



## News Release

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LOUISIANA STATE SENATE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NEW WELDING TRAINING FACILITY BREAKS GROUND AT THE PORT OF WEST ST. MARY**

A new welding training facility at the Port of West St. Mary broke ground last month. The new training facility is located at the South Louisiana Community College's Baldwin campus, 155 Gordy Lane. It is placed strategically within St. Mary Parish to aid local companies in filling critical needs for skilled aluminum welders.

District 21 State Senator Bret Allain, who chairs the Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, has been instrumental in securing funding for the new development, with a \$500,000 allocation in the state's Capital Outlay budget. These dollars, combined with Port of West St. Mary funds and a \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration make the facility possible.

"The new welding training facility is poised to make a significant impact on our regional economy and labor force," said Senator Allain. "Providing the opportunity for local training and education will naturally result in growth for local business and industry. I am excited about what this means for our area and I am proud to have played a part in making it happen. I also want to thank Representative Vincent St. Blanc, III, former Representative Sam Jones, Port Director David Allain, and all of those individuals who advocated for this facility."

The new training facility will include space for classroom learning and office activities as well as a 1,700 square-foot multipurpose shop. South Louisiana Community College will be in charge of academics and placing instructors in the facility to run the program. Construction is already underway and officials expect the project to be complete late this year.

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