

HISTORY

The College

Originally known as trade schools, Louisiana's present day technical colleges began with the establishment of the first campus in Bogalusa in November 1930. Funding for that school was provided by local citizens in response to their desire to expand course offerings of the local school system to include training in automotive mechanics and woodworking. In 1936 a second trade school came into existence in Shreveport. With passage of Louisiana Legislative Act 14 in 1938, five more schools were approved. Schools were constructed in Winnfield, Crowley (**Acadian Campus**), Lake Charles, Opelousas (**T. H. Harris Campus**), and Natchitoches. Two schools in Monroe were added in the early 1940s as a result of the War Production Training Program. Louisiana Legislative Act 109, passed in 1942, authorized a tenth school to be built in Cottonport; it was completed after World War II in 1947. The technical school system expanded further in the early 1950s as the result of passing the Vocational Education Act of 1946. From 1950 to 1957, 17 additional schools were constructed (**including the Teche Area Campus**), bringing the cumulative total of state operated post-secondary technical schools to 27.

Between 1958 and 1973, technical school system expansion slowed considerably with only six additional schools constructed. However, expansion increased with passage of Acts 208 and 209 of the Louisiana Legislature in 1973. Act 208 provided for a comprehensive statewide system of career education from elementary through post-secondary levels of education. From 1974 to 1987, the system added 22 additional campuses (**including Lafayette Campus, Charles B. Coreil Campus, Evangeline Campus, and Gulf Area Campus**). This legislation also led to consolidation of historically black technical schools with other technical institutions in Opelousas, Monroe, and Natchitoches. The net effect of changes was a statewide system of post-secondary technical training involving 53 campuses.

Since the late 1980s, there has been a decrease in the number of post-secondary state-operated technical institutions; currently there are 38 Louisiana Technical College campuses. The number of occupational program offerings grew from 10 in the 1940s to approximately 75 today, comprised of Technical Competency Area, Certificate of Technical Studies, Technical Diploma, and Associate Degree levels of completion. Enrollment grew from 60 students in 1931 to 932 students in 1943. By 1973, enrollment had increased to 12,543 for the 23 schools built between 1950 and 1973, with an estimated total enrollment for the 33 schools in the system of 15,000 including daytime, evening, and industry students. The Fall 2007 census report of Louisiana Technical College students in credit hour programs was 17,462.

The technical college campuses are governed by the fifteen members of the Louisiana Community and Technical College Systems (LCTCS) Board of Supervisors as created in 1998 by Section 7 of Act 170, which in turn comes under regulations set forth by the Louisiana Board of Regents for Higher Education. Act 506 of the 2005 Legislative session required reorganization of the LTC. Today, the 38 Louisiana Technical College campuses are organized under eight (8) regions with a main campus and a variety of extension campuses, instructional service centers, and extended classrooms consisting of multicultural populations encompassing much diversification in the way of ideas, traditions, values, skills, and arts.