



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**

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## **I - Business Center/Small Business Update**

The Business Center continues to be a growing resource for conducting training, planning, counseling, board sessions and various types of planning sessions designed to promote enhanced partnerships and collaboration for the parish.

The next session of the ULL SBDC offering free consultation regarding business start-up will be on the second Tuesday, August 9, 2016. The most recent business support workshop promoted collectively by SLED and LSBDC was held on July 12, 2016 for SLP businesses.

Our next upcoming small business seminar is scheduled for the second week of August 2016 on the subject of 'Defining Your Target Market' in collaboration with the LSBDC. Presenters will discuss the difference between market research and marketing research, while touching on how to use primary and secondary research for target market information and determining competition.

We have received the grant application for Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and Louisiana Business Incubation Association (LBIA) Business Incubator Support Program for the 2016-2017 calendar year. Applications will be accepted beginning July 25 through August 10, with grant announcement to be made on August 25, 2016. We have been told that the grants will be heavily graded on their emphasis on technology improvements. Based on that guidance we are considering the following:

- Transformation of old kitchen area into a collaborative think tank to serve as an innovative technology setting that could be used for business brain storming, student innovation contests and in general an area where people come together to solve issues and build capacity.
- Updating the conference room with advanced video/teleconferencing technology
- Upgrading the Wi-Fi technology to service the back section of the Business Center.

We would welcome discussion on additional improvements the board may have additional ideas on, particularly as it pertains to technology.

We are 100% complete with the compartmentalization of the air conditioning systems in the front half of the building, as we enter into the summer months with all systems functioning at full capacity.

We project to have 10 tenants active in the Business Center effective July 1st:

C&C Painting and Pressure Washing

Boone Speech and Learning Services

Miracle Ear

Happy Housemaids

Magnolia Community Development Corporation

Victory Manufacturing

WIB 40

Double J Express, LLC

Charles G. Lawson Trucking, Inc

Relentless Designs

United Transportation is still a question mark for August.

## **II – Communications**

We urge all of you to regularly review our primary website at [www.opportunitystlandry.com](http://www.opportunitystlandry.com) and further all of the great things being written and posted at [www.SLPforward.com](http://www.SLPforward.com). Currently, we are in the process of linking both websites by way of RSS feeds to maximize website traffic and allow users a method of getting relevant and up to date information sent to them as each respective website is updated in a timely manner all in one space. 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](http://www.slpforward.com), currently holds a total of forty-five (45) 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 continues to be active on NPR radio.

We are in the process of working with Parish Government, as well as a parish creative collaborative that is exploring the details of critical components for consideration in a Phase II of this campaign. We anticipate final outcome of these discussion to come before the SLED Board for review and financial consideration at the August round of board meetings.

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 June 14<sup>th</sup> through July 14<sup>th</sup> Slpforward's number of page views reached 725 with a total of 473 of 401 users accompanied by 473 sessions. These steady numbers are indicative of a recurring user base.

We continue to work with Parish Government to collect data sets that will be used to upgrade our existing GIS platform. Phase 1 of mapping tool can now be found on the home page of [www.opportunitystlandry.com](http://www.opportunitystlandry.com). We are also working the Acadiana Planning Commission on an EDA Grant that would allow for a regional GIS program that would provide value 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 at the major interchanges on the I-49 corridor by working with the Mayors, boards and community leaders in most of the impacted communities about planning and building capacity for development.

Our industrial site development efforts with the newly formed team of One Acadiana are steadily moving forward. Our goal is to work towards 2 shovel ready sites in SLP for 2016. We hope to begin an active recruiting campaign on a 500 acre heavy industrial site, Nexus Energy Park in partnership with LED and OA in the next 30 days.

### **IV Projects Update Summary: 24 Active, 5 New; (Belt, Duncan, Dye, Flap, McCarty, Vanilla) 3 Pending Announcement, (Boost, Hippo Lot), 1 Parked, (Barrier) 2 Pending Park (Shell, Zeus)**

**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. Bruce Gaudin has taken the lead on this project as we work with the parish in requesting specific requirements for the investment consortium that will allow this effort to move forward. We are waiting now for detailed responses to some of the requests for information made by Bruce.

**Project Belt** – This project has come about as a result of local BRE efforts and is a cooperative between a local employer and SLED in trying to bring in a supplier into their existing manufacturing facility. The project could create up to 100 FTE's if successful. An original proposal was submitted late last week so we don't anticipate a direct response, or direction for at least 30 days

**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 in April. We are now told that there are more details to be

worked through with investment partners, which will slow the final decision/announcement of this project for at least another 30 to 60 days.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. We anticipate being able to announce this project in the next several weeks.

**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. 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 continues to conduct interim operations at their present location, but needs extra capacity to reach full potential. 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. There is no specific time table other than land availability.

**Project Duncan** – This project is a cooperative submittal with OA and LED. It deals with a light fabrication and assembly. It has a CAPEX of \$3 million, 85 permanent jobs, with an average production wage is \$19.50 per hour plus benefits.

**Project Dye** – This project is a cooperative submittal with OA and LED for development-stage energy company to build a chemical manufacturing facility. The project has a CAPEX of \$30 million, 100 permanent job and an average annual wage of \$60,000

**Project Expo** – There a multiple options that are being explored with this project at this time. We plan to have a draft contract on what is emerging on one of the primary options on this project by our June Board Meeting.

**Project Flap** – This project is a cooperative submittal with OA and LED. The company looking to set up a new aerospace component manufacturing facility. Details of the project are being asked to remain confidential for the time being.

**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 Fresh** – This is an in state expansion for the company, but a recruitment project for our parish. Initial job creation numbers are less than 6 with room for expansion. The project hinges to some degree on project vertical with land acquisition. The company is will to move quickly and the project could be a reality in as early as August of this year.

**Project HIPPO** – This is a heavy industrial project that 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. 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. This project will soon be announced as the Nexus Energy Park.

**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, including the meetings with their team here last week. We are on the short list and expect some conclusion on their commitment by late July. If successful this project would create up to 100 white collar high paying positions, collectively averaging close to 100k annually.

**Project McCarty** – This is a cooperative submittal with OA and LED for a new heavy manufacturing facility. Details of this project are asked to be held confidential at this point.

**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. 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. We have confirmed that this project is anticipated to announce and break ground in the next 30 days.

**Project Protect** - This is an in parish expansion project that has already made the land acquisition for their new site. The project could expand to up to 12 new manufacturing positions once the new location is operational. Construction on the new facility is tentatively slated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year.

**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 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2017 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 continue to track progress on this project, which is up and down. We hope to have clarity one way, or another in the next 30-45 days. If successful this project could create up to 20 new positions. We have another client that the current building owner is looking to bring into their building in place of this project and pending any new updates this project will be placed in the parking lot for next month.

**Project Vanilla** – This is a cooperative site submittal with OA and LED. Their site consultant has on a quick turnaround. The project is targeted towards an industrial facility to batch process chemicals for the oil and gas industry. At this stage the project does not have investment and job creation figures, but has specific site requirements that are a good fit for 2 SLP sites. Each of these has been submitted.

**Project Vertical** – This project is dealing with a light industrial manufacturer looking to put a new production facility in the Parish. We are still on formal funding verification from their investment group. We continue to be assured that is coming soon. If successful this project would create up to 30 direct full time positions.

**Project Youth** – This is a very large recruitment project that we are currently in completion on a site in Houston. This project could be a very large capital expenditure project with projections as high as 400m. The site consultant is currently working on a specific site location in the central parish. The fate of this project hinges largely on some industry related partnerships that there should be some further updates on over the next 30 days.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Indications are that this project has settled on a site out of Louisiana and bar any new upgrades this project will move to the parking lot next month.

## **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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:**

### *OA (One Acadiana)*

We continue quality interaction on multiple levels with the staff at OA and LED as we look to enhance the economic development capacity for region. These levels include:

- Regional Marketing (Brand planning in process)
- Regional Labor Study (Released, new position established)
- Parish Site Development (Gaining traction 4 new projects)
- Business Retention Efforts
- Business Recruitment Efforts (Compliment to site development)

The St. Landry Chamber of Commerce board is in the process of significant change and transformation. We have implemented a new steering committee to help provide suggestions on future strategic alignment for the chamber. We are also in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of interviews for a new CEO. Horses in Harmony will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month. Tickets are still available for this event.

We continue to regularly collaborate with SLP Tourism on regional and state priorities that are important to the cultural economy of SLP, such as the Parish GIS Project, social media tracking for slpforward.com, the St Luke’s Hospital Project, and the Highway 93 Business Alliance, “Do and See 93.”

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 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 twelve 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

- Crest Industries
- Service Machine Specialties
- Ventura Foods
- Acadian Medical Center
- Savoie's
- International Snubbing Services

As a direct result of these visits Savoie's is now directly engaged with a partnership program called "economic gardening" that takes and in depth look at viable market expansion opportunities around the country and how they can possibly target these identified opportunities.

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 and current request in HB-2 for this session that should move to the bonding commission for consideration. One request is for 186k and the other is for 83k.

We have been reaching out to members of the St Landry School Board on an individual basis to discuss their selection process for a new superintendent. We have also help to facilitate multiple meetings with school board leadership and community and business leaders in the parish to provide input on their current selection process. The latest meeting with Vision St Landry was held yesterday here at the Business Center.

We are directly involved with numerous initiatives with the Acadiana Planning Commission, APC and its newly incorporated Metropolitan Planning Organization. The development of the CEDS Regional Economic Plan, as well as a Regional Transit Plan for Acadiana are two of the largest picture items we are currently engaged on with the APC. We continue to engage them with the Grand Coteau Council on improvements to their business corridor.

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:

- Continuing updates on the evolving I-49 South Project
- Updates on the Acadiana Food Alliance
- Best practice discussion for the parish entities
- Reginal Acadiana familiarization tour this fall.

We have had very productive discussion over the past month with SLCC and their leaders on important educational items for the area. These discussions have ranged from the discussions of the process for a new K-12 Superintendent, dual enrollment with SLP Schools, the new RN Program, as well as other new programs being considered as part of their Corporate College Program. 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 some exciting K-12 connection opportunities that will identify LSU-E as one of only 44 colleges in the United States for this dynamic pilot opportunity with Pell funding. They have also been engaged in the discussions of the process for a new K-12 Superintendent for SLP. 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 have received approval from the EDA to fund an exciting regional business accelerator program that will be a cooperative initiative with InnoV8 Acadiana, seven parish economic development organizations, Winrock International and JP Morgan Chase. This program should be launched late in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

Other items that have already been funded by AEDC this state fiscal year include:

- A detailed economic impact analysis of the of the I-49 extension.
- 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 IAMC
- Supporting eligible individual key priorities in each parish

We have done significant work this month with the CEO support organization called Vision St Landry on strategically identifying priorities that could have significant impacts for SLP over the next 5 – 15 years. The goal is to continue to vet these items to a set of high level strategies that we all as leaders of SLP can stay focused on.

#### **VI – Community Development in St Landry Parish**

We continue to help facilitate efforts between Parish Presidents on legal options on the St Luke’s Hospital for valuation and transfer of ownership with the facility. We now have a formal appraisal on the property. The project outcome is in final consideration by both parish presidents to present to their respective parish councils..

We are further exploring the potential to establish an economic development district if the St Luke 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. We feel like there has been an agreeable plan developed for consideration to move forward with and anticipate meeting with the Mayor and his team

in the next two week to come to a go/no go agreement on moving forward. As a side note; there has been a lot of movement in sales on downtown property over the past 90 days, or so, which is likely a good sign.

We are working with the leadership of Port Barre on Project Bulletproof, as well as continuing support their intent to formally look at proactive measures that can take to stay ahead of what looks to be major growth in their area over the near term. We continue discussions with various components of the leadership of Eunice on how we can best help them to identify and progress priorities for their community and on the potential of keeping their economic development committee intact.

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. A formal presentation of 3 million in improvement projects available to the community for 300k in match was made to their full council last week.

We have been facilitating meetings this month with the leadership from Sunset and Grand Coteau with fiber optic providers on upgrading capacities in their communities.

Multiple strategic planning meetings have been held with representative businesses from the Sunset, Grand Coteau and Arnaudville area. To date, Identification of organizational priorities e.g. mission statement, name, and determination regarding formal organizational structure have been identified in draft form as well as an alliance name entitled Do & See 93. Currently a logo is being created as well as a list of inventory of assets and resources amongst the '3' key communities to be provided at the next merchant alliance meeting which is scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 pm located at the Grand Coteau Bistro.

We continue to hold out hope towards a solution 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. Although progress is slow it could be very worthwhile program if we can get it off the ground.

We have productive meetings on the potential for a public private partnership with Enterprise Holdings on Rideshare Program that could be a benefit to key employers, as well as having the potential to be an initial part of a regional transportation effort.

Due to not meeting in the month of June 2016 there are no updates to provide at this time as it relates to the Steamboat Association. The next monthly meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 10:30 am at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall.

On Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> the St. Landry Professionals held its bi-monthly Membership Recruitment Social located at the Bike Barn, located in Sunset, La. This event was well

attended with numerous new faces attesting to our growing presence throughout the parish.

On July 20<sup>th</sup> our fourth installment of LEAD St. Landry will be held on the campus of SLED. Dr. Kimberly Russell, LSUE Chancellor will serve as our guest presenter.

She is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and exercises complete executive authority therein, subject to the direction of the board of supervisors. As the administrative head of LSUE, the Chancellor implements educational and administrative policies for the campus.

### **Grants Update:**

All task items as outlined within the FY2016 LBIA \$25,000 grant proposal are now complete and have received our final reimbursement payment for a successful closeout of the 2015FY. We are preparing the 2017 application now.

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. We have a USDA strategic session later this month to look at making progress on this priority.

## **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**

This year continues to be packed with challenges for our region, for our state and for our nation. It is clear that we are not immune, but on the other side; there is lot to be proud of in SLP and a lot more good things are coming. As leaders we all have to stay focused on the potential. 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!