

Students Exploring Career Opportunities Central Louisiana



November 20 - 21, 2019

Our Funding Partners



Neighborhood Market - Alexandria



School District Partners

Allen - Avoyelles - Catahoula
Grant - LaSalle - Natchitoches
Rapides - Vernon - Winn

Presented by:



Why SECO?

The Students Exploring Career Opportunities (SECO) Expo is Central Louisiana's premier college & career awareness and exploration event. Collaborating with key regional industry partners, we seize students' imaginations and inspire them to envision a future career after high school.

What teens believe about themselves has significant consequences for high school graduation and future success in life. What they learn during adolescence can lead them to further explore a promising career path. Or, they may unknowingly make decisions that close the doors to potentially fulfilling careers.

At SECO, students learn about different career opportunities available in Central Louisiana, along with the requirements of those careers. In this way, students become empowered to make informed decisions about their futures.

The Orchard Foundation's goal is for every student in Central Louisiana to have the ability and opportunity to apply to and enroll in a postsecondary program to pursue their career of choice in a regional industry. The SECO Expo helps us to reach this goal.

How It Works

- **Interactive and student-focused:** All SECO activities are interactive, requiring engagement and movement. Our industry partners create thought-provoking simulations and demonstrations that grab and hold students' attention.
- **Spotlight on regional industries:** Students journey through 16 different career clusters, learning about job prospects from regional industries. They also learn the skill requirements to be competitive in the workforce. College and training programs are on site to inform students about their offerings.
- **Financial literacy component:** Students build imaginary household budgets based on the lifestyle they envision for themselves. They determine if their future job selection would support that budget.

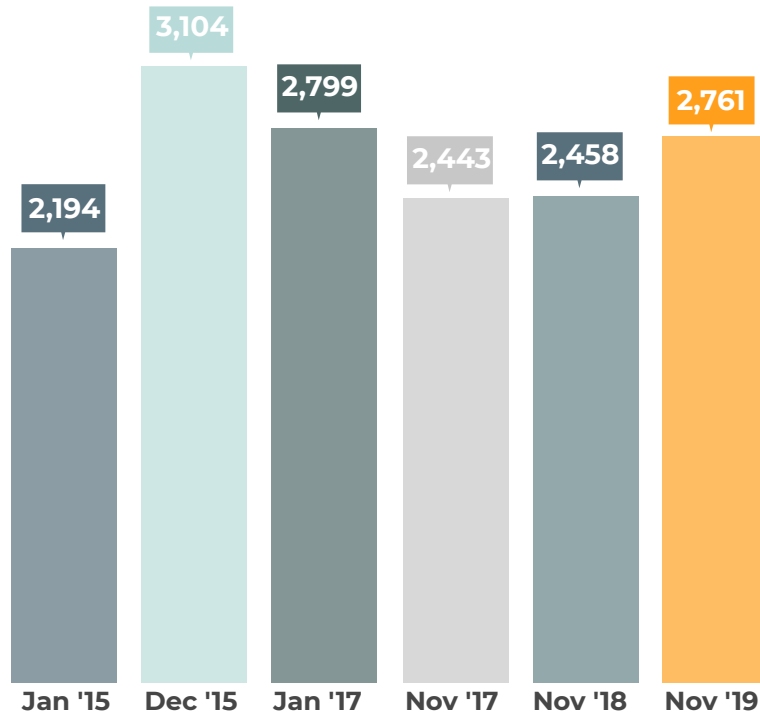
Spotlight: Demonstrations and Simulations

Examples of past demonstrations that students experience include:

- Race other student teams to see who can build a plywood "tiny house" the fastest, while learning about the timber industry.
- Climb into real-life law enforcement vehicles to learn about one aspect of the law enforcement profession.
- Learn about the importance of circuit boards, power line construction, and safety from a utility company.
- Through simulators, virtually step into the shoes of welders, bulldozer operators, and warehouse crane controllers.
- Interact with public safety and corrections officers to learn about their roles in the justice system.
- Handle wood products in a giant Jenga game to gain awareness of regional careers in agriculture & natural resources.
- Try out typical equipment and tasks in a simulated health care setting.

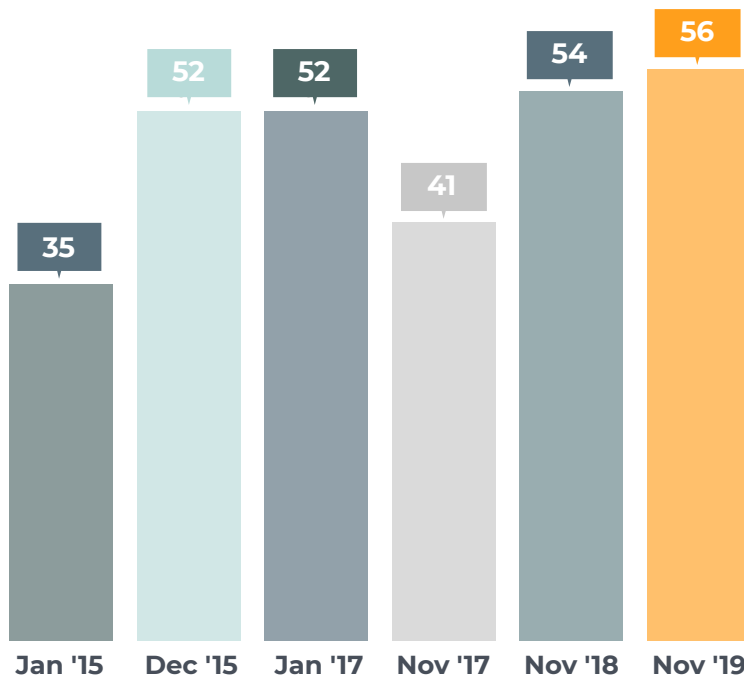
Key Event Stats

Student Attendance



*Note that Years 1 - 3 focused on 8th graders, while subsequent years focused on 10th graders.

Participating Schools



Career Clusters & Industry Partners

16 Career Clusters and 47 Industry Partners



Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources (3)



Architecture & Construction (3)



Arts, A/V Technology & Communications (2)



Business, Management, & Administration (1)



Education & Training (7)



Finance (1)



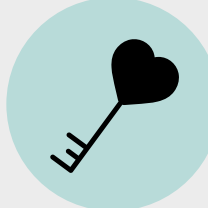
Government & Public Administration (5)



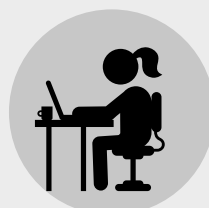
Health Science (4)



Hospitality & Tourism (N/A)



Human Services (3)



Information Technology (1)



Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security (3)



Manufacturing (10)



Marketing, Sales & Service (1)



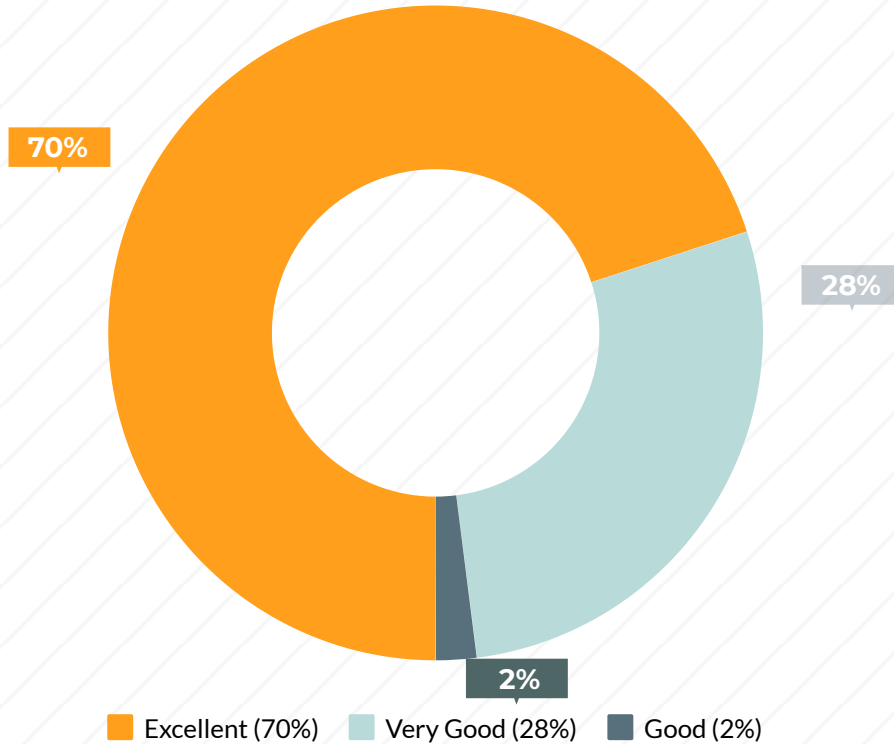
STEM (1)



Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (2)

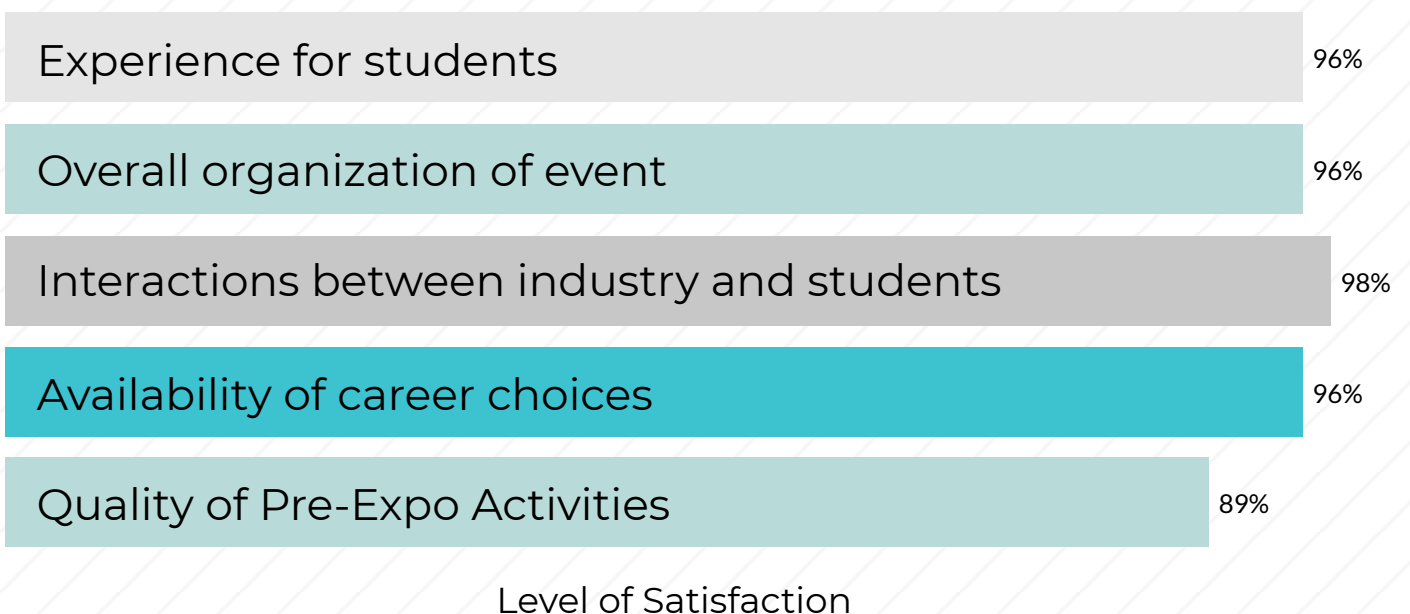
Feedback on SECO

Industry Partner Feedback



98% of industry partners had an excellent or very good experience.

Educator Feedback



Educators were overall very satisfied with SECO.

SECO Snaps



Student Choice Awards by Zone

Zone 1



1st Place
Grant High School Emergency
Medical Responder Class with
MedExpress



2nd Place
Rapides Parish
Sheriff's Office



3rd Place
CHRISTUS St. Frances
Cabrini Hospital

Zone 2



1st Place
Louisiana Army
National Guard



2nd Place
Gilchrist Construction
Company and CAT



3rd Place
LSUA Department of
Allied Health

Zone 3



1st Place
Procter and Gamble



2nd Place
Roy O Martin



3rd Place
Hunt Forest Products and
LaSalle Lumber Company, LLC

Zone 4



1st Place
Unitech Training Academy



2nd Place
LSUA Department of
Education



3rd Place
Louisiana Workforce Commission
Rapides Business and Career
Solutions Center

