Acadiana's secret? Its people

By Katherine Landry, principal
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I believe that the people of Acadiana set Lafayette apart from other places. I have found that the citizens of this area are friendly, progressive, open-minded, good-natured, caring, and optimistic. Unique to Lafayette is the acceptance by Acadiana residents of newcomers into all aspects of the community.

The citizens of our area share a genuine concern for the community and constantly strive to make Lafayette a better place to live and raise children.

Resilience also characterizes the people of Lafayette. For example, when the economy began to decline, the residents of Acadiana grew closer, continued to believe in Lafayette, and began to diversify.

The public education system is also one of our area's greatest assets. Lafayette Parish has a reputation for being one of the state's most progressive educational systems. Quality education has been the focus of Lafayette residents for many years.

Of equal importance is not only the system's emphasis upon academics, but also its concern for the development of the social and emotional wellbeing of each child.

Lafayette has the key ingredients for a successful educational environment: dedicated, professional staff members, motivated students, concerned parents, and a supportive community. The team approach to education has brought state and national recognition to many local schools. The achievement of high standards and continual school improvement are goals of each school as evidenced by the accreditation process for membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Although I believe that we have an excellent educational system, I would like to see more emphasis placed upon technology in our schools. If we are to prepare our students for the twenty-first century, technology must be a vital part of our educational system.

Another factor for a successful future is long-range planning. Our educational system cannot be reactive, but rather must be proactive. I am pleased that the Lafayette Parish public education system is making great strides in this area with the formation of the Vision and Strategic Planning Committees.