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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Louisiana Works Awarded Federal RESTART Grant to Expand Employment Opportunities for Returning Citizens

BATON ROUGE, LA — Louisiana Works has been awarded \$5.1 million through the U.S. Department of Labor's Reentry Employment in Skilled Trades, Advanced Manufacturing, Registered Apprenticeships, and Training Initiative, known as RESTART. The grant will help individuals returning from incarceration prepare for jobs in shipbuilding, advanced manufacturing, construction, and other industries seeking skilled workers.

“Work is the clearest path to independence, stability, and a second chance,” said Louisiana Works Secretary Susana Schowen. “RESTART will help individuals returning from incarceration build the skills employers need, earn a paycheck, support their families, and contribute to their communities.”

Participants will have access to career coaching, occupational training, work-based learning, and targeted support to help them secure and maintain employment. Eligible participants may also enroll in existing workforce programs that provide additional education, training, and employment services.

RESTART builds on the Louisiana Board of Regents' Untapped Talent initiative and the work already underway among state agencies, education and workforce partners, employers, nonprofit organizations, and community-based providers to turn second chances into lasting opportunity through education, skills, and career pathways.

The initiative also advances Louisiana's broader efforts to expand education and workforce opportunities for justice-impacted individuals.

“Every Louisiana resident deserves the opportunity to build a better future through education and meaningful work. By collaborating with Louisiana Works as a partner in the RESTART Grant, we are expanding access to work-based learning that will equip justice-impacted individuals with the skills and experience needed to succeed after release while helping meet our state's urgent workforce demand,” said Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Kim Hunter Reed.

“Bollinger's future, and the future of America's maritime industry, depends on a strong and skilled workforce. As shipbuilding and defense work expand across the Gulf Coast, the RESTART initiative will help open the door for more Americans to earn a paycheck, learn a skilled trade, and build a lasting career. Bollinger continues to expand and enhance America's next generation of Shipbuilders, and every American we train strengthens domestic manufacturing and increases our nation's capacity to

build and maintain our defense and commercial fleets vital to our national and economic security,” said Bollinger Shipyards.

By pairing workforce training with real employment opportunities, RESTART will help more Louisianans build stable careers, support their families, and successfully return to their communities. Information about participant eligibility, program locations, and enrollment timelines will be announced before the program launches.