



**MetroVision Economic
Development Partnership**

601 Poydras Street, Suite 1700
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: (504) 527-6900
Fax: (504) 527-6970
www.metrovision.org

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Dear Jim,

In the New Orleans region, most industry sectors, including precision manufacturing, information technology, shipbuilding and healthcare report difficulty in filling thousands of vacancies. This lack of skilled, capable workforce directly or indirectly affects the bottomline of every company.

In order to meet this challenge of maintaining the competitive edge of regional industry and business, the four local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBS), area industry and business, the Louisiana Department of Labor and MetroVision have formed a partnership to spearhead strategic planning activities addressing workforce issues. This partnership has successfully tapped funding to conduct a Community Audit of the skill shortages faced by business and the qualifications of the regional labor pool that can be tapped and trained to fill these labor shortages. Upon completion, the findings will be used by workforce policy makers regionwide to establish spending priorities and workforce strategies to close gaps between labor supply and demand in southeastern Louisiana.

You are invited to an interview session with MetroVision staff and consultants, which will focus on identifying occupational shortages, recruitment trends and mechanisms, career pathways within your industry and key components that are missing in the current labor system. This session will take place in the MetroVision offices at 601 Poydras St., Suite 1700, New Orleans, La., on **Wednesday August 7, 2002 from 1:00PM-2:30PM**. Please RSVP to Liza Sherman by July 31 at (504) 527-6928 or lssherman@norcc.org.

We look forward to working with you in this regional economic development initiative on August 7 and in the future. It is vital for us to get your input in determining viable solutions for your business success, that of your industry sector and for the region as a whole.

Thank you in advance for your interest and participation in this project.

Best regards,

Barbara K. Johnson
Senior Vice President, Regional Initiatives & Workforce Development
MetroVision Economic Development Partnership