



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/>

Release No.: 06192007-1

Contact: Holly L. Martien, (318) 473-7917
holly.martien@la.usda.gov

FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS AWARDED TO ULL AND ACADIANA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT Small and Emerging Businesses to Benefit

LAFAYETTE, June 19, 2007 – State Director Clyde Holloway visited the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) campus today bringing over \$334,000 in grant funds to benefit small and emerging businesses.

Holloway presented a \$275,000 RBEG to ULL for the Manufacturing and Entrepreneurial Partnership of Louisiana (MEPoL) to provide technical assistance to businesses throughout rural Louisiana. MEPoL is recognized statewide as a premier consulting resource for Louisiana's emerging and established manufacturers.

A \$59,000 RBEG was presented to the Acadiana Regional Development District (ARDD) to provide technical assistance to small and emerging businesses in eight Acadiana parishes: Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion. ARDD promotes economic development through regional partnerships and cooperation.

“USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities,” said Holloway. “These grant funds will ensure a brighter future for entrepreneurs in rural areas.”

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

#