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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Governor Edwards Proclaims April Safe Digging Month
ULM will host “Digger’s Night Out” Thursday, April 6**

Baton Rouge, LA – April 3, 2017 – Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has proclaimed the month of April as “Safe Digging Month” in Louisiana as part of a nationwide safety awareness campaign to draw attention to the thousands of miles of buried infrastructure throughout our state and the importance of safe excavation.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, the ULM School of Construction, in conjunction with the Ouachita Joint Utility Council, will host its 16th annual Digger’s Night Out to raise awareness among those in the industry of the risks involved in any excavation project.

Digger’s Night Out is geared toward Louisiana job foremen and operators - those individuals who actually do the digging for excavation operations. A brief program about underground damage prevention will be presented. A buffet style dinner will be provided, and door prizes will be given out.

The program will take place on the 7th floor of the ULM library (enter off DeSiard Street). Registration is from 5:50 pm to 6:00 pm or can be made online at rsvp@laonecall.com

ABOUT SAFE DIGGING MONTH:

It is extremely important that everyone dial 811 before they dig so that operators of underground utilities and pipelines can mark the location of buried lines to make them easier to avoid. Louisiana One Call answers these calls and notifies member operators of nearby underground facilities free of charge. Louisiana One Call provides the same service via the Internet at www.laonecall.com

(MORE)

The issue is so important that state law requires all excavators and demolishers to notify Louisiana One Call before they begin work. The law applies to individuals as well as contractors, municipalities and others. Failure to call can subject the excavator to fines and liability for damages to buried infrastructure.

Whether digging a garden, putting up a fence or building a highway, the first step is a call to 811 so that professional locators can mark the location of buried lines. It is easy, free, and it helps prevent service interruptions and personal injuries.

- Call two full workdays before you begin
- Wait for the site to be marked
- Respect the marks
- Always dig with care, especially near the marks

