

Dr. Melancon brings over 25 years of progressive workforce development experience to serve as President/Founder of Durango Works Corp, an independent workforce development consultancy firm focused on advanced manufacturing and energy workforce development. He is also the Director of the National Green Jobs Advisory Council (NGJAC) at NCWE. Dr. Melancon has just been appointed to the 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board (EWAB) and advises the Secretary of Energy in developing a strategy for the Department of Energy (DOE) to support and develop a skilled energy workforce to meet the changing needs of the U.S. energy system. In addition, he recently completed his 10-year tenure at Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) as the Vice-Chancellor for Workforce Solutions. Dr. Melancon has worked with a very small team and many employers in the Greater Baton Rouge area to achieve national recognition for his programs.

In May of 2018, Dr. Melancon's North Baton Rouge Industrial Training (NBRITI) program was nationally recognized after only two years of program redesign with great support from businesses and industry. This updated NBRITI program has become one of the top three workforce development programs in the United States, according to the National Skills Collation (NSC). In 2019, Dr. Melancon received the National Skills Coalition Skill Champion Award. His teams have also provided more than 100,000 people with the necessary skills to embark on careers in multiple industry sectors, including transportation, healthcare, construction, energy, petrochemical, and manufacturing.

Dr. Melancon has over 20 years of experience in executive-level leadership and has been recognized by independent workforce development policy leaders. Dr. Melancon has many years of experience managing more than 200 million dollars of direct workforce development initiatives for the State of Louisiana and the federal government. He was also the Office of Juvenile Justice Assistant Secretary (acting as the Deputy Secretary) for a statewide agency that included three 24-hour secure-care facilities and 11 regional offices. He oversaw a very diverse staff of over 1,100 employees.

Dr. Melancon has the passion and track record for being the ideal servant-leader for business and industry, state and local government, and federal policymakers. Being the Director of the National Green Jobs Advisory Council has better positioned him to bring more resources to local communities nationwide. Dr. Melancon states, "I want to play a more significant role in growing our economy by providing pathways for high school students, college students, disconnected young adults, and the working poor to obtain gainful employment and to be competitive with the future changes of work."