



### Executive Director's Report — August 2018

Greetings! As quickly as it started with school being for the summer; it is already gone. As the months fly by, it is time once again to look at some of the great progress taking shape in greater St. Landry and across Acadiana. Let's first talk about the trend that we continue to see with business growth.

When we look around the state, the region and around the area, most of the growth we are seeing is coming from the expansion of local area employers. We are seeing much less movement in this area and region with recruitment. There is a not a single answer on why this is, but from a practical perspective, there are a number of things that are looked at when corporations look to make sizeable investments in new locations. A few of the key indicators are the education systems, infrastructure availability, stability of the governmental structure, the stability of the tax structure and sometimes more discreetly, the overall tort environment that prevails in an area, or in a state. These are all things that we as leaders of the region need to be mindful of for the future when it comes to the growth of businesses that will fuel our economy.

Nationally, we see some of the strongest indicators on the economy that we have seen in a long time. We are now witnessing the longest bull market in history with the DOW. GDP for the nation was the strongest in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this year that it has been in five years. Oil prices seem to be holding steady in the mid sixty dollar per barrel range. Unemployment is at historical lows in most areas of the country. Many are near full employment percentages.

It pays to note that the Acadiana economy has historically been somewhat contrarian to the national picture. It would seem that all the ingredients are in place for the area economic to start making its climb back, but the progress towards new growth, particularly growth from the outside, has been slow, but steady.

I would still say that we are on the right path to prepare our areas for the future as we prepare our areas for educational and infrastructure improvements. We cannot have much of an influence on the vast area of factors that affect our national and global economies, but we can and we are progressing by taking care of our own companies, and taking a more proactive planning approach for the future.



We at SLED look forward to being able to serve you and all the stakeholders in our area towards what promises to be unprecedented levels of growth and prosperity throughout the remainder of 2018.

## *Bill*

| June SLP Sales Taxes<br>Collection Comparisons  | May SLP<br>Unemployment Comparisons   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$6,396,248.33 July 2018</li><li>• \$6,003,931.94 June 2017</li><li>• Up 6%</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• June 2018 7.9%</li><li>• May 2017 6.7 %</li><li>• April 2016 7.8%</li></ul> |

## Communications

The Executive Director’s Report currently goes out to a large number of parish and regional leaders as an update to progress in St. Landry and beyond. We continue to move new features in the report working towards a revised more user friendly format readers can use to get information the large amount of positive progress in the parish and in the region. Improving our communications at many levels is one of our key 2018 priorities for SLED.

We are nearing the end our process of our web design and communications strategy content with Golden Shovel. This new platform is being designed to consolidate [www.opportunitystlandry.com](http://www.opportunitystlandry.com), [slpforward.com](http://slpforward.com) into a new site that includes the latest in technology and features for ED Sites in North America. Included in this new communications design effort will be new board reporting materials, as well as the ability for any visitor to collect portions of the web material into a shopping cart type feature that will build the material into a PDF for save/print. Brandy is the project lead on this effort, which is on the projected timeframe of work. On Friday, August 17, 2018 we reviewed the ‘Soft Launch’ development site which will be presented within today’s agenda for your review and feedback. Additional information, imagery and breathing documents will be included to the complete design and we anticipate barring no setbacks the completed site launch date sometime within the latter part of September 2018.

[www.slpforward.com](http://www.slpforward.com)



106 articles shining the light on positive things happening in St. Landry Parish. We are currently in the site development process with Golden Shovel so these and all the articles will be loaded into the new communications site format. Please take the time to review the site and the attached articles to learn more about some of the great things happening in our area.

We will be looking specifically over the next couple of months at getting better direct communication with businesses that are located within economic development district boundaries. We will be working on newsletter that can be sent directly to each of the businesses to ensure they are aware of the latest happenings. We are finding that many businesses are not aware of the progress that is being made in their area. In some cases, we are still finding businesses that are not clear on how the districts and our tax structure works.

## Who's looking to grow in St. Landry Parish?

This section of the report highlights companies that may considering expansion or location in and to St Landry Parish. These projects are given code names to ensure that the project integrity is not compromised. Once the project is prepared to launch, then the name and location of the project is shared in *public announcement*. These projects do not include many of the new construction commercial, retail and office buildings that you see in and around areas of the parish. SLED is involved in many of these projects in various capacities in order to bring them to the area and get to their construction state, but they are not listed for practical considerations in managing the size of this report. Note percentage for development percentage

**Project Anchor** – This is an in state expansion, area recruitment project. The project has a project 2.5m capex in renovations of an existing building and site. The project will allow for the retention of 35 FTE's and the expansion of another 20 FTE's. *Latest update: If all continues to go well with permitting, this project could be in construction as early as September.*

**Project Basket** - This is a new recruitment project looking to expand operations into the parish at one of our rail site locations. Initial job creation figures are up to 100 FTEs, with a capex still to be determined. *Latest Update: This project site was selected as one of two Acadiana submittals as a partner submission with One Acadiana and LED. There have been no new state level updates so this project will be parked for next month. Percentage for development – 5%*

**Project Belt** – This project came together because of local BRE efforts. It is a cooperative between a local area employer and SLED in trying to bring a supplier into an existing manufacturing facility. The job creation figures if successful are now estimated up to 45 FTEs. *Latest Update: This project is a go. Work with the companies incentive consultants has gone slower than expected. We still anticipate an imminent announcement in the near future. Percentage for development - 95%*

**Project Boost** – This is a very large potential expansion project in terms of capital expenditure. The project would produce about 15 new employees at very high wage scales and well up to 170 temporary construction jobs for a year or more. *Latest Update: This project is a go and initial construction is underway at this time. We are finalizing a soft announcement plan at this, which should be updated on the next report. Percentage for development - 100%*

**Project Care** – This is a health care project that could set the stage for significant additional development on a high profile corridor in the central parish. The project itself would allow for up to 18 new jobs being created. *Latest update: We anticipate a final approval on this project by the Sept. Possible announce for Oct . Percentage for development 80%*

**Project Clean** – This is a manufacturing infill development project located in the center of the parish. If successful this project will create 25 new direct positions, with the ability to grow up to 50 FTEs. *Latest Update: The company has purchased the building and received all local permit and variance requirements. The last step on this being announced is finalization of a DEQ Permit. We expected the project to announce in late July but the final permits have slowed this down. It should not be a question of if, but when on this project, when should be soon. Percentage for development – 95%*

**Project Cleanse** - This is a new recruitment project, as well as an in state expansion, looking to expand operations into the parish at one of our rail site locations. Initial job creation figures are up to 50 FTEs, with a capex still to be determined by existing building, or greenfield selection of the site. *Latest Update: We are waiting final word for an on a site visit. We will keep this project on the list for at least one more report cycle, but things have been pretty quiet. Percentage for development 15%*



Twenty-two St. Landry Parish projects announced over the past 30 months have created potential for

- 1,058 new fulltime jobs.
- Retention of 265 existing jobs.
- Creation of at least 353 indirect jobs
- Support of an estimated 3,315 temporary jobs

**Project Doughnut** – This is a recruitment, as well as an in state expansion project. Negotiations are proceeding on a vacant existing building site. This project would create up to 15 FTE’s and result in 3 to 3.5 million in new project investment. *Company officials hope to have the property secured in the next 60 to 90 days. Percentage for development 75%*

**Project Drop Off** - This is an area expansion project that is likely to set the stage for the development of an additional industrial development area in the parish. This specific project is scheduled to create up to 10 Direct FTE’s *Latest Update: We are still working on state project incentive in anticipation of a soft announcement in late August, early September. Percentage for development – 100%*

**Project Expo/Fountain** – Estimates on job creation are 30 FTE and temporary employment of up to 200 positions. The capital expenditure on this project is from a baseline of \$25 million, ranging to \$40 million, Fountain has the potential for in excess of 100m in capital investment and hundreds of new jobs created. The clock continues to tick on the on the land use of the property where the expo project would be located. We are currently working with several area professionals to tie this discussion these projects together, which will require a master planned development. *Latest Update: Four of the key players are in place regarding the Master*

*Plan Conceptual. The Master Plan would include a market feasibility study to the back side of property and a land-use planning and design to frontage. An initial consolidated proposal for a conceptual master plan design has been received. We are meeting again for a second time this week with property officials to discuss more details of this plan. We plan to come to CSLEDD within the next 30 to 45 days with a proposal update on this project.*

*Percentage for development – 75%*

**Project Gateway** – This is a large commercial retail development project in the central parish. Property sales are in process in accordance with a detailed master plan for close to 100 acres of prime I-49 property. There will be a mix of projects going into this gateway development, which will include big ticket retail, medical office, commercial, and religious facilities. On completion, this gateway will have generated close to 100m in construction investment and will lead to the direct created of more than 100 FTE's. *Latest Update: The announcement and subsequent work going forward on Our Savior's Church was the start of what will be numerous ground breakings in this area over the course of the calendar year. There are now 10 of 17 parcels in this development in contract, or being closed on. Percentage for development – 100%*

**Project HIPPO** – This is a heavy industrial project that is very large in scope on its investment and job creation potential. Currently, we are finalizing with regional and state partners on identifying and meeting engineering requirements on the footprint site. *Latest Update: We recently met with senior officials on this project in Baton Rouge for the latest progress/plans/status on this project. There are efforts to finalize details of a three investor partnership to take the lead on this project. We anticipate the results of this negotiation by the later this month, or early in September. Percentage for development – 65%*

**Project Home** – We don't normally track projects that are dealing with residential development, but this project has the potential to soon become the largest residential development in St Landry Parish with 168 home parcels becoming available in this phase of the project, which has capacity for more than 450 home sites. *Latest Update: We anticipate a formal announcement coming over the next several weeks.*

*Percentage for development of phase one – 100%*

**Project Incubate** – This is an expansion related expansion project in the central area of the parish that projects to create 25 new FTE Positions at very high average wage levels going into the six digit salary area. *Latest Update: The project is now in the stage of planning and incentives evaluation. The projected start date for this project construction is October 2018.*

*Percentage for development – 85%*

**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 \$100,000 annually. *Latest Update: This project has received significant renewed momentum with nationally recognized consultants recently completing in a feasibility analyses. The results of these analysis have come back positive. Teams are now in the process of plugging in various stakeholders into the various*

*pieces of the feasibility analysis. The project still has an optimistic bias, but will be ongoing throughout the remainder of the calendar year to see if all the partners can be brought together. Percentage for development – 65%*

**Project Link** – This is a proposed expansion project with an existing parish company. If successful this project would create up to 25 new direct jobs and see more than \$10 million of investment into equipment and new facility construction. *Latest Update: The financing for this project is in place and initial incentive applications have been submitted. The combined announcement with area, region and the state has been postponed until Sept. Percentage for development – 95%*

**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 still has the potential for beginning their new construction but that they have now moved their timeframe into the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018 pending final some final local variance requests. This is a go/no go for the project on the variance. Percentage for development – 75%*

**Project Radiate** – This is a clean energy related project looking at the eastern side of the parish for a new production facility. The project has a potential large initial cap ex in excess of 100m with a large number of temporary construction job. Direct FTE's after construction would be less than 10. *Latest Update: Negotiations on property are still in progress. This stage should come to a go/no go within the next 30 days. Percentage for development 50%*

**Project Ride** – This project represents the recruitment of a large retailer into the center of the parish. This project will create up to 50 new positions. *Latest Update: We anticipate an actual construction start for this project over the next 30 days. This project will be one of many projects within Project Gateway. We expect an formal announcement on this project in late August, early September. Percentage for development – 95%*

**Project Sap** - This is a new recruitment project looking to expand operations into the parish at one of our rail site locations. Initial job creation figures are up to 125 FTEs, with a capex still to be determined. *Latest Update: This project site was selected as one of two Acadiana submittals as a partner submission with One Acadiana and LED. There are no new updates this month. We await notification on selection to the next step for this project. Pending no new updates on this project, it will be listed as moving to park on the next report. Percentage for development – 15%*

**Project Shell** –The project is looking to refocus their feasibility back at the original building site, or a greenfield site in near proximity. If successful, this project could create up to 20 new positions. *Latest Update: This was a previously parked project that now has been brought back into play. This project has received preliminary USDA grant approval. Company officials have are working with equity investors now to supplement this grant with a current high degree of optimism for international investment in the project. The project land acquisition should be presented to a local area government at their September meeting.*  
*Percentage for development – 75%*

**Project Tail** – This is an expansion project with a long time local area employer. This project would create and additional 50 seasonal employment positions, which an additional 10 FTE positions. The capex on the project is targeted at 3m. *Latest Update: The project is targeted for construction in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.*  
*Percentage for completion – 75%*

**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: Company officials still say the funding for the project is go. There would have to be a land sale/lease consideration for SLED for this project to be placed on its planned site. We will continue to monitor the funding progress.*  
*Percentage for development – 50%*

**Project Wrench** – This project is a recruitment project dealing with an industrial service provider that would create up to 12 FTEs over the first 18 months of operation. Initial capex is projected at less than 400k. *Latest Update: Construction of this facility is underway, but has stalled. We will still see an announcement being imminent on this project, but are trying to obtain details on what has slowed the build process.*  
*Percentage for development – 90%*

**Project Zeus** – This is new recruitment project that is cooperative submittal with SLED, 1A and LED. This project has a project 40m capex with the creation of up to 40 FTE's. *Latest update; The submission was made in May. We will continue to monitor this project as it moves through the vetting cycle.*  
*Percentage for development – 20%*

## Business Outreach

We continue outreach to employers throughout our parish. Our first goal is to determine any challenges, or opportunities for these employers. An additional goal is to improve the quality of relationships with these leaders so that they can provide input on key challenges and decisions we are actively engaged in around the parish, the region, and the state. Many of the expansion projects we deal with are initially founded in these outreach visits. We have continued to visit key employers through the past year, many of which we are in regular conversation with on items affecting their growth in the parish. We are now well into the outreach process for 2018.

### In the Region

#### Key Parish Employers Visited This Year

- Gaienne Lumber
- Dixie Storage
- Lowes Opelousas
- C&G Container
- Giles Automotive Group
- Courville Toyota
- Wal Mart Distribution Center
- Savoies Foods
- Noble Plastics
- Riceland Crawfish
- Design Precast Concrete & Pipe
- Evangeline Downs
- Gaubert Oil

Some of the key high level regional priorities being driven by One Acadiana this year are:

- Accelerating economic development activities using the “South Louisiana” brand for business and talent recruitment
- Further identifying and advancing regional infrastructure priorities through a regional steering committee structure working to produce a RIVR Report of regional infrastructure priorities. SLED is a member of this steering team.
- Strengthening business-led workforce development initiatives that align K-12 and higher education institutions with market demands. The 55 in 25 initiative is part of the priority.
- Aggressively developing shovel ready, certified sites across the region. Three are in progress, or active negotiations in SLP.

One Acadiana also has a number of committees focused on various key elements in the region, which includes:

- Governmental Affairs Committee
- Workforce and Education Committee
- Urban Revitalization and Development Committee
- Business Development Committee
- Site Selection Committee (3 St Landry Sites Pending Certification)
- Acadiana Regional Alliance Committee
- Regional Transportation Steering/Transportation Committee

SLED takes an active leadership role in many of these committees and overall board efforts.



The regional business accelerator effort, Accelerate Acadiana continues to make solid progress This accelerator project is the result of a partnership with ULL, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Winrock International, Chase Bank, One Acadiana, and the Acadiana Economic Development Council. The first 10 company cohort recently graduated in a well-attended ceremony. ***ULL Office of Entrepreneurship is now in the process of finalizing their 2nd cohort class to participate in this project. This second class will have a healthcare focus. The pitch event for these applicant is scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month, 5:30, at the following University of Louisiana Lafayette Student Union (Atchafalaya Grand Ballroom 620 McKinley Street, Lafayette, LA, US):***

## Educational Progress

**St. Landry Parish:** We continue our work with Patrick Jenkins, St Landry Parish Schools Superintendent, his staff and the St Landry Parish School Board through our support of a strategic plan and efficiency analysis for St. Landry Parish Schools. Gibson Consulting, the firm identified to provide the services for the comprehensive strategic plan and cost efficiency evaluation for the district. All of this work is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. There will be milestone updates, which we will share as this work continues over the next several months. As a reminder, neither of these types of efforts have ever been done for SLP Schools so all of this represents unprecedented progressive actions to set a blueprint for growth over the next 3 – 5 years. The District also recently held their second annual convocation that was again a very inspiring way to start the new school year.



We are also helping to lead a pilot project in association with the Lafayette Education Foundation (LEF) and FOX 15 on a public awareness campaign for public education that would also allow for each Acadiana Parish to establish a separate parish education foundations. St Landry would look to become one of the initial pilot parishes in this program. This would allow the rural parishes to utilize the current programs of LEF, as well as allow them to utilize private contributions in the manner that is most needed in order to support public education in their area.

**T.H. Harris:** We now meet on a regular basis with leaders from SLCC and the TH Harris Campus, both at the parish level, as well as the regional level. Locally, the TH Harris enrollment figures were up more than 20% for the spring semester. We are confirming final figures now for the fall. We continue to work with the TH Harris on the new LPN/RN Program and its 2019 targeted launch. We also continue to follow the progress of SLCC being the new service provider for the Acadiana Workforce Investment Area. We have also committed through GOEIDC/Vision St Landry for an additional student scholarship for 2018/2019. Leaders from SLCC will be presenters at this months meeting.

**LSU-Eunice:** LSU-E continues to increase its enrollment with to increase for the fall with enrollment figures that may close in on close to 3300-students. Many exciting announcements continue to come from the campus, including plans to create multiple new program offerings, and 2 new programs for Bengal Sports. A ground breaking was recently held for the new soccer field that are scheduled to be complete by the end of this year. We are very pleased to have the Chancellor on Vision St Landry this year and look forward to even more active partnership activities with LSU-E through this coming year. We have also committed through GOEIDC/Vision St Landry for an additional student scholarship for 2018/2019

## Community Development

The CEO Roundtable Board, Vision St Landry has been focused on identifying priorities that will have significant impacts for SLP over the next 5 to 20 years. The group continues to make significant strides with its work with its support for public education through planning and efficiency evaluation, redevelopment of downtowns through supporting the DDD in Opelousas and growing the I-49 Corridor through supporting a broad array of efforts and initiatives. At the July 30<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting continued conversations around public education and what strategic initiatives Vision can lead in support of the goals and objectives as identified within the SLP School District Master Plan was discussed at length and steps are in motion regarding specific investments beneficial for the future of public education. Vision St. Landry will host its next quarterly meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a retail trends workshop that will be held on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Picard Center in Lafayette. The goal of this workshop will be to give local area leaders a better understanding of how the retail site selection process really works. This event is being sponsored in part by AEDC and One Acadiana. This event will be open to any of our board members, or elected officials in the area at no cost. Advanced registration is required. Please contact us if you need more details. An overview of this program will be presented at the SLP LMA Quarterly Event on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month in Palmetto.

We continue work in a broad scope on the alternative use of the St Luc Hospital as a placemaking asset along the cultural corridor. Many early stages have been completed, which including an environmental assessment, a business plan for alternative use, and conceptual floor plan layouts for a remodeled building design. There have been some very productive conversations this month with the LSUE School of Art and Design on engaging in a broader context with this project, as well other efforts in the cultural economy and place making efforts in our area.

The Central St Landry Economic Development District continues to progress with their 2018 priorities. These priorities include:

- Improving wastewater capacities to the north and south
  - Planning/engineering and property acquisition efforts are in progress now on both a north and south locations

- Maintenance of the grounds and trash along the I-49
  - The corridor has been cleaned and cut for the fifth time this year, three of which have been paid by CSLEDD
- Lighting along the I-49
  - Upgraded proposals for complete rehabilitation in the form of LED lighting is currently being completed with hopes of proposal to be addressed at their next month's board meeting.
- Master planning the EVD Property.
  - One consolidated proposal has been received. A joint conference call with Populous, HR&A and CSRS regarding planning efforts for the multipurpose event venue and entertainment district master plan on Boyd property was conducted. Next steps include receiving of updated proposal based off the outcomes of the teleconference to then be reviewed by CSLEDD legal prior to entering into a contract agreement. Once received the second proposal hopes to be addressed at their next month's board meeting

Through their partnership with SLED, this economic development district will be a landmark in the future growth throughout the core of St Landry Parish along the I-49.

We are continuing to work with the Mayor of Eunice on ways to expand his economic development capacities for the City of Eunice. This discussion has covered a broad scope of activities and options for the City.

As part of the economic development district process, Grand Coteau continues their planning progress in several areas which include:

- A TAP Grant that will provide pedestrian transportation access through the business corridor of the town is near 70% completion.
- An complete engineering analysis of roundabout traffic solution for the east frontage road has been completed and is being sent to Baton Rouge for its final evaluation.
- An engineering plan for providing lighting at the Exit 11 interchange is the approval for its initial stage with DOT in Baton Rouge.

The placemaking for the areas of Sunset, Grand Coteau, and Arnaudville area continue to garner attention for around the region and around the country. Some of these placemaking anchors include the former St. Luc Hospital, the old Sunset School Project, the Hanging Garden Project between Grand Coteau and Arnaudville, and repurpose considerations for the Sunset arena. As it relates to the Hanging Garden Project the 'Call to Artist' application has been submitted to 17 colleges and universities which will award a student/student team for the winning design that will serve as a public art barrier fronting a concrete culverts manufacturing company located in St. Landry Parish. These project form a backbone across Hwy 93 that will continue to be

anchored by strong residential development growth across this corridor through the course of this year.

An update on the current progress of the Downtown Development District is included on the regular board agenda. The board has done considerable outreach and education to date, which will continue through the course of the year. Beyond education, the board to date has achieved the following notable tasks:

- Announcement motion of proposed 1% sales tax levy in the Opelousas DDD Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana.
- Adoption of resolution giving Notice of Intention to create the proposed Opelousas DDD Economic Development District No. 1, State of Louisiana.
- Developed a top list of priorities that provide the best initial returns on investment for downtown.
- Implemented via social media and by way of a website landing page a Public Education/Outreach Campaign as it relates to DDD information and education.

The SLP continues to gain traction and visibility throughout the parish by keeping a constant pulse within the community. During the month of The SLP hosted School Supply Cake Giveaway for 4 lucky teachers throughout St. Landry Parish who have had significant impacts within the classrooms. SLP received over 100 nominations throughout this process.

Upcoming events important to mention include facilitation of a City of Opelousas Mayor/Chief of Police Debate in a run-off capacity. Vision St. Landry, in viewing the event as an investment to the community has agreed to sponsor the event in support of The SLP. More details forthcoming

## Grants Update

The 2018-2019 LBIA Grant Application was successfully submitted on Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. The project listed within the application is the business center roof and if awarded the full \$25,000.00, the grant award will be dedicated towards the total amount to replace the roof in its entirety. Brandy attended the last LBIA Quarterly Meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup> as a program eligibility requirement via teleconference. As always, we work to set an example of “Owning It”; referring to owning the perception. We would value any ideas that you may have to help promote this concept. Improvement of the main area lavatories is part of this consideration.

We continue partnership work with Grand Coteau on their DOTD TAP Grant designed to address the accessibility and safety of pedestrian transportation in the business district area of Grand Coteau. The first preliminary analysis is roughly 70% complete and should be submitted to DOTD for review in the month of September 2018. The town has confirmed their match allocation of 210k to match for 480K.

We continue work with a local engineering firm along with Opelousas Downtown Leaders about a TAP Grant for sidewalk improvements in the downtown area around the Courthouse. Currently a checklist has been completed as well as field work to determine status of sidewalks as it relates to ADA compliancy. Sidewalk elevation shots have most recently been completed to then be included in the original preliminary analysis to be updated in anticipation to be submitted to DOTD in the next 30 to 60 days.

We are working on planning and engineering efforts within the CSLEDD with funds received through the capital outlay process last fall that will be used as the basis for a heavy infrastructure plan for the south side of Opelousas along I-49 as well as the Grolee area. A CEA has been successfully completed between CSLEDD and St. Landry Parish Government regarding the inclusion of additional property for a possible wastewater treatment facility as well as upgrades have been made to current engineering analysis which include additional options as it relates to wastewater infrastructure upgrades throughout the CSLEDD. Per the local engineering firm the cost analysis is roughly 85% complete, with the general report near 35% completion. Additional capital outlay requests for CSLEDD are still in play with the legislature due to the cooperative efforts of our legislative leadership and our government affairs team.

On April 30, 2018 in collaboration with APC a RDBG Grant was submitted for assessing the needs of a I-49 North Strategic Growth Corridor Plan. It has been indicated that the grant will be funded by the Delta Regional Authority when the FY2018 funds are received.

We have 9 tenants in the Business Center that include

- Boone Speech and Learning Services
- Miracle-Ear
- Happy Housemaids
- Magnolia Community Development Corporation
- Victory Manufacturing
- WIOA 40
- Global Environmental Solutions (Storage Only)
- Mind and Body Connections, LLC
- St. Landry – Evangeline United Way

The Business Center now has more than 20 employees in working out of the building on a regular basis with hundreds of persons visiting the center in some capacity each month.

## The Business Center

We are continuing our work with on-going facility upgrades at the main business center. We have completed our second phase of additional upgrades to the rear portion of the building in preparation for our newest tenant, St. Landry-Evangeline United Way, which includes the construction of an entrance for the warehouse office lavatory as well as improvements with the core restrooms located in the middle of the business center. The electronic sign in the front of the building is temporarily down with a defective motherboard, which has a replacement on order. The Business Center is now at near occupancy, apart from 1 office and 1 storage area. Inquiries on space is continuing to grow. There will be a tenant consideration on this month's regular agenda on the one available office space within the front area of the Business Center.

The last LSBDC, ULL SBDC counseling session was held on July 3, 2018 at SLED. The next date for these

counseling services will be August 7, 2018. These services are available to businesses at any level of growth, are confidential, and are free to area businesses.

Our new CAVE area is getting used frequently by area nonprofit and governmental partners for planning and presentation meetings. On average, the room is getting used by partners, as well as some of our boards at least several times per week.

If you know of businesses in the area that may find value in using the CAVE area for small retreats, or breakout planning sessions please let us know so we can get them more information on its use.

There will be an update as part of the regular board agenda on the status of the roofing consideration RFP, as well as the status of air quality testing that is in progress at the Center.

## Training Opportunities

SLED is committed to paying the tuition of board members, or a limited number of elected officials in the area to participate in the next basic economic development course.

True South Basic Economic Development Course  
September 17 - 20, 2018 Hattiesburg, MS

A brief overview of economic development will be given in the following areas:

- Managing the Economic Development Organization
- Ethics in Economic Development
- Transportation and Logistics
- Real Estate Development and Reuse
- Community Development
- Understanding Retail
- Workforce Development
- Marketing and Attraction
- Finance /Incentives
- Strategic Planning
- Small Business & Entrepreneurship

## Upcoming Meetings

- Opelousas DDA Board Meeting, 9 a.m. September 28<sup>th</sup>, SLED Bldg.
- Central St. Landry EDD Board Meeting, 8 a.m. on September 13<sup>th</sup>, SLED Bldg.
- SLED Board of Directors Meeting, 10 a.m. on September 18<sup>th</sup>, SLED Bldg.
- Vision St Landry regular board meeting, October 29<sup>th</sup>, SLED Bldg.