

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E



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## **BRAZILIAN DELEGATION VISITS THE PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA**

The Port of South Louisiana hosted a special luncheon for trade officials visiting from burgeoning though less-developed states in Brazil. The trip was sponsored by the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council via the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP).

The main objective of the delegation’s visit was to familiarize representatives from the states of Pernambuco, Ceará, Piauí, and Paraíba with U.S., state, and local programs that promote investment, tourism, and trade to help attract a larger portion of domestic and foreign resources to the northeast region of Brazil, thus increasing their advantage over the wealthier south.

During the luncheon meeting, Joel T. Chaisson, Port of South Louisiana’s Executive Director, Larry Collins, LED International Services Director, and other Port representatives addressed areas of interest to the IVLP participants, including the role of state and local government and their relationship with private businesses in support of economic development and international trade, the development of future partnerships to increase trade and business between Brazilian and U.S. corporations, and to observe and discuss port operations and policies to enhance exports and imports.

Before visiting the Port of South Louisiana, the delegation visited Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and Salt Lake City and will conclude their stay in the U.S. in Jacksonville, Florida.



*L-R: Ruth Weinfeld, Interpreter; Ana Karina Frota, State of Ceará Federation of Industries; Buddy Amedee, PSL Director of Marine Cargo & Trade; Melissa Folse, PSL Director of Governmental Affairs & General Counsel; Islano Marques Nascimento, International Relations for Government of Piauí; Joel T. Chaisson, PSL Executive Director; Karina Dourado Gueiros, State of Paraíba Federation of Industries; Carolina Paraventi, Interpreter; Felipe de Moraes Chaves, State of Pernambuco Secretariat of Economic Development; Linda Prudhomme, PSL Director of Business Development; Larry Collins, LED International Services Director*

The Port of South Louisiana, a 54-mile port district on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, is the largest tonnage port in the Western Hemisphere. The cargo it handles accounts for over 50 percent of all Louisiana imports/exports.

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For more information about the Port of South Louisiana or this particular topic, please contact Alexandra “Alex” Hernández, Public Information Director, at (985) 652-9278 or [ahernandez@portsl.com](mailto:ahernandez@portsl.com), [www.portsl.com](http://www.portsl.com).