



The mission of St. Landry Parish Economic Development is to provide leadership in economic and community development that facilitates growth opportunities leading to enhanced prosperity for St. Landry Parish businesses, communities, its citizens and its youth.

Executive Directors Report

Table of Contents

I	–	Business Center/Small Business Update
II	–	Communications
III	–	Property Development
IV	–	Projects
V	–	Area and Regional Development Items
VI	–	Community Development
VI	–	Training Opportunities
VIII	–	Conclusion

I - Business Center/Small Business Update

The Business Center continues to be a community and business resource for conducting training and counseling sessions and various types of board and planning sessions for multiple entities. Just a few examples are; the Louisiana Small Business Development Center at ULL; the Event Center Joint Commission; SLP Moving Forward Leadership meetings; community leader strategy meetings; development project related meetings; various coordination meetings for collective community and parish wide initiatives. This month we also had state and federal staffs with Louisiana Workforce Commission use our board room for a strategic planning retreat session as they work to complete the final components of their new strategic plan.

SLED continues its support of area entrepreneurs and small business owners through its ongoing partnership with the ULL SBDC. They continue to offer one-on-one consulting sessions with those individuals looking to start-up their own business and/or need additional tools and resources to grow/expand. The next session will be the second Tuesday, May 10, 2016. Three individuals have scheduled for the upcoming free consultation regarding business start-up, growth and/or expansion, proving this service is needed and being well utilized throughout our parish by our residents.

The next recurring business support workshop promoted collectively by SLED and area business owners is scheduled for April 28, 2016 here in the business center; the workshop will focus on the importance of an effective marketing plan. Developing a marketing plan or strategy will enable the small business to identify the most effective means to reach these customers as well as build and cultivate sustaining relationships with them.

All building improvements under the FY2016 LED/LBIA \$25,000 Grant have been completed. We are waiting to see whether or not there will be funding available for the FY2017 for this LBIA Grant. While it may seem unlikely with the current budget situation that the program would be funding, there is a renewed emphasis by the Governor and State LED on supporting small business so it is still not off the table. The final list of the FY2016 improvements/upgrades to the building which include:

- Construction and completion of previous break room area entrance way.
- Construction and upgrade completion of back area bathroom regarding ADA compliance.
- Construction and facelift completion to back office entrance area.
- Construction and completion to Board Room back wall area.
- Conversion and completion to storage unit (A) located in warehouse area to a climate controlled storage unit.
- Conversion, construction and completion to office space located in upstairs area of warehouse to be multi-functional serving as additional storage and/or warehouse office with the recent installment of office window.
- Finishing off a partition wall for additional secure storage in the southeast corner of the building.
- Reinstallation of Business Center attic.
- Conversion, construction and completion of wall, door and addition of windows to a once open area of the incubator to develop additional office space in the center.
- LiteShow4 Wireless Presentation and Videoconference Technology Upgrades via Open Meeting Area in addition to television monitor upgrade enhancement.
- LiteShow4 Wireless Presentation and Videoconference Technology Upgrades via Conference Room in addition to television monitor upgrade enhancement.
- Television monitor addition to lobby area for technology upgrade enhancement.

We currently have the following tenant activity at the Business Center:

C&C Painting and Pressure Washing

Boone Speech and Learning Services

Miracle Ear

Happy Housemaids

Magnolia Community Development Corporation

Victory Manufacturing

WIB 40 (January 1st)

Double J Express, LLC

Charles G. Lawson Trucking, Inc (effective May 1st)

II – Communications

The world continues to rely on their view of use through the web. Our online brand and image of SLED and St Landry Parish will always be a priority in giving them a positive and progressive message. We urge all of you to regularly review our primary website at www.opportunitystlandry.com and further all of the great things being written and posted at www.SLPforward.com. We would love to hear your ideas and experiences of best practices that we could consider incorporating into one or both of these online portals. `

To date www.slpforward.com, currently holds a total of thirty-eight (38) articles shining the light on positive things happening throughout St. Landry Parish. One (1) article per week is typically uploaded onto the site on a consistent basis providing fresh and updated article content. This initiative is now actively supporting NPR radio. We are in the process of working with Parish Government to put together a whole rounded marketing strategy for the campaign as well as considerations for improvements as part of a phase II rollout for this initiative.

With the website's foundation now solid, a Google analytics test is conducted monthly to evaluate website traffic directly to the site. During the time period beginning March 15th through April 15th SLPForward number of page views nearly doubled from 500 to that of 869. This shows that new and returning users are browsing more than just slpforward's landing page and committing more time during their visits to read and understand the true intent of the site. Our goal for 2016 is to exceed 2000 monthly views and currently sitting at 869 it appears that we are well on our way.

Our continuing efforts for upgrading GIS platform are ongoing and phase 1 of mapping tool can now be found on the home page of www.opportunitystlandry.com. We are also working the Acadiana Planning Commission on the incorporating the existing GIS work into a regional GIS program that is value added to each of the communities of Acadiana in addition to site selectors, tourist, companies, etc.

III - Property Development (Large-scale)

We continue to promote active development project at five of the major interchanges on the I-49 corridor. Each of these developments has the potential for a large development that creates numerous new business opportunities. This includes working with the Mayors, boards and community leaders in most of the impacted communities about formal planning efforts for their communities, or areas, and/or the ability to establish economic development taxing districts that can help provide direct or matching funding for infrastructure improvement efforts.

Site development efforts with the newly formed team of One Acadiana continues to get added priority emphasis regionally. Our goal is to work towards 2 shovel ready sites in

SLP for 2016. We have made considerable progress in moving forward with 3 sites over the past couple months to get down to these 2 sites.

IV Projects Update Summary: 18 Active, 3 New (Boost, Bulletproof, League) 1 Announced (Lid) Pending Announcement, (Brace, Lot), 1 Parked, (Amber) 1 Pending Park (Focus) 15 Announced

Project Barrier – This is a large manufacturing project that is being worked through LED. We have submitted a proposed industrial site for the project through the site development team at One Acadiana. This project at full development will create up to 500 new direct full time positions. We anticipate an initial 90 to 120 review period before the next phase of the project moves forward with a narrowed site selection list.

Project Base – This is a project looking at the utilization of one of core parish transportation facility assets for international business investment. We are still working through due diligence on feasibility. There are still not direct job creation, or capital investment figures for this project at this point, but their representatives are alluding to a very large investment in the Parish. A follow up site visit from their international delegation is was held last month. While there is not a definite date on the project it is still moving forward.

Project Brace – This is a retention project involving the purchase of an existing facility here in the parish. We are working closely with LED, as well as One Acadiana on this effort which could protect as many as 65 existing positions, as well as offer the potential to expand additional positions at this location. A follow up site visit by the company's executive team went very well last month. We anticipate an initial announcement on this project over the next two weeks.

Project Boost – This is a very large potential expansion project in terms of capital expenditure. This area company is planning to submit final plans to their board of directors at their May board meeting for final approval. Assuming that all goes as planned this project could commence groundbreaking at early as August 1st of this this. The project would produce less than 15 new employees at very high wage scales and well up to 170 temporary construction jobs for a year or more.

Project Clean – This is a manufacturing infill development project located in the center of the parish. We are continuing solid progress with their leadership in multiple areas with this project. A serious illness with the owner of one of the principal contractor bids has slowed down the ability to finalize the project, but we should still have a solid view of whether the project will come to build/rebuild stage over the next 60 days. If successful this project could create 50 new direct positions.

Project Code – This is an expansion project focused on light manufacturing looking to locate on the main transportation corridor in the center of the Parish. The company is conducting interim operations at their present location, but needs extra capacity to reach full potential. The challenge with this expansion continues to be site location along the I-49 Corridor. We are continuing to facilitate discussions and plans with land

owners along the corridor on suitable sites for this effort. This project could add up to 20 additional full time positions.

Project Expo – There are multiple options that are being explored with this project at this time. We have to have the details on each of the potentially 3 different options available for public discussion/consideration as soon as the April or May full board meeting.

Project Focus – This is a large scope sector driven project dealing with historic properties in the center and northern parts of the parish. Since this is a “sector” project the number of jobs created would vary by individual properties/events. Progress has been very slow, this has been in large part due to the lessening of state level incentives specific to the industry and the current budget discussions. Due to the budget environment supporting film related development we will be putting this project in park status for next month pending any new developments.

Project Fountain – This is a large scale commercial development project that discussions have been ongoing for some time national tenants are committed to this project and negotiations with landowners and real estate development partner are continuing on a regular basis. The development consortium for this project collectively met to move options forward with the project last week. We will be exploring the potential this over the next month to combine these negotiations with an interest in Project Expo. In either event, this is still a large project that would be developed over time in phases.

Project HIPPO – This is a heavy industrial project that is in its early stages, but that continues to make good progress. The project is very large in scope on its investment and job creation potential. Currently, we are working with regional and state partners on identifying and meeting engineering requirements on the footprint site. We hope to have the initial site work requirement completed by the end of the 2nd quarter of 2016, which is happening in unison with industrial layout discussions. There are not accurate job projection figures available on this project, but it has the potential to be very high with both job creation and capital expenditures.

Project League – This is a new recruitment project with major impact potential that would expand across the region and even the state. Meetings with company execs have been very positive and we anticipate a final answer on a short list by early July of this year. If successful this project would create up to 100 white collar high paying positions, collectively averaging close to 100k annually.

Project Lot – This project is the expansion of an existing parish company into construction at new location and the further modification and refit of their existing facility within the parish. The property for this site has been closed on and although there have been some delays; we now anticipate a groundbreaking on this project in the May to June timeframe. Assuming the existing facility backfills the same number of positions in its new use this project would create 45 new direct full time positions. The existing location now has approximately 25 full time positions.

Project Neighbor – This is a medium size retail location project on the western side of the parish. The project continues to work through, contracting and due diligence and now additional challenges with land acquisition. We hope to have some resolution on the land contract with this project one way, or another soon. If successful, this project could create up to 100 direct full time positions.

Project Rest – This project deals with the redevelopment and reuse of land surrounding one of our interstate intersections. There continues to be positive meetings with pivotal state agencies to move the project forward. Detailed job creations figures are still not available on the project. This will continue to monitor and update progress on a monthly basis.

Project Ride – This project represent an expansion of a large area retail site in the center of the parish. Property has been acquired and some initial site clearing work has been completed. There are currently some items being working out in a corporate structure that may move this project forward to a late 3rd, or even a 4th quarter 2016 start date. If successful this project could create up to 40 new positions.

Project Shell – This was a previously parked project that now has been brought back into play in St Landry Parish. The project has a facility secured currently and is looking to refocus their feasibility back at this site. We anticipate a determination on the refocus of this project on the site over the next 60 days. If successful this project could create up to 20 new positions.

Project Vertical – This project is dealing with a light industrial manufacturer looking to put a new production facility in the Parish. We are still waiting on the bank letter saying the project is fully financed and is ready to move forward. If successful this project would create up to 30 direct full time positions.

Project Zeus - This is a heavy industrial recruitment related project we are working on in coordination with LED and One Acadiana. It relates in part to the overall efforts associated with Project Hippo. We submitted our final detailed request for proposal (RFP) response on February 15th and anticipate a 60 day review period to determine eligibility for the next round of review. This project is expected to have \$1.3 billion in capital expenditures, and create 300 direct new positions at an average annual wage of \$45,000

Announced Projects

Project Lid – Announced Regional Retention - This project will relocate up to 100 immediate jobs and has potential to add an extra 75 full time direct positions to the parish for a total of 175 positions. The ground breaking ceremony for this project, C&G Container Scientific, was held on April 11th on site and was very well attended.

Project Outpost (A) – Announced Recruitment - This is a one of a kind Loves Travel Center that broke ground early in January 2016 in Port Barre. This will be the first center for Loves not located on an interstate highway. The location will serve as a full service

24 Hour travel center with a Subway Restaurant on location. This project will create at up to 35 direct full time positions.

Project Bayou – Announced Recruitment - This Wal-Mart Neighbor Center projected was announced earlier this month as being an example of highlighting the retail development potential here in the center of the Parish. This project is well into its construction process now and is projecting a formal opening on January 20th. This project will create between 90 and 100 direct full time positions.

Project Slip – Announced Expansion - This project was a major turnaround project with the Alon Refinery in Krotz Springs. The company made major investments in this effort, which brings significantly enhanced capacity to the Alon facility. For industry concerns the company would prefer that this project not be included in a major press announcement. This does not diminish the positive impact on our parish from this project. SLP Tourism continues to recognize record breaking lodging numbers for the later portion of 2015 as temporary workers made their place in area hotels, campgrounds, and RV Facilities. Over 2000 temporary construction jobs were brought into the parish with this effort. We are working now to confirm the number of permanent jobs that will ultimately be created with this expansion. We do not anticipate this number exceeding 15 in total.

Project Outpost – Announced Recruitment - This is the original Project Outpost. This project, the Go Bear Travel Center is going to be opening its doors within the next 2 weeks. The company is Gaubert Oil, which is base out of the Houma Thibodaux area and will be the 13th retail travel facility for the company. We along with Acadiana Works has been providing various levels of hiring assistance, including the use of the Business Center to interview management candidates for the new facility. This project is projected to create up to 45 new full time positions.

Project Lynx – Announced Recruitment - This project, The Hazelwood Energy Project, was formally announced on Sept 30th. This project is projected to create 123 direct full time positions, 135 indirect positions and 200 temporary construction related positions. Initial capital investment projections on this project are 400 million. This project also has the potential to lay the framework for significant future development.

Project Spin – Announced Recruitment This project is a small project that we are piloting as an incubation for oil field support services in C&C machining with Victory Manufacturing. We had hoped throughout the later part of 2015 to make a large announcement, but the company principal had some health challenges that slowed their work to a temporary stop. We are hopeful that in supporting this area of high demand labor force that we will be able to keep some of our machinist workforce in the parish with career opportunities.

Project Lift – Announced Recruitment - This project was formally announced over the weekend. The company Air Evac Life team will be basing rotary wing operations out of the St Landry Parish Airport. They are completing significant upgrades to one of the existing facilities and now have aircraft on the ground to assume operations. This

successful project further highlights the huge upside for the SLP Airport, which tends to get overlooked as a key transportation asset of St Landry Parish. This project is anticipated to create 16 direct full time positions.

Project Strip – Announced Expansion - This is a large commercial project on a large multi-tenant commercial facility located on the I-49 Service road corridor, St Landry Plaza. The company, Rock Step Capital, made a formal announcement earlier this month through their President, My Andy Wiener. He pledged to bring as many as 8 new national tenants to the facility over the next 2 years. This project could allow for up to 75 direct full time and a greater number of part time employees.

Project Essen - Announced Expansion Crest Industries, based in Pineville, Louisiana, will invest \$5 million to develop a new cutting, machining and fabrication facility in Eunice and add new machining centers to existing PCS equipment. Crest will retain 18 PCS jobs, and the expansion project will create 20 new jobs averaging \$50,000 per year, plus benefits. LED estimates the investment will result in an additional 24 indirect jobs, for a total of 44 new jobs in the Acadiana Region.

Project Rip – Announced Recruitment - This Company, Top Timber, and deals with the timber hardwood related processing. It is located to the rear of S&B Sawmill in the proximity of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. The company had indicated that it could initially employ up to 12 full time positions with the potential to grow very quickly if certain international agreements can be established.

Project Roto – Announced Expansion - This is an existing company within the Parish, Noble Plastics that has acquired the Yahoo building to begin production of additional plastics components through a process call roto mold plastics production. There is a good potential that this project would bring in a partner supplier, Project Mat. This project will initially create 15 or less direct full time positions, but has a great potential for future expansion.

Project Alon – Announced Expansion - The Alon Refinery has recently completed an expansion at their facility to include the building of a rail transfer facility that will allow them more efficiently loading on and off load bulk rail materials to be utilized both in and out of their production facility. The project will create as many as 12 full time positions.

Project Runway – Announced Recruitment: A formal announcement was made for this project Thursday, February 20th at 1:30 PM at their new construction site just past Beau Chene High School. We conducted a follow-up site visit last week. There is solid progress on the foundation structure, which is the most time consuming portion of their building process. The company expects operations to commence in a matter of weeks. This project will create as many as 25 direct full time positions.

Project Martin – Announced Expansion: Bayou State Lumber Company, LLC, formerly known as Acadiana Hardwood, LLC. This company will create 29 permanent

new jobs and retain 21. This mill is the only viable employment opportunity for most individuals in the area.

V – Area and Regional Development Items:

Last month the results of a Targeted Industry Study (TIS) conducted by the team from Jay Garner and associates was publicly released. While the study goes into a lot of detail, at a high level it lists five core industry groups, as well as a non-traditional target that could be good fits Acadiana to target in its business recruitment activities. It by no means indicates that the efforts in economic development are geared exclusively towards these industries, but eludes to a synergy in the region that makes it more attractive to these industries. These industries include:

- Aviation and avionics – Includes a broad scope of services from air cargo, to rotary wing services, to repair and expanded charter services.
- Informatics and engineering - Including 3-D printing, data centers, engineering services, industrial design, and even video game design
- High value business services – Includes activities such as accounting and corporate administration
- Marine and heavy industry – Includes port and related cargo operations
- Food and beverage processing – Includes things such as spice and seasoning, sausage and boudin, vegetable oil, crawfish, and craft beers.
- Heritage tourism – Includes things that have very strong cultural identity and level of cultural activity

Collaboration efforts continue the St. Landry Chamber of Commerce board are moving forward at multiple levels. Most recently we have been working with their team on the Annual Awards Banquet, principally through our two annual business awards that we provide to SLP businesses at that event.

We continue to regularly collaborate with SLP Tourism on regional and state priorities that are important to the cultural economy of SLP, both through our Cornerstone collaboration, as well as other areas, such as the Parish GIS Project, slpforward.com, the St Luke's Hospital Project and on working in collaboration for the economic development day in the French Week, which was held last week.

We are well into the process of BERG collaboration meetings with SLP companies. Throughout 2015 we tracked the progress of roughly 25 companies we met with throughout the year. In 2016 we look to expand that visitation base to 30 of the top sector employers we have in the Parish. To date this year we have sat down with ten of these employers, which includes:

- Gaienne Lumber

- Giles Automotive Group
- Opelousas General
- Wal Mart Distribution Center
- Alon Refinery
- Evangeline Downs
- Targil
- Sterling Automotive Group
- Noble Plastics
- Dixie Storage

With many of the challenges facing the regional economy it is important that we do everything we can to take care of our core employers.

We are continuing efforts with Cornerstone Governmental Affairs on funding requests for the 2016 session. Along with the Parish President we have been involved with meetings set up by Cornerstone with all of our elected state delegation to further align our parish priorities.

We have now sat down and had introductory meetings with all of the new SLP Council Members to keep them informed about the continuing progress in economic development, explain more about what we do, and to hear their thoughts on priorities for the parish.

We are directly involved with numerous initiatives with the Acadiana Planning Commission, APC and its newly incorporated Metropolitan Planning Organization. We are looking at furthering resources to support a robust regional GIS model that would be a resource to all communities; conducting multiple phase zero studies for various challenged traffic points in the south part of the parish; the development of the CEDS Regional Economic Plan for Acadiana, as well as a regional transportation plan.

We are continuing our active efforts with a board seat on the ARA (Acadiana Regional Alliance). Some of the key items of consideration at the last board meeting were:

- The hosting of Acadiana Day at the Capitol
- Updates on the I-49 Extension
- Updates on the Acadiana Food Alliance
- KLFY Shot Local Campaign
- Best practice discussion for the parish entities

We have had very productive discussion over the past month with Dr. Natalie Harder, Chancellor for SLCC, and some of her key team members in order to discuss strategies to effectively utilize the two TH Harris campuses in Opelousas. We have also agreed to once again support a SLED scholarship for a St Landry Parish resident attending SLCC next year through proceeds provided through GOEIDC.

We continue to efforts to support Dr. Kimberly Russell and her team at LSU-E in multiple areas. This includes leadership and community engagement efforts with the students. We are also working to assist when possible with helping Dr. Russell and her team align the program offerings of the campus to the highest demand of the business community. We have also agreed to once again support a SLED scholarship for a St Landry Parish resident attending LSU-E next year through proceeds provided through GOEIDC.

AEDC (Acadiana Economic Development Council)

We are counting down towards getting a final EDA approval to fund an exciting regional business accelerator program that would be cooperative initiative with InnoV8 Acadiana, seven parish economic development organizations, and Winrock International. This is in

Other items being considered for AEDC funding support through the remainder of this state fiscal year include:

- Sales Force CRM tracking for the all EDO's in the region
- A detailed economic impact analysis of the of the I-49 extension.
- A small pot of funds for a film series initiative being developed for Acadiana.
- High grade photography of key employers in the region
- Drone flyovers of key Acadiana Assets
- Promoting high profile recruiting trips, such as the Site Selectors Guild and the IAMC

We continue quality interaction on multiple levels with the staff at OA as we look to enhance the economic development capacity for region. As a reminder, their economic development priorities for 2016 are:

- Maintaining strong executive leadership and financial support for LED
- Proactively pursuing industry development for Acadiana
- Restoring, protecting, and reforming key economic development incentive programs
- Supporting game changing opportunities

VI – Community Development in St Landry Parish

With a business plan that focuses on the Cultural Economy of Arnaudville with an emphasis on the alternative usage of St Luke's Hospital we are now facilitating efforts

between Parish Presidents on legal options for valuation and transfer of ownership with the facility. The process currently sits in getting the final results from a private appraisal on the building.

We are further exploring the potential to establish an economic development district if the facility were to transfer to the control of St Landry Parish. On a parallel front; we are also providing technical assistance in the structure of a 501c3 dealing with the cultural economy in that area that could potentially operate such a facility under the right structure and contractual agreement.

We continue efforts with Opelousas leadership to explore options important to their leadership structure. One of the areas we are continuing to put structure towards is the formalization of a Downtown Development District Board and a formal funding mechanism that would support the efforts of this board in redevelopment efforts in a define downtown boundary area.

We are working with the leadership of Port Barre on Project Bulletproof, as well as continuing support their intent to formally move forward as one of only five communities in Acadiana that will participating in a pilot planning program offered through the Acadiana Planning Commission, APC. This initiative has been approved by their council and is now in the contractual process. We also continue to work with town leadership on the potential for establishing an economic development district on their primary business corridor.

We have had very positive discussion with the Mayor of Eunice and have a list of items that are important to his administration that we are exploring our ability to provide assistance towards.

We continue work with the community of Grand Coteau on planning and infrastructure efforts along their business corridor, which will ultimately provide a better retail environment for the community along I-49.

In Sunset, we are working to help broaden the scope of business group, or alliance to extend across the 93 corridor. We will initially be bringing in 3 core business from Sunset, Grand Coteau and Arnaudville as part of a feasibility discussion on the 21st of this month. We have also had initial conversations with St Martin Parish about extending the alliance across the corridor through Cecelia and down to Breaux Bridge as potential for a phase II of the effort. We also plan to provide input as needed on the potential for economic development districts.

We are also working to facilitate discussions with the leadership in Sunset and Grand Coteau on expanding broadband artery capacities in their communities.

We continue to explore with the Wal-Mart DC executive team and community leaders from Washington on the potential for using the Wal-Mart Mentor Program for the small communities in the proximity of the DC. We hope to have some progress in moving this effort forward over the next 60 to 90 days.

The Washington Steamboat City Association continues to work on an initiative to deal with substandard housing in Washington. The Steamboat City Association has begun assembling volunteer crews as part of its initiative to provide safe, warm, and dry housing for Washington's elderly poor. The association has provided initial funding for the project, which will be done in conjunction with Rebuild St. Landry, and has applied for a grant for ongoing funding.

Application materials have been sent to school, principals and councilors for scholarships provided by the association for graduating seniors from Washington or its immediate vicinity who will continue education at a university, college, community college, or technical school.

Regarding a potential thrift shop in Washington, planning stages continue to proceed forward with no indication of slowing down. As it relates to the Historic Washington Art Gallery, underwritten in part by the association, a successful open house was conducted on March 12th.

On Wednesday, March 23rd the St. Landry Professionals hosted its second session of LEAD St. Landry, a Leadership Developmental Series. The development series was held on the campus of LHC in Opelousas with roughly twenty (20) individuals in attendance. Jay Winford CEO of Prairie Construction, served as our presenter. His presentation focused on the importance of business culture and evolving as an emerging leader. The second session was overwhelmingly well-received with high anticipation for the upcoming course. The next LEAD St. Landry session is slated for May 18th. Missy Rogers, CEO of Noble Plastics will be the primary presenter at this session. It is our intent to double attendance and build a greater leadership capacity throughout the parish

On April 27th beginning at 5:30 pm the SLP will host a Membership Recruitment Social located at Fast and Lucy's Pub within Evangeline Downs Racetrack and Casino. This event will focus solely on growing our membership capacity and we invite all to attend accompanied by a friend, employee and/or colleague who fits the mold of a young professional within our area.

Grants Update:

All task items as outlined within the FY2016 LBIA \$25,000 grant proposal are now complete and all required reimbursement paperwork has been submitted to LED. We have received our first of two reimbursement payments.

The signage provided under the USDA RBEG Grant for the digital marquee is now fully functioning and has garnered rave reviews since its installation. Upon completion final write-up following our January 2016 Civil Right Site Visit we are now found to be in total compliance with the full grant reimbursement successfully rewarded in the total amount of \$40,000.00.

As part of our 2016 goal structure we will be continue to explore the potential for two successful grant applications that will make a meaningful impact on our mission and efforts to build capacity in the parish. One of the efforts we are looking hard at is how we can identify funding

VII – Training Opportunities

Mid-South Basic Economic Development Course

True South Basic Economic Development Course

September 19 - 22, 2016

Location: Hattiesburg, MS

Course Overview: The Basic Economic Development Course is an introductory look at economic development in North America, with an emphasis on the state of Louisiana. Students are given an overview of the tools and techniques of modern economic development, including the professional specialties that have formed in the last 20 years.

VIII – Conclusion

2016 continues to be packed with challenges for our region and for our state, but as our parish branding campaign shows, there is lot to be proud of in SLP and a lot more coming. It will be tempting for us to fall into a mode of allowing the circumstances that are happening around us to dictate the future outcomes for the progress in our parish. As leaders we all have to guard against falling into that trap. We have always said it is in the challenges where the opportunities lay in disguise for the right kinds of proactive thinking. I truly believe that this case here now! We once again we want to thank all of you for continued incredible support. Despite what is happening around us we are

continuing to significantly move the needle to make good things happen for the people and businesses of St Landry Parish and Acadiana!