



Cynthia C. Richard
Extension Educator (Calcasieu Parish)
Co-chair, LSU AgCenter Hurricane Recovery Task Force

Cynthia C. Richard, affectionately referred to as “Miss Cindy” by her clients, is an Extension Educator housed in Calcasieu Parish. Richard holds a specialization in Family Resource Management and has spent most of her career with the LSU AgCenter teaching low- to moderate-income families how to live within their income. Her many workshops include budgeting, credit scoring, reducing debt, savings and investing, and a host of other skills consumers need to make it through tough economic times.

Richard’s favorite workshop is the Home Buyer Education program. Since teaching this comprehensive 12-hour workshop, she has helped more than 1,000 families earn a certificate for mortgage readiness. Many of her clients have received down-payment assistance and have successfully become first-time homeowners. To her knowledge, no family she has worked with has faced foreclosure.

Since Hurricane Rita devastated Southwest Louisiana in 2005, Richard has been actively involved in the recovery process. She co-chairs the LSU AgCenter’s task force for hurricane recovery and is responsible for rebuilding the AgCenter office in Cameron Parish. Additionally, she provides a number of technical workshops for consumers and residential contractors on hurricane resistant construction following the principle of rebuilding “*Safer, Stronger and Smarter.*”

For their hurricane recovery efforts, Richard and her task force members were recently honored in Washington, D. C. with the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) National Team Award for Innovative Programming.