related programs, system connections and policy that our area needs.



### **Outcomes**

As a result of *Power Source*:

- Regional business and industry will become familiar with workforce challenges and will thus be able to work in a clearer and more concise fashion to counteract them.
- Best case human resource practices as developed and implemented by local and national companies will be highlighted, thus providing participants with an understanding of quality, innovative Human Resource practices.
- The concept of career pathways and transferable skill sets will be outlined and presented to participants to encourage implementation of these ideas in area businesses.
- Business will make their workforce needs known in this forum and will develop an understanding of how to continue to do so in the future.
- Service providers will inform businesses about their programs and ways in which business can access these services. Interaction between service providers and area business at this forum will provide the foundation for truly aligning the workforce system with the needs of business.
- Innovation and partnership will be fostered within the community to respond to the issues, ideas and opportunities raised by participants to improve the local workforce development system.
- Information on the cost saving benefits of employee retention, career path development, training, and other performance improvement initiatives will be provided in this forum.
- A post-session survey will be circulated to determine levels of understanding and satisfaction after the Forum and to respond to issues presented by individual businesses.