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NEWS RELEASE

Northeast Louisiana Celebrates Manufacturing Week

High School Students Tour Ouachita Parish Manufacturers

Monroe- Each day 5,422 people in Ouachita Parish go to work in manufacturing jobs. Manufacturing is a key economic driver for the parish with an annual payroll of \$294 million. In fact, one out of every twelve private sector jobs in Ouachita Parish are in the manufacturing field. Manufacturers throughout Northeast Louisiana make a wide variety of products including paperboard, chemicals, specialty pumps, food and plastic products among many other goods.

With that in mind, it comes as no surprise that Mayor Jamie Mayo, Mayor Dave Norris and Ouachita Parish Police Jury President Scotty Robinson proclaimed the week of Monday, October 3rd through Friday, October 7th as Ouachita Parish Manufacturing Week. They join cities and county governments across the nation who will recognize the contributions that modern manufacturing makes to their communities. During the week of October 3rd, several events will be held to recognize Ouachita Parish manufacturing plants and to inspire the next generation of manufacturers.

On Tuesday, October 4th, from 10:00 a.m. until noon, the University of Louisiana at Monroe, in partnership with the Monroe Chamber and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana (MEPOL), will host speaker Shane Istre with Kheiron Safety Services. Istre will review the scope of OSHA certification and the company requirements to attain certification. Interested manufacturers must pre-register by going to www.LSBDC.org.

On October 5th and 6th high school students throughout Ouachita Parish will have the opportunity to learn more about manufacturing careers when several area industries and manufacturers open

their doors for tours. Seven Ouachita Parish and Monroe City high schools are participating in the event. Many of these students are enrolled in Jump Start and plan to pursue a career in Manufacturing. The event is sponsored by the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, Louisiana Delta Community College and the Northeast Louisiana Economic Partnership.

Students will travel from their school to two different manufacturers for guided plant tours. Following the tour, they will travel to one of the Louisiana Delta Community College campuses to tour that facility and to have the opportunity for hands on experience on some of the equipment used in manufacturing. Tours will be hosted by Angus Chemical, Graphic Packaging, Steel Fabricators, Gardner Denver Thomas, James Machine Works, Allied Building Stores, Monroe Water Treatment Plant, Mid South Extrusion and Bancroft Bag.

The program was inspired by Manufacturing Day which is supported by an organization of industry co-sponsors nationwide. It is designed to amplify the voice of individual manufacturers and to create a chorus of manufacturers with common concerns and challenges. One of their biggest challenges is to address the shortage in skilled labor that every industry and manufacturer is facing today. The tour provides an opportunity to connect with high school students and to get them excited about manufacturing careers and to ensure the ongoing prosperity of their industry.

On Friday, October 7th, Louisiana Delta Community college will host an “Essentials of Manufacturing” Kick Off in partnership with Reliability Solutions and Training Logic. The partnership has been working to bring Precision Maintenance Training to Northeast Louisiana to ensure that manufacturers in the region and across the country continue to have highly skilled employees. The event will be held at the main campus of Louisiana Delta Community College at 7500 Millhaven Road in Monroe.

For more information on Manufacturing Day, go to www.mfgday.com or call the Monroe Chamber at 323-3461.