

In addition to academic degree programs, Grambling State University through Continuing Education & Lifelong Learning provides services through their outreach branch to assist the region in meeting workforce needs. GSU partners with various community stakeholders in an effort to address workforce needs in northern Louisiana. For example, Grambling State University is partnering with **various entities** to offer training for individuals that will support small business development. GSU is currently engaged in two (2) federally funded initiatives entitled: **Expanding Minority Entrepreneurship Regionally Across the Louisiana Delta** (aka **Project EMERALD - I & II**); and, **Creating Honorable Opportunities Involving Community, Education, and Service** (aka **Project CHOICES**) involved in assisting to create minority small business development opportunities and/or entrepreneurs throughout the North Louisiana Region. The table below identifies GSU's existing Partners in both projects:

Partner(s)	Target Area(s)/Parishes	Comment(s)
Delta Regional Community Development Corporation, Inc. (Ferriday, LA)	Concordia & Tensas Parishes	Community development organization.
Greater Grambling Chamber of Commerce (Grambling, LA)	Lincoln Parish	Community/Business-oriented organization.
Greater North Louisiana Community Development Corporation, Inc. (Jonesboro, LA)	Jackson & Winn Parishes	Community development organization.
Joy I.M.P.A.C.T., Inc. (Jonesboro, LA)	Jackson & Winn Parishes	Faith-based community outreach organization.
New Living Word Ministries, Inc. (Ruston, LA)	Claiborne, Lincoln, & Union Parishes	Faith-based community outreach organization.
North Louisiana Community Enhancement Corporation, Inc. (Bastrop, LA)	Morehouse Parish	Community development organization.
Pilgrims Rest Outreach Ministry, Inc. (Winnsboro, LA)	Caldwell & Franklin Parishes	Faith-based community outreach organization.
PRIDE Community Association, Inc. (Waterproof, LA)	Madison & Tensas Parishes	Community development organization.
Renewal, Inc. (Monroe, LA)	Ouachita Parish	Faith-based community outreach organization.

While Project EMERALD specifically targets minority and underrepresented groups throughout the region, Project CHOICES—an initiative evolving from the federally driven **Second Chance Act**—targets ex-offenders in assisting them to make a seamless transition back into their communities and families. Additionally, Joy IMPACT is Partnering with GSU to infuse digital journalism into rural communities in North Central Louisiana. These initiatives, while led by GSU, involve an **interdisciplinary collaboration among several academic departments** to facilitate the components/modules for each of these economic and workforce development projects.