

TALK TO THE T-P  
**JOHN GINANTS ABOUT INVESTING AND FIREMENT**  
 MONDAY, NOON ON NOLA.COM/BUSINESS

Sunday **MONEY**  
 NOLA.COM/BUSINESS COMPLETE FINANCIAL COVERAGE

SECTION E  
 Sunday  
 October 26,



'The main things you need for a career in the shipbuilding industry are discipline, motivation and the proper training, and those are all traits I have.'

**Joshua Knowles**  
 NORTHROP GRUMMAN SHEET-METAL MECHANIC



"And my husband, who was working at Northrop Grumman at the time, didn't think I could do it. I not only did it, but I love it."

**Susan Davis**  
 NORTHROP GRUMMAN ELECTRICIAN

# OCEANS OF OPPORTUNITY



BOLLINGER SHIPYARDS PHOTO

**Gulf Coast shipbuilders are thinking creatively to attract enough skilled workers to meet labor shortages**

By Sheryl Kennedy  
 Contributing writer

**S**usan Davis wasn't looking for herself, but for her son. "He needed a job and I wanted to help him find something that would turn into a career," said Davis, a marine electrician with Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding in Avondale. "So when he filled out an application, I did too." Days later Davis received a call for an interview, launching her into a new career and renewing a level of respect in her family she continues to enjoy.

"I was two years into retirement when this happened," said Davis, who retired after 20 years of service as a secretary with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. "And my husband, who was working at Northrop Grumman at the time, didn't think I could do it. I not only did it, but I love it." A true love for the shipbuilding industry is what many companies in southeast Louisiana, including Northrop Grumman, Bollinger Shipbuilding and Quality Shipyards, are hoping will become contagious. Since Hurricane Katrina, the industry has faced an historic labor shortage that is forcing many company leaders to think creatively

In an effort to rebuild a skilled and motivated workforce after Hurricane Katrina, the Gulf States Shipbuilders Consortium was formed in December of 2006, of which Bollinger Shipyards is a member.

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