



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

We continue to work with the philosophy on the Business Center that you never have a chance to redo a first impression. This month work has continued the north/south tree lines, as well as preparing the front drainage for replanting in a couple months.

On December 13, 2016, in collaboration with the LSBDC, ULL SBDC business consultant four (4) businesses scheduled met to engage in one-on-one consulting sessions in the areas of business planning, market research and other key services, which demonstrates the strong growing entrepreneurial presence within St. Landry Parish. The next scheduled session will be held at SLED on January 10, 2017. These services can be offered to businesses at any level of growth, are confidential, and are free to our area businesses.

As we solidify organizational priorities for the 2017 calendar year we will align to work in collaboration with many public and private sector businesses, organizations and agencies toward meeting the needs of the small business community, hosting seminars at those respective locations in addition to SLED increasing stronger partnerships and growing effective outreach.

With consideration of funds received under the Louisiana Business Incubator Association/LBIA grant we are evaluating layout, design and final costs for the Collaborative Audio Visual Environment (CAVE) in our old kitchen area. We anticipate to begin transformation of area beginning in first quarter of 2017.

We currently have 9 tenants active in the Business Center, with one (1) pending:

C&C Painting and Pressure Washing

Boone Speech and Learning Services

Miracle Ear

Happy Housemaids

Magnolia Community Development Corporation

Victory Manufacturing

WIOA 40

Double J Express, LLC

Charles G. Lawson Trucking, Inc

Everybody's Tax Service and Insurance Services, LLC (pending)

II – Communications

We are actively gathering input on our primary website at www.opportunitystlandry.com for upgrades and improvements and would value your thoughts and ideas. To implement these improvements we are working with additional maintenance contractors that can take on the heavy lifting with these improvements.

To date www.slpforward.com, currently holds a total of fifty-six (56) 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.

With the website's foundation now solid, a Google analytics test is November 18th through December 18th Slpforward's number of page views reached 732 with a decrease in bounce rate at 41.25% and an average viewing session at 2:26. The analytics recorded are the best year to date and a great testament to the sustainment of the campaign since its initial launch in September 2015.

Business and Focus Magazine, which featured SLED in an eight-page spread in its February 2016 edition has recently reached out to highlight SLED once again as a re-feature of its April 2017 edition. As we enter into SLPForward Phase II development and all the highlights of the parish it will include, a re-feature date tentatively scheduled for April 2017 is most opportune time to highlight our efforts.

We have concluded all meetings with all recommended PR Firms in our best efforts to determine which can effectively take the lead in the Phase II of our "Moving Forward" Campaign. In the coming weeks in collaboration with the St. Landry Tourist Commission we hope to determine a final direction for next steps.

Through our continued work with Parish Government on our existing GIS platform, all smooth ride home data has been provided for our GIS system. To view the GIS platform it can be found on the home page of www.opportunitystlandry.com via internet explorer and/or safari. We plan to have this link accessible through all web browsers, including Google Chrome, in the next 60 days.

III – Property/Site Development

We continue to promote active development at the major interchanges on the I-49 corridor by working with the Mayors, boards and community leaders about planning and building capacity for development. There has been significant progress with the actual and planned development on four of our major interchanges. We will be continuing our

focus on building this artery capacity throughout 2017. It is likely that most of I-49 along the frontage roads will have a major makeover in the next five years. This process had already started and we anticipate it will accelerate considerably over the upcoming year.

We continue effort with the team from LED, One Acadiana, as well as private realtors on at least two shovel ready sites. With one of the sites we are in the final stage of the process with LED and OA for listing a 500-acre heavy industrial site, Nexus Energy Park in the east side of the parish.

IV Projects Update Summary: 21 Active, 1 Pending Announcement, (Hippo), 1 Announced (Brace) 1 Pending Park (Project Flap) Please note (*Latest Updates*)

Project Base – This is a project looking at the utilization of one of core parish transportation facility assets for international business investment. *Latest update:* We hosted a team representative of these investment groups late in November to hear their latest plans. Although their plans have adapted some to new uses, we are assured that the project is still active. We are currently waiting on plans and impact worksheet data for the Phase I Facility that would set the project into motion. This latest round of meetings justifies keeping the project in active status.

Project Belt – This project has come about because 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 job creation figures if successful are now estimated up to 45 FTE's. *Latest Update:* Although the project has seen some unforeseen delays our latest update with company execs last week is that we expect to get to a go/no go with this project in the next 8 weeks.

Project Boost – This is a very large potential expansion project in terms of capital expenditure. 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. *Latest Update:* The Company is finalizing some of the permitting process, as well as the financial package for the project. We are still anticipating these pieces will come together, but the due to recent merger talks the project will likely be delayed to go/no go until late 1st quarter 2017.

Project Black Top – This is a location expansion project with a well-established area company. The company will be looking to consolidate central operation into a newly constructed central administration facility. *Latest Update:* We are still waiting on the exact number of FTE's for this project, but still anticipate construction to begin in the 1st Quarter of 2017.

Project Bulletproof – This is a new recruitment light manufacturing project looking hard at an existing facility in the parish. If successful this project would create up to 100 FTE's. *Latest Update:* This is an RFP project with LED and OA. As of early September the project sits in a good spot with our facility. The big pending decision is the company's willingness to commit to an expansion at this time. We anticipate final clarity on this project sometime in the next 60 to 90 days.

Project Clean – This is a manufacturing infill development project located in the center of the parish. If successful this project will create 50 new direct positions, with the ability to grow up to 100 FTE's. *Latest Update:* The success of this project currently hinges on the ability to rezone the existing facility towards suitable use. We will be working as a liaison with company and local officials to get through this hurdle, which is the final hurdle prior to the company purchasing the existing facility.

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. *Latest Updates:* We are pending updates from site consultants for next steps on this project.

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. *Latest Update:* We are pending updates from site consultants for next steps on this project.

Project Expo – *Latest Update:* There will be an update on this project as part of the regular agenda with a decision on final contract authorization to move the project to the next step.

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. *Latest Update:* The project is still in the site consultant review process. LED is confirming the status of this project. Pending these updates, we will move Flap to the parking lot for the next report.

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 partners are continuing on a regular basis. *Latest Update:* We are continuing active discussions on how this project can be combined with Project Expo planning efforts to create a destination location.

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. *Latest Update:* We received a letter of interest to move forward with property negotiations. We are currently waiting on an impact worksheet for the project, as well as finalizing site layout for this project and Project Vertical.

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. *Latest Update:* As of last week the permitting for this project is on schedule to be

completed in the next 45 to 60 at which point this project will 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. If successful this project would create up to 100 white collar high paying positions, collectively averaging close to 100k annually. *Latest Update:* As of early last month, the feedback with company continues to be positive. We are on the short list for the project, but company officials are still working through details on partnerships in the education and investment areas. We hope a go, or go/no go direction before the end of the year.

Project Nova – This is joint submission project with OA and LED. It is a light manufacturer looking to locate in an existing central parish facility. This project would look to invest up to 4 million in facility upgrades and employ 50 full time positions over the first 3 years of operations. This is on the short list of two sites for the state so it has strong potential for a site visit in the near future. *Latest Update:* We are waiting confirmation from the site consultant on if there will be an onsite visit scheduled.

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. *Latest Update:* Latest discussions are that the company is still looking the potential for early 1st quarter for starting their new build location.

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. *Latest Update:* There are no new inputs on rest this month. We will continue to monitor and update progress monthly.

Project Sugar Tree – This is cooperative SLED, OA and LED Project that is working directly with a project development company to find the perfect site for a new biomass-based manufacturing facility. CAPEX estimated to be \$150 million for Phase 1, and roughly double that investment for Phase 2 (approximately 18 months later) for a total CAPEX of \$300 million Permanent jobs – 60 (30 in Phase 1 and Phase 2) Average annual wage of \$65,000 excluding benefits. There is an expected final site decision by year-end 2016.

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. If successful this project could create up to 40 new positions. *Latest Update:* There are currently some items being working out in a corporate structure that may move this project forward in the 1st quarter 2017.

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. *Latest Update:* We are still waiting results from the evaluation process.

Project Vertical – This project is dealing with a light industrial manufacturer looking to put a new production facility in the Parish. If successful this project would create up to 30 direct full time positions. *Latest Update:* As of late last month, we are still on formal funding verification from their overseas investment group. We currently waiting on a project intake worksheet for this project so that a presentation can be made to the board on a property offer consideration.

Announced Projects

Project Brace – Announced Retention – Expansion - 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. If successful this project would protect as many as 65 existing positions, as well as offer the potential to expand an additional 25 positions at this location. *Latest Update:* This project was released as a joint announcement through the Governor's Office and LED last week.

Project Lot – Announced Expansion - 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. *Latest Update:* There is a ground breaking announcement on this project scheduled for September 22nd on site in the Harry Guilbeau District at 10:00. This project is a major step forward in the future of the Harry Guilbeau EDD.

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:

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. We are now in discussions with OA, the APC and AEDC that are based off two facilitate planning sessions that identifying priorities by parish that can be vetted to determine suitable

for regional strategic collaboration priorities for 2017. We will be formally sitting down to look at these priorities on November 18th as a follow-up to an earlier planning session.

We announced last month a regional business accelerator effort that will be a partnership with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Winrock International, Chase Bank, One Acadiana, AEDC and INNOV8 Acadiana. This program has been very successful in identifying and accelerating the growth of small companies in Arkansas over the past 3 years and it is the culmination of more than a years' worth of application and preparation. We are now actively in the process of identifying suitable companies to participate in the process.

We continue to actively participate in the ARA (Acadiana Regional Alliance), which is made up of area Tourism, Chambers and Economic Development organizations. Some of the key items of consideration at the last board meeting were:

- Continuing updates on the evolving I-49 South Connector Project (Elevated)
- Building the Region Conference (January)
- Acadiana Day at the Capitol (Regular Session)

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 Our collaborative BERG efforts for the year have concluded with visits with most of our key area employers, some of which there are regularly involved with key initiatives around the parish. These employers include:

- 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
- Dupree, Carrier, Godchaux Insurance

Our goal with these visits is always multifaceted; one is to ensure that our business leaders are aware of all the local, state, or federal incentive that may be available to

help promote job creation. Another is make sure they are not running into inordinate challenges with any level of government that is prohibiting their growth. Lastly, we want to be sure we are as proactive as possible to avoid any company reductions in force, or even closures.

As we have talked about throughout the year, there have been many positive and proactive success examples that have come from these meetings in 2016 and we look forward to continuing this proactive relationship building and major employer involvement over 2017.

SLP Schools continues their new path after reaching their historic milestone last month in getting their new superintendent for SLP Schools, Mr. Patrick Jenkins, under contract last month. We anticipate the new superintendent being at our meeting this month to introduce himself. We anticipate working with Mr. Jenkins in multiple areas, including the Phase II of our moving forward, consideration of a strategic plan for the district, and ways that a “grass roots” awareness of the importance of parents and the community being involved with education This is an important opportunity for our parish to move forward, but will take an “all hands-on deck” mentality to seize the full potential.

We are actively working on the advisory board for the OGH Bio Medical Academy here in Opelousas to help develop the most of the potential for some of the great offerings that they have in place. We are in the process of setting up a seminar style event for their students at LSUE in January that give the students a chance to participate in a broad range of breakout sessions relevant to their future academic and professional aspirations.

We have also been active this month in working with some care Acadiana Leaders on programs that should be included in this region for the State “Jump Start” Program, as well as innovative programs dealing with the arts and education,

We will be looking at ways that we can provide expanded potential for SLCC and the TH Harris Campus in the Phase II of our “Moving Forward” Program focus on education. We continue to look for opportunities to engage their corporate college into efforts for local business. 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. Our scholarship recipient was formally awarded her scholarship last week at a ceremony on the main campus.

Enrollment for the fall semester has increased significantly at LSU-E, which had the highest percentage of enrollment increase of all Louisiana Universities. Early numbers suggest even more of same from LSUE in the spring semester. We will be working with their leadership on ways to be in an expanded role the phase II of the “Moving Forward” Program. 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. We are actively participating as a member of their board of advisors who will be sitting down next month to provide a framework that will make their involvement more clearly defined for 2017.

We continue to make progress with the CEO Roundtable support organization called Vision St Landry on strategically identifying priorities that could have significant impacts for SLP over the next 5 – 15 years. The group agreed this month to focus on three core long term priority areas for St Landry by breaking into focus groups. These groups will be focused on strategies designed to assist in improving education, spur business development along the entire I-49 Corridor, and promote the redevelopment of downtowns and central business districts.

VI – Community Development in St Landry Parish

The St Luke's Hospital is now in its final stages of legal resolution. The St Martin and St Landry Parish Councils will be considering the transition of ownership of the hospital over the first quarter of 2017. This is the first, and perhaps the biggest step in getting the building prepared to be repurposed as a cultural immersion center.

Our efforts with Opelousas leadership are progressing in the priority areas agreed upon by their leadership, which include the following:

- Developing the I-49 Corridor – ECJC progress
- Revitalizing Downtown – DDD Improvement Plan
- Improving Education – 100-day Superintendent Plan

We are looking at ways that we can offer value to the leadership of Port Barre on proactive measures that can take to stay ahead of what looks to be major growth in their area over the near term. We have made very positive progress with their leadership as soon as last week. There is the potential for these efforts to be presented formally in their January public meeting.

We continue to work towards regaining progress with the leadership of Eunice on how we can best help them to identify and progress priorities for their community. Part of the discussion is on the potential of keeping their economic development committee and/or their planning committee active.

Great progress is being made with the community of Grand Coteau on planning and infrastructure efforts along their business corridor. Engineering plans are in the process with several of their priority projects that will dramatically enhance the development of their business corridor.

Multiple strategic planning meetings have been held with representative businesses from the Sunset, Grand Coteau and Arnaudville area. At the November 2016 meeting the group discussed a possible shift in name to a placemaking task force that would

have a more concise focus with initiative rather than a collaboration that had broad less clear focus. The thought is that these placemaking project priorities will result in business growth as they become successful. It is important that more people become aware of these projects so that they can continue to build momentum. The group agreed that every 3rd Monday at 5:30 would be the agreed upon meeting time. Our most recent meeting was held this past Monday, December 19th at 5:30.

As we close out 2016 The Steamboat City Association will be dormant through the holidays until after the first of the year. They will continue to provide scholarships for graduating seniors, support and enlarge hot meals to elderly shut-ins, provide manpower and money to rehabilitate substandard homes, and continue to look into ways to provide regular transportation to doctors and stores for those who need it.

On November 30th TheSLP hosted its final installment of its LEAD Development Series to an audience in excess of twenty-five (25) individuals. LSUE Head Coach and Athletic Director, Jeff Willis served as the close out presenter. Those in attendance walked away with a few 'AHA' moments on how to better manage and lead within each of their own respective organizations and personal life as well. The feedback most received was that it was an extremely positive and eye-opening experience.

On November December 28th TheSLP will host its after Christmas Social at Fast and Lucy's Pub located in the center of Evangeline Downs Racetrack and Casino. The event will begin with a quick year in review followed by social networking with industry colleagues.

In 2017 we will be promoting growing outreach efforts throughout the parish to identify key professionals. The organization will also be developing a SLP task force in identifying meaningful projects; continued professional development and aligning efforts with organizations such as: The 705 and The Leadership Institute to grow capacity.

Grants Update:

With funds received under the Louisiana Business Incubator Association/LBIA grant we have to date received renderings regarding layout and design and are currently finalizing a final draft for the Collaborative Audio Visual Environment (CAVE) in our old kitchen area. We anticipate to begin transformation of area beginning in first quarter of 2017.

We have worked with leaders in the Acadiana Planning Commission, as well as the Leadership in Grand Coteau in applying for a DOTD TAP Grant designed to address the accessibility and safety of pedestrian transportation in the business district area of Grand Coteau.

We have also recently facilitated the conversation with Project Boost and the USDA Loan Guarantee Program.

As part of our 2017 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.

VII – Training Opportunities

LSU Basic Economic Development Course

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.

January 23 - 26, 2017

Location: New Orleans, LA

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VIII – Conclusion

This year has been packed with challenges for our region, for our state and for our nation. Finally, there are positive signs for Acadiana overall with a projected stabilizing of oil prices for 2017 and 2018 now being viewed as a renewed growth year. Throughout this year and despite many of the big challenges around us, St Landry Parish has continued a slow steady overall growth process, which leaves us very well positioned to take advantage of the improvement of our areas key oil and gas industry sector. I believe that a big part of us being in this position is that we as leaders have stayed focused on a larger picture. We continue look at putting in the framework that will set a path for continued growth for St Landry Parish over the next 5, 10, 15 years, and beyond. We have always said it is in the challenges where the opportunities lay in disguise for the right kinds of proactive thinking. With your tremendous support we continue to stay “Moving Forward” towards a bright future for St Landry Parish and Acadiana!