RESOURCES GUIDE
The Workforce Resource Guide initiative targets the estimated 20 percent of the Southwest Louisiana unemployed and undereducated population who would otherwise be left out of the workforce development pipeline. It is a step-by-step guide that helps individuals choose a career, acquire training, certifications and basic life skills, prepare a resume and ultimately land a job in support of area industry.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Following the launch of the guide in 2013, the steering committee solicited feedback from mentors, education and workforce development collaborators and job seekers who completed the six-step process to measure the success of the initiative and identify unforeseen challenges.

As a result of this evaluation, the steering committee confirmed the effectiveness of the resource guide and identified the greatest resource needs were financial support for job seekers to cover tuition, training costs and support services such as transportation and childcare. The community and Sasol responded and launched a pilot scholarship program for Southwest Louisiana.

Today, the scholarship program has awarded more than 100 scholarships to local Southwest Louisiana educational institutions, including ABC Southwest Training Center and SOWELA Technical Community College. Scholarship recipients have completed a wide variety of industry-related courses including structural welding, electrical, machinists, pipefitting, process technology and more.

The scholarship program targets the unemployed and undereducated population in the five-parish area, with preference given to Westlake and Mossville residents. Scholarship recipients also receive support from a professional career counselor, guidance from a trained volunteer mentor and connection to community resources.

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MENTORS
A core component of this program is identifying and securing a trained mentor to help recipients successfully navigate their workforce preparation journey alongside a career counselor. A mentor, which is an advisor or coach, should have a successful work history and be willing to support the applicant through the process by providing the following: life skills support, mentorship, guidance, motivation, encouragement, advice, influence and assistance coordinating resources.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
A scholarship recipient is someone who is seeking to improve skills because he or she is currently unemployed or under employed.

A successful applicant must be:

✓ Interested in completing an industry related training program at ABC Southwest Training Center or SOWELA Technical Community College
✓ Able to pass a drug screen
✓ Able to pay a $50 application fee, credited toward school tuition
✓ Willing to participate in the full services of the program, including working with a mentor, meeting with a career counselor and attending Workforce Readiness classes.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Southwest Louisiana Chamber-Economic Development Alliance, Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana, Calcasieu Parish Library System, Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center, ABC Southwest Training Center and SOWELA Technical Community College.

To learn more, please visit www.foundationswla.org and click on “Workforce Readiness Training”.

Learn more about Sasol and other community initiatives at www.sasolnorthamerica.com