



# STATE RANKINGS

program. But even this worthy achievement was overshadowed by Louisiana's astounding breakthrough into the top tier of our top 10 listing for Economic Growth Potential. The state surged all the way to second place in the Growth Potential tally, while notching a very respectable seventh place in Best Business Climate. This was complemented by a traditional top 10 finish in our Cost of Labor ranking.

Louisiana FastStart's innovative, customized programs are available to companies that meet eligibility requirements and are aligned with Louisiana's diverse economic development targets, which include digital

media, headquarters and business operations, service industries, advanced and traditional manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, and research and development.

To qualify for FastStart, a company must first commit to creating a net of at least 15 new, permanent manufacturing jobs, or a net of at least 50 new, permanent service-related jobs. Each request is evaluated prior to project commencement to ensure all eligibility requirements are met.

Louisiana Economic Development's forward-thinking strategy is making bold forays into emerging growth sectors like digital media

while maintaining the vitality of traditional mainstays like oil, gas and steel production [the \$3.4-billion Nucor steel plant project was our 2010 Economic Development Deal of the Year Bronze Award winner].

Three years ago, *Business Facilities* broke the news that Shreveport, LA had emerged as a major player in the motion picture industry (we called it "Hollywood on the Bayou"). Now, we are pleased to report that Shreveport and several other locations in the state, including New Orleans, collectively have staked a claim as a national center for the burgeoning growth engine of digital media.

## Employment Leaders

1. NORTH DAKOTA
2. NEBRASKA
3. SOUTH DAKOTA
4. NEW HAMPSHIRE
5. VERMONT
6. IOWA
7. WYOMING
8. HAWAII
9. VIRGINIA
10. OKLAHOMA

## Workforce Training Leaders

1. LOUISIANA
2. GEORGIA
3. NORTH CAROLINA
4. NEW MEXICO
5. NEBRASKA
6. FLORIDA
7. ALABAMA
8. SOUTH CAROLINA
9. NEVADA
10. MAINE

## Best Business Tax Climate

1. SOUTH DAKOTA
2. ALASKA
3. WYOMING
4. NEVADA
5. FLORIDA
6. MONTANA
7. NEW HAMPSHIRE
8. DELAWARE
9. UTAH
10. INDIANA