



#### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

EDITOR IN CHIE

Jade Williams



Dear Students,

My team and I are so excited to produce this magazine as it deals with major issues related to Nicholls State University.

For this issue, The Nicholls Worth decided to focus on the topic of coastal erosion.

Since Nicholls is closest to the coast, we decided to focus our stories on the university's efforts in helping and preserving the coast, along with different ways students can get involved with helping the environment.

In this magazine, you can read stories on land loss, the Nicholls farm, recycling with our bridge program, Crawfish Day and six ways to go green.

Members of the Colonel Media Group and I met with our university president, professors and scientists from the biology department here at Nicholls, as well as professionals from BTNEP to help further investigate the biggest issues when it comes to the university and coastal erosion.

This was no easy task, but I hope you all take the time to read this magazine. I hope it makes you want to take part in helping save our university along with the coast.

This magazine was fun to create, and the stories were interesting and investigative. I couldn't have asked for a better team to help make this issue.

Now that we are more than halfway done with the semester, and projects, tests, papers and assignments are adding up, it is important to take a break and look at something other than school work for a while.

I hope that one of those breaks may be used to pick up the magazine and enjoy some reading. To stay updated with campus news, sports and entertainment, follow The Nicholls Worth and KNSU on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok.

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#### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Looking forward at NW: A look at what stories are in this magazine

Written By: Jade Williams



#### HOME ON THE COAST

A story about Nicholls being closest to the coast and the university's efforts in helping coastal erosion

Written By: Jade Williams & Jillian Landry



#### **DOWN THE FARM**

A feature on Nicholls State University's farm and how it helps save the coast

Written By: Hannah Guillot



#### A TASTE OF CRAWFISH

A look at what crawfish day will look like and how disposing it can hurt the environment **Written By: Troy Foret** 



## BRIDGE TO A CLEANER TOMORROW

A story about recycing with the Bridge to Independence Program

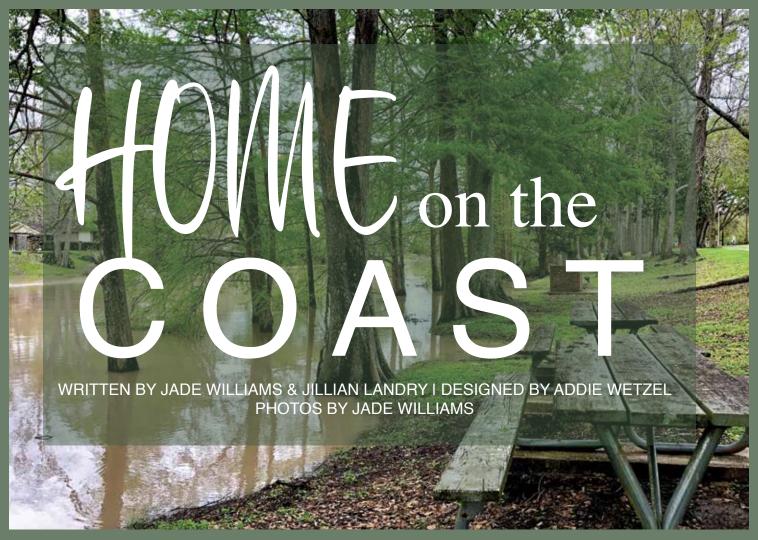
Written By: Owen Callias



#### TOP SIX WAYS TO GO GREEN

An entertainment story about different ways one can help the environment

Written By: Brandt Solar



Louisiana is a place filled with wonderful views of nature and wildlife. Louisiana is home to thousands of people where communities gather, celebrate and enjoy life together.

But with the word "home" comes several definitions. A home can be a place, a house or even a person. Homes have to be cleaned, protected and even restored as time goes by.

Without the proper care, homes can be destroyed or ripped away from people by several different factors such as coastal erosion. Coastal erosion is the loss or displacement of land. It is the process by which sea levels rise, strong wave action and coastal flooding wear down or carry away rocks, soils and sands along the coast.

Nicholls State University is one of those homes that have been affected by coastal erosion. University President Jay Clune said that when Nicholls was founded in 1948, the university was 50 miles from the coast. Today, he said the university is about 24 miles from the coast.

"So, the coastal crisis is really a crisis of our service region. A lot of our students are affected by the coastal crisis. A large majority of our students come from coastal parishes. So, it is very personal for Nicholls," Clune said.

Dean of Sciences and Technology John Doucet said 87 percent of Nicholls' students, faculty and staff are affected by the coastal crisis. Doucet said in 1948, 87 percent of students and faculty were born, raised and were living in a coastal parish.

"When we look at the 70th anniversary, we did the same thing and looked at the student body, and looked at the staff and the faculty, and it remains 87 percent of those folks, each group of students, faculty and staff call a coastal parish their home, so coastal restoration is important, not only for Louisiana, but it's intrinsically

important for the Nicholls community," Doucet said.

With the majority of students coming from coastal parishes, Clune said the university's efforts are important to stopping the crisis.

In order to help the crisis, the university offers different programs students can get involved in to help save the coast, most of which are offered through the Nicholls biology department with Professor and Head of Biological Sciences Quenton Fontenot.

Clune said Fontenot is one in the long line of biologists who have helped the effort of coastal restoration.

The Nicholls Farm is one of the efforts Nicholls has to help with coastal erosion. It is about three hundred acres of land and is about two miles down the road from Nicholls.

Doucet said the farm serves as a field research station for the coastal initiatives the biology department has. He said the biology department grows its seedlings for coastal plants like mangroves and swordgrass.

There is also a plot where the transferable plants grow, as well as a preserve for trees if there were to be forest devastation. Doucet said if there were an oil spill or hurricane that would wipe out native trees, there are acorns from all across the coast, as well as varieties of trees that would be used to replenish what was devastated.

"There's also an interesting project that is going to be built. It's going to be an artificial impoundment or a series of levees. It's going to be a square pond whereby we'll be able to pump water from the freshwater drainage canal, the 40 arpent canal, let the land, let all the nutrients from the water sink into the land, and return fresh water to the canal because the canal is supposed to be freshwater," Doucet said.

Doucet said they will be doing experiments and assessments to see how the pond works, to see if it could be a model for improving freshwater across the parish.

Another program that students can get involved in is with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

"They have greenhouses. They also sponsor programs during the summer where college students from around the country come down to plant for their greenhouse and all those plants in our greenhouses and BTNEP's greenhouses go to restore the coast," Clune said.

Doucet said Nicholls is working on building a coastal center, which will be a series of laboratories for Nicholls' scientists, as well as visiting scientists from across the state. He said those scientists would also include some from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

Doucet said there is also a section that will be in the coastal center for educational exhibits and classrooms



"Our vision for Nicholls to become that closest to the coast hub, everything coastal sort of approach, we started conversations with the Coastal Restoration Authority as well as our legislative delegates both in the house and in the senate and started to get support for creation of a coastal center here at Nicholls,"

Braud said.

and conference areas.

Director of Finance Terry Braud said the coastal center project would come to a total of 17.5 to about 20 million dollars.

"Our vision for Nicholls to become that closest to the coast hub, everything coastal sort of approach, we started conversations with the Coastal Restoration Authority as well as our legislative delegates both in the house and in the senate and started to get support for creation of a coastal center here at Nicholls." Braud said.

Braud said this project will be a collaborative effort.

"We have been awarded 2.5 million dollars that's running through the CPRA capital outlay process. The university has submitted a capital outlay request that includes that 2.5 million dollars and our vision would be that we build a 12.5 to 15 million dollar building and that in addition to that, we the university would go out and get donors to donate approximately five million dollars," Braud said.

Braud said the center will look much like the Raising Cane's River Center, which is located in Baton Rouge.

"We hope in this legislative session, coming up in April, that our legislatures will be able to get the capital outlay dollars necessary to move to construction," Braud said.

An architect has already been assigned to the Coastal Center project. The university is working with the Duplantis Design group in Thibodaux to bring the vision of it to life.

"With that sort of center, we expect to attract a lot of grants, a lot of scientists who want to work in residence at Nicholls, working on problems with the coast, scientists and engineers and other folks interested in helping out in the restoration and protection," Doucet said.

Doucet also mentioned efforts that the science departments have to aid in coastal erosion efforts. He said the faculty in biological sciences are experts in environmental assessment. When there is a new ridge, impoundment or levee that is built, Nicholls' faculty will do the biological and chemical assessments on how the structure has affected the environment.

"Our faculty can count up animals, can look at plants, can do water chemistry, can do elevations site elevations. We can do UAV inspections and so forth to make sure those structures are working the way they were



designed to be," Doucet said.

It is not only the biology faculty who are aiding in these efforts. Doucet mentioned many biology students are also the ones helping with these efforts.

He said if one sees a Nicholls truck on the highway, parked near a marsh, parked near a barrier island or a dock leading to a barrier island, it is usually a student that is driving the vehicle or working on the property. He said it is volunteer students, research associate students, as well as both undergraduate and graduate students.

The biology students do some of the plantings, take assessments, run instrumentation and bring data and samples back to the laboratories for processing.

Doucet said non-biology students can also assist with efforts in coastal erosion.

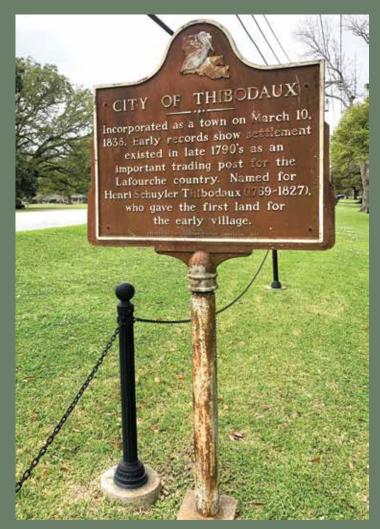
"Every year we host a number of events we can always, you know, it doesn't take a biology major to plant native plants on the coast so, we'll take volunteers with two hands any place, so any volunteer that's able to go over to the beaches and plant in the new land we'll be happy to show them how it's done," Doucet said.

Doucet also said they have an annual beach sweep to collect trash that's been brought in from the ocean or from visitors. He said many students volunteer that are outside of the biology program.

Both Clune and Doucet mentioned efforts made by student-athletes on campus. Clune said there were a number of student-athletes who helped plant plants on the barrier islands and along the coast, as well as on the bayou side across from Raceland and Lockport.

"Recently, there was a planting or seedling transfer at the Nicholls Farm where a bunch of volunteers from the men's basketball team were able to help with the work that is necessary to set up growth of some of these plants, so absolutely there's plenty of opportunities for volunteers even if they are not biology majors or science majors in general," Doucet said.

Doucet said to help aid in coastal erosion efforts, Nicholls can partner with others who are working to rebuild



the land and add the planting efforts that Nicholls is doing. He said having roots in soil and dirt can help it to stay in place, and by collaborating with engineering firms and other entities that are building land and levees, they can make sure that the dirt stays in place with planting.

Doucet also mentioned as land encroaches, people begin to move, taking their livelihoods and culture with them.

"If we're ever going to make a Lafourche-Terrebonne legacy and capture aspects of a culture that might be displaced and lost because of coastal erosion, the time is now. So, another way I think Nicholls and Nicholls' students can participate is by studying the culture, studying the heritage, participating in it and writing it down, taking pictures so that we can archive these activities," Doucet said. "There is so much history in these families and maybe we're not even asking our grandparents about it so that's one way that each and every Nicholls student can participate in the effort to protect coastal Louisiana."

Without volunteers or without protecting the coast, Clune said the first thing he thinks of is the culture, the people and the communities that will be lost if we don't stop this coastal crisis.

"Whether it is lower Terrebonne or South Lafourche or St. Mary's parish, or any number of places, so much is going to be lost if we don't stop the land loss," Clune said.

All people need to do is get in touch with Quinton Fontenot to help with saving the coast.

"The most important thing about protecting our coast is that it supports jobs. It supports livelihoods. It supports homes. It supports generations of people who don't even move from their ancestral birthplaces even for hurricanes and it supports Nicholls. It supports schools," Doucet said. "So, the most important thing is bound to be what the land can do for the people, and I am not excluding the environment in that statement. Land means economic opportunity. It also means environment, so protecting the land will protect those two vital things for communities."

"So, the coastal crisis is really a crisis of our service region. A lot of our students are affected by the coastal crisis. A large majority of our students come from coastal parishes. So, it is very personal for Nicholls,"

Clune said.



#### LOUISIANA WORDSEARCH

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Nicholls State	Water Quality	Louisiana	Thibodaux
Community	Wild Life	Crawfish	Plants
French	Creole	Coast	Cajun
Bayou	Swamp	Farm	

MW 19

# DOWN THE BISTOU WRITTEN BY HANNAH GUILLOT PHOTOS BY MAGGIE BYCHURCH DESIGNED BY ADDIE WETZEL DOWN THE BISTOUR BY ADDIE WETZEL

The Nicholls Farm has become an asset used heavily by the Nicholls Biology Department as well as the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary, or BTNEP, for restoration projects on South Louisiana's coast.

The Nicholls Farm was donated to Nicholls State University's agriculture program by the Peltier family in the early 1970s as part of the Agricultural Act. While there weren't many students in the agriculture program, Nicholls Farm was being used for farming, as well as some early restoration projects.

Jerry Ledet Endowed Professor of Environmental Biology Allyse Ferrara said the Nicholls Biology department really got involved with coastal restoration after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. Once the usual fisheries project that graduate students would work on was no longer available, she began looking for new opportunities.

Susan Bergeron from BTNEP suggested that Ferrara apply for a community-based restoration grant program by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. Ferrara applied for the grant, received it and those involved began to work on coastal restoration in 2006.

"That's how we got everything rolling, that first grant was pretty big," Ferrara said.

Ferrara said that the first grant allowed them to purchase a greenhouse, an ATV and helped them to set up a lot of what they have now at the farm.

"We've continued to add to it every year," Ferrara said.



# "Students can get involved with plant maintenance and production, as well as with volunteer plantings," Ferrara said.

Ferrara said they've continued to apply and receive many other competitive grants, as well as receive funding from organizations and companies like the Port of South Louisiana, Shell and Conoco-Phillips.

"We couldn't do what we do without them," Ferrara said.

Ferrara expressed her gratefulness towards the organizations that fund their work at the farm. She said they wouldn't be able to do volunteer events and provide things such as shirts or lunch to volunteers if it weren't for their supporters.

"It's actually a lot of fun for us," Ferrara said. "It's a lot of work maintaining the farm, but we're lucky that we still have the farm."

Ferrara said that at most universities, farms have gone away.

"We've seen all across the country that agricultural production has become more and more industrialized," Quenton Fontenot, head of biological sciences at Nicholls, said. "It's not so much mom and pop farms anymore."

Fontenot said due to this, a lot of agriculture programs have gone down in size or were removed altogether. He said that in the market crash of 2008, Nicholls' Agriculture Department was one of the programs cut.

"Our administration has been extremely supportive," Ferrara said. "Luckily we were able to convert the farm into an area where we can grow plants and use them for restoration projects."

According to Fontenot, one of the new uses of the farm is to establish plants that are genetically adapted to South Louisiana's climate. The plants are found, relocated and grown on the Nicholls Farm, and then ultimately relocated back to the Gulf Coast.

Ferrara says that they've done marsh restoration, headland restoration, barrier island restoration and beach restoration. Ferrara said the financial backing they've received allows them to be flexible with what they are able to work on.

Fontenot said in 2007 they collected acorns from oak trees in Grand Isle and replanted them at the Nicholls Farm, which after growing would be relocated to the barrier islands. He said this is what's called a tree seed nursery.

Some of the other plants grown were sand live oaks, wild persimmon trees, various cypresses and grasses such as Bitter Panicum.

Fontenot says that they have seen a difference in the slowing of coastal erosion in recent years due to all of the efforts, but it is a continuous process.

"We've done plantings on the beach, and then storms will come and wipe them out," Fontenot said. "When we plant, we just keep chugging at it and keep doing it."

Ferrara said that coasts naturally subside and erode, and they are rebuilt by sediment from rivers. However, because rivers have been cut off from their floodplains, the source of sediments and freshwaters has also been cut off.



# "Unfortunately the plants won't end erosion, but they'll slow it down a bit," Fontenot said.

"We have exacerbated a natural process," Ferrara said. "Fortunately we've learned that that's what we've done."

Ferrara said a variety of projects are being planned and implemented to continue to slow the process of erosion and restore some of the natural process. She says it will not only benefit us but also local wildlife because of how they have evolved and adapted to the process.

"Unfortunately the plants won't end erosion, but they'll slow it down a bit," Fontenot said.

Fontenot said they'll also be partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Ducks Unlimited to build a 28-acre wetland at the Nicholls Farm. He said they'll be pumping water from Bayou Folse, which runs through the farm, into a wetland full of plants.

For the project, they'll be working with the Greater New Orleans Iris Society to establish Louisiana's native irises there, which Fontenot said will become a self-sustaining iris population.

Fontenot also said he'd like to incorporate a canoe launch as a fun activity so that volunteers involved with the work at the Nicholls farm will have something re-

laxing when they end a day's work. He said there would also be a walkway that wraps around the wetland for those who'd like to visit.

Fontenot said they hope the plant life will bring more local wildlife to the farm as well so that those who enjoy things such as birdwatching can also utilize the farm. Ferrara also said they'd like to add a pavilion as well as a demonstration garden of native plants so that more people can have access and use of the farm.

The wetland project is still in the process of finalizing drafting of the funding, but Fontenot says that if Thibodaux has a dry summer, the wetland should be done in the fall semester.

"I'm hoping for it to be done this year," Fontenot said.

Ferrara said work on the farm doesn't only involve volunteer work, but also research.

"Students can get involved with plant maintenance and production, as well as with volunteer plantings," Ferrara said. "There are also a number of students conducting research projects on coastal plants at the farm."

Ferrara said the farm is used for numerous other things

such as for classes, scavenger hunts, data collections, art storage, events and even cross country meets.

Ferrara said that while the farm has moved from an agricultural facility to more of a multi-use facility, she wouldn't be surprised if it returned to a space for more

agricultural use soon.

"We just love the farm, we're so lucky to have it," Ferrara said. "For a smaller university to have access to that amount of land is pretty unique."





WRITTEN BY TROY FORET I PHOTOS BY AVERY LANDRY
DESIGNED BY ADDIE WETZEL

Throughout its history, the way the people of Louisiana have viewed crawfish has changed drastically.

In the beginning of the twentieth century, there was a negative perception associated with crawfish in Louisiana.

Many people did not eat crawfish because it was a dubbed "poor man's" food. Instead, its main usage was as bait when people would go fishing.

It wasn't until 1960, when the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival began, that people's view on crawfish began to change.

Today, crawfish is considered one of the most popular foods in Louisiana with people putting it in everything

from jambalaya and stews, to even making pasta with it.

The most prevalent way it is cooked, however, is boiled. You would be hard pressed to go around southern Louisiana and not see someone boiling crawfish during the spring and summer.

According to an article by the Department of Louisiana's wildlife and fisheries, Louisiana is the leader in crawfish production in the United States, supplying 100 to 120 million pounds per year. The crawfish industry also contributes more than \$300 million to the state's annual economy.

Crawfish boils are often viewed as a celebration for different occasions, or just a reason to get together with family and friends.



# "We were so focused on whether it would be in-person, virtual, or a drive-thru line. We wanted to make sure that students would get a taste of this tradition. We didn't want them to miss out on Crawfish Day two years in a row," Angelette said.

It was out of this spirit that Crawfish Day was born at Nicholls in the spring of 1974. It began when Student Government Association senator Al Thibodeaux wanted to find a way to keep students on campus during the weekend.

Since its inception, Crawfish Day has undergone many changes and is vastly different from how it originally looked. What was once a one-day event held in the student union it is now a fully organized event put on by the Student Programming Association.

As far as changes to the event go for this year, the event will expand with activities being held Monday-Friday.

Taylor Roussel, who is in charge of the Special Events Committee said the plan to extend Crawfish Day to a week was in the plans for last year before COVID-19 derailed everything.

"Last year we originally wanted to make Crawfish Week a thing, but it did ultimately get canceled. So, we wanted to do it this year to keep student morale up and give them a full week of fun activities," Roussel said.

Roussel said with the event being canceled last year and never experiencing a Crawfish Day, she feels the pressure to make sure the students have a good time.

"I have never got to experience a Crawfish Day because I was a freshman last year. It's a lot of pressure because we want to make sure we give the students a great, kick-butt event. Because we didn't have it last year, the students are expecting something great this year," Roussel said.

SPA President Kirsten Angelette said SPA was determined to make the event happen this year, because they did not want to cancel the event two years in a row.

"We were so focused on whether it would be in-person, virtual or a drive-thru line. We wanted to make sure that students would get a taste of this tradition. We didn't want them to miss out on Crawfish Day two years in a row," Angelette said.

All events will follow COVID-19 protocols regarding capacity and social distancing. Angelette said that's why this year, certain activities will be done in shifts to allow for more students to attend.

"One thing we implanted is that if guidelines say you can only have 150 people at an event, we created shifts, so that more students would be able to come," Angelette said

Angelette said another change because of COVID-19 protocols for this year is that there will not be any other organizations at the events with tables or booths.

"If we allowed organization tables to come, that would impact the number of students allowed to participate. So, unfortunately, we won't have organizations there representing themselves, but everyone is invited," Angelette said.

Crawfish Week will be from April 26 to April 30, with

the Crawfish Day celebration being held on April 29. During Crawfish Day, President Clune will announce who has been named Mr. and Ms. Nicholls. SPA has ordered 4,800 pounds of crawfish for the event.

SPA will also follow all the health and safety guidelines put in place for the proper disposal of the boiled crawfish peelings.

The proper disposal of the peelings is very important, because if disposed incorrectly it could lead to very serious issues for our waterways and the life inside.

According to the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary website, the best and easiest way to dispose of crawfish peelings is to place them directly in the trash. They also state that if you own your property, you could dig a hole and drop the peelings there.

That website also states that dumping peelings and

boiled water back into the waterways can have multiple negative effects. Such as dissolved oxygen because the decomposition of the organic matter can alter the physical and chemical quality of the water.

Added waste to the waterways can also add and spread pathogens, and ultimately lead to disease in our wild fish.

It could also cause a nutrient overload in the water that can lead to algae blooms. When these blooms decompose, the process removes oxygen from the water creating a fish kill.

It is also important that the boil water is dumped properly as well.

Exact details for Crawfish Week will be announced in the coming weeks on SPA's social media pages.



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# Bridge to a CLEANER TOMORROW

WRITTEN BY OWEN CALLAIS I PHOTOS BY RYKER EMNACE
DESIGNED BY ADDIE WETZEL

Keeping the environment clean and healthy is an important task for a community to achieve.

One way to keep the environment healthy is through recycling.

According to a website titled Terracycle, college is one of the easiest places to fall into the trap of just tossing everything in the trash. Students have papers, exams and several other things they might be doing at once, so oftentimes one might not be paying attention to what things they are throwing away that could be recycled.

Nicholls State University offers several ways one can be involved with recycling. All across campus, there are several blue recycling bins that students can put items in.

The Bridge to Independence program at Nicholls produces a handful of volunteers to recycle throughout campus for an hour every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

For the hour they recycle, the Bridge students travel to different locations around campus. Two of the bridge students who were very vocal about their mission were Anthony Distefano and Ian Roberts.

The two students mentioned their goals when it comes to keeping campus clean.

"To keep the road free from litter and teach people that we can reuse the materials. It's just a way to show people in our community that we're willing to try to keep the place a little bit cleaner," Roberts said. An article titled Cali Carting states that garbage is either disposed of by truck, sea or sent back to the consumer. It states that if all colleges and universities began recycling, the world could reach much higher sustainability goals.

Instead of having to completely get rid of the trash by



#### "It helps the environment, keeps it clean. It also helps the community by recycling stuff they don't need," Distefano said

truck or sea, recycling allows a product to be reused and reduces the waste in landfills. There are large amounts of garbage that landfills just can't keep up with. Recycling at colleges could be a huge part of the solution, as well as spread awareness of the damaging effects garbage can have on the environment.

"It helps the environment, keeps it clean. It also helps the community by recycling stuff they don't need," Distefano said.

Triston Monte, who is a senior marketing major here at Nicholls and is one of the heads of the program said that due to the small size of our campus, it is important to help keep it clean and up to date.

"Recycling on campus is important because it keeps the campus clean. We don't have a very big campus on the scale of others like LSU, so it's important to keep the

campus clean. We have a pretty campus, so we like to keep it clean. It also helps to teach the students important skills, such as what should be recycled and what shouldn't," Monte said.

Easy items that can be recycled are bottles, jars and containers, paper, cans, metal materials, electronics and many more things.

According to an article by Sciencing, there are several effects of not recycling. There could be a potential lack in fossil fuels, more greenhouse gases, natural resources will diminish and garbage will pile up.

So, there are many ways to help the environment in order to keep it clean and healthy. Recycling plays a large part in doing that.

Bridge to Independence is one of the many programs at Nicholls that aids helping the community by doing their part in helping the environment. It's important to keep the environment healthy before we potentially lose it.





### - Decycling

This one was obviously going to be on the list, as it's the most commonly known. Recycling is something that everyone should be doing as it's easy and effortless. By recycling, you are minimizing the amount of waste that trash produces.







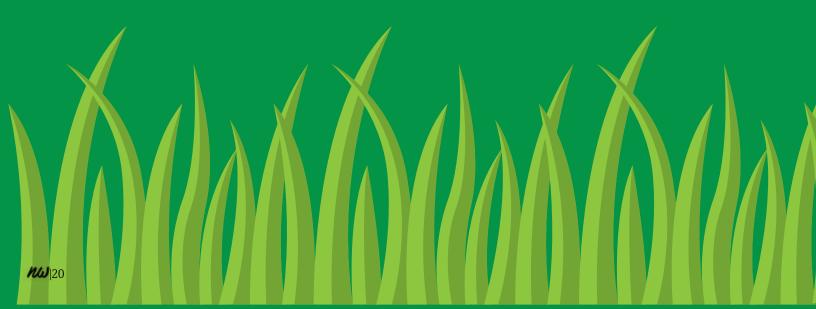
-Water Usage-

When you use less water, you are helping the environment by not being wasteful. Using less water allows you to save money and it diverts less water from places such as rivers, bays and estuaries. Doing this helps keep the environment healthy.









# - Clectricity (Isage

Just like using less water, using less electricity helps you save money as you aren't using as much and running up your electricity bill. By limiting the use, you are also reducing the amount of toxic fumes released into the air by power plants. Doing this helps preserve the ecosystems and lead to a healthier world.







# No Bottled Water-

Now, this is a big one as so much plastic is getting wasted when people use bottled water. A way to limit your use is by using a reusable water bottle that you can refill with water fountains or some kind of filtering water system. This helps stop people from using up so much unnecessary plastic and it starts making the world a better place.







## · (Tardening

This is something that helps the environment and is also fun to do as you can plant flowers, fruits and vegetables which are all things you can use within your home. Planting a garden is also a great way to release stress and anxiety as it helps you focus on something you care about. Growing a garden may not be for everyone, but people should give it a try at least once.







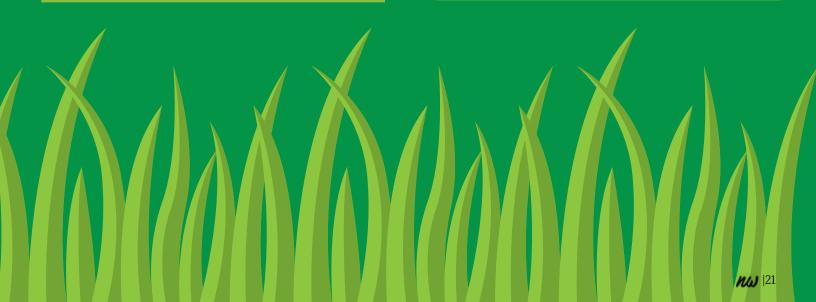
# -No Plastic Bags.

To further help the environment, you could use paper or cloth bags instead of plastic. Plastic bags are harmful for the environment, especially to animals. Animals can be harmed by plastic bags if they consume them. Plastic bags cannot be digested by animals and since they take over 1000 years to break down, once the animal decays the same bag can harm another animal.

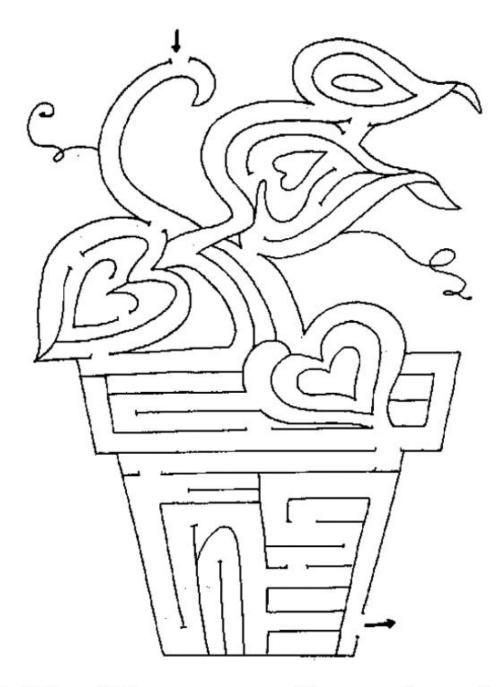








# FIND YOUR WAY OUT!





#### Bayou Educational Opportunity Center

Academic and Career Coaches with BEOC are committed to assisting our local communities in the Tri-Parish area serving 1,000+ participants annually.

The BEOC is funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education through Grand Award PO66A160323. Admission into BEOC is open to those who meet the eligibility criteria regardless of gender, race, national origin, age, religion, or disability.

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#### MAILING INFORMATION

Nicholls Worth: The Magazine is published monthly for the Nicholls State University community, except between semesters. The subscription rate is \$20 per year. Periodical postage paid at Thibodaux, LA (USPS 390-460). One magazine is free. Additional copies can be purchased for 50 cents. The magazine office is located in Talbot Hall on the Nicholls State University campus.

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