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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

PRESS RELEASE

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Local United States Census Office Opens in Houma *Nearly 2,000 Jobs to be Created for the Region*

The United States Census Bureau opened a local census office in Houma today in preparation for the 2010 United States Census. A grand opening ceremony was held at 10:00 A.M. this morning at the *Houma Local Census Office 3013* located at 7014 Park Avenue. The opening of this local census office means the creation of about 2,000 jobs for the region.

Residents will begin receiving census forms through the mail in March. Everyone is encouraged to fill out the forms and return them as soon as possible. In April, census takers will begin visiting residents who have not turned in their form. This process could take up to four months to complete.

Speaking at the grand opening ceremony today, Lafourche Parish President Charlotte Randolph explained the importance of the census to Lafourche Parish. "Filling out this information is essential to our area," said Randolph. "It's a confidential process where you are truly a number – but a very *important* number."

Approximately \$300 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities each year. The data collected in the census informs decision-makers of how each community is changing and helps them determine where the money should be spent.

Another main objective of the census is to ensure residents are continuing to be fairly represented. The population totals from this census will also help determine political districts at the parish, state and federal level. Specifically, population numbers are directly related to the number of seats each state has in the United States House of Representatives. If enough residents do not respond to the census, for example, Louisiana's total number of Congressional seats could be reduced from seven (7) down to six (6). These totals will also be used by the State of Louisiana to help redraw state legislative districts.

For more information on the 2010 United State Census, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's official website at <http://www.census.gov>. Residents interested in applying for a job with the local census office can call (866) 861-2010 for more information.

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Parish President Charlotte Randolph addresses the crowd gathered at the grand opening of the Houma Local Census Office on Wednesday.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the grand opening.