



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. Last month we have had the landscaping done in the front of the building and we will be working on the north/south tree lines this month to further promote that “Strong” positive first impression.

On November 8, 2016, in collaboration with the LSBDC, ULL SBDC business consultant two businesses scheduled met to engage in one-on-one consulting sessions in the areas of business planning, market research and other key services. The next scheduled session will be held at SLED on December 13th. These services can be offered to businesses at any level of growth, are confidential, and are free to our area businesses.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> we hosted a small business seminar titled ‘Google For Your Business’ which educated those in attendance with getting started with free tools from Google, and on topics that included: getting your business listed and verified on Google Search and Maps, assist with managing your online presence, reaching your target markets electronically and securing a domain name and building a free website for your business. This seminar was well received by all those in attendance and provided our business owners and future business owners with valuable information regarding a strong online business presence.

From our discussion at the last meeting pertaining to the roof of the Business Resource Center proposals from Ardoin & Associates as well as D’Avy & Associates were presented to the full board which will be voted on later this morning per our agenda items.

The 2016/2017 Louisiana Business Incubation Association (LBIA) Business Incubator Application was successfully submitted on August 8, 2016. We just received notification over the weekend that SLED was one of the successful applicants for this grant. We expect to be finalizing the detail immediately so we can look towards the establishment of the Collaborative Audio Visual Environment (CAVE) in our old kitchen area.

We currently have 9 tenants active in the Business Center:

C&C Painting and Pressure Washing

Boone Speech and Learning Services

Miracle Ear

Happy Housemaids

Magnolia Community Development Corporation

Victory Manufacturing

WIB 40

Double J Express, LLC

Charles G. Lawson Trucking, Inc

## **II – Communications**

We are actively gathering input on our primary website at [www.opportunitystlandry.com](http://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](http://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.

We have been diligently meeting with PR Firms to take the lead in the Phase II of our “Moving Forward” Campaign. We have had additional discussions with two other firms since our October meeting and fully expect to have settled on a final solution for this project for the December board agenda.

With the website’s foundation now solid, a Google analytics test is October 14<sup>th</sup> through November 7<sup>th</sup> Slpforward’s number of page views reached 600 with a dramatic 20% decrease in bounce rate at 66.56%, which is a more positive outlook from last month’s analysis.

Through our continued work with Parish Government on our existing GIS platform, all smooth ride home data has now been upgraded onto our GIS system. Improvements, which will be ready to view in the coming weeks which can be found on the home page of [www.opportunitystlandry.com](http://www.opportunitystlandry.com).

## **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 in most of the impacted communities about planning and building capacity for development. There has been significant progress with the development of the Grand Coteau Business Corridor

over the past month, as well as good progress with the ECJC, the Guilbeau District and with Boyd Gaming.

We continue effort with One Acadiana and our state partners towards towards 2 shovel ready site. 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: 22 Active, 1 Pending Announcement, (Hippo), 1 Announced (Brace) 1 Parked, (Youth) 1 Pending Park (Project Base) 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 are still being told by company execs that the project still has an interest in our location, but are still waiting for information requests made by our legal team. Updates on this project have been slow and we will consider parking the project next month if there are no fresh updates.

**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:* Based off a recent meeting with company execs 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2017.

**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. 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 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 in the company's willingness to commit to an expansion at this time. We anticipate final clarity on this project sometime in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

**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. *Latest Update:* We had a good meeting with their company execs, local engineers and community leadership early in September. The project seems to be going through the normal planning and permitting process now and we anticipate the ability to announce soon.

**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.

**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. This will be a line item on this month's agenda to proceed with negotiations.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 continue to be assured that is coming soon.

## **Announced Projects**

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 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. As the incoming chairperson for AEDC the SLED Executive Director will be assuming an active board seat for One Acadiana over this upcoming year. We are now in discussions with OA, the APC and AEDC 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 18<sup>th</sup> as a follow-up to an earlier planning session.

We participated in discussion this month on a regional and a state look at what makes sense to consider to incentivize the film and entertainment industry for the next legislative session. There were significant cuts to the incentive last year, which has

affected the interest in growing the industry in Acadiana. LED is taking a hard look on how to adequately measure the return on investment for some of these offerings.

We will be announcing later this 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.

This month we hosted an Acadiana Regional BERG Meeting at SLED to talk about upcoming priorities and strategies for business out-reach coordination between local, regional and State LED partners.

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

- Continuing updates on the evolving I-49 South Project
- Best practice discussion for the parish entities
- Regional food development opportunities

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 match that total. To date this year we have sat down with 17 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

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. An example is the “Economic Gardening Program” utilized by Savoie’s foods. Another is make sure they are not running into inordinate challenges with any level of government that is prohibit their growth. Lastly, we want to be sure we are as proactive as possible to avoid any company reduction in force, or even closures.

Because of these visits we worked closely with the City of Opelousas to get new lighting installed on 167 on the way to the Wal Mart DC, which dramatically improves aesthetics and security for their staff, drivers and incoming VIP’s. We were also able to coordinate with the ULL Business Department to arrange conversation on getting their business classes tours of the center.

Another direct result of the importance of these visits is a identifying a way that the Wal-Mart Distribution Center can possibly engage in a public private partnership for elevation improvements with FEMA dollars at the DC entrance. During the time of the floods the Center was closed for 3 days at a cost of 6 million per day and depriving the region of critical storm response supplies through the Wal-Mart System.

SLP Schools reached an historic milestone last month in naming a new superintendent for SLP Schools. Mr. Patrick Jenkins have formally assumed his role as of early this month after several weeks of contract negotiations. Mr. Jenkins comes from the Zachery District. We anticipate working with Mr. Jenkins in multiple areas, including the Phase II of our moving forward. 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 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 have finalized our contract agreement for the SLCC RN Program last week. The TH Harris Campus held their annual open house last month and most of their program enrollments are up for this year. 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 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.

Enrollment for the fall semester has increased significantly at LSU-E. We continue to work on our partnership growth with them and have asked Coach Jeff Willis to be the

final presenter in the LEAD Series for TheSLP later this month. We have also engaged their team heavily throughout the Superintendent search process and on ways to engage various employers with the Incumbent Worker Training Program Opportunities. We will also 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

We continue to make progress 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. This group has also been instrumental in the communication with SLP Schools in their Superintendent search process, one the true keys for a bright future in St Landry Parish. The group is also looking at priorities associated with the business development of the I-49 Corridor, as well as a plan for the redevelopment of Downtown Opelousas.

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

We met with Department of Hospitals earlier this month at the Capitol to find solutions to some of the outstanding legal questions and liabilities associated with the St Luke’s Hospital. These results are part of the final equation for valuation and transfer of ownership with the facility. The process is now in a drafting of a legal resolution settlement to be heard by both the St Landry and St Martin Parish Council, as well as a final building walk through.

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 – Superintendent selection

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. Last month the City Council agreed to move forward in planning contracts with priorities identified by the newly formed EDD Task Force.

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. The latest meeting was held on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> with identified key representatives from the three (3) above mentioned municipalities to discuss pertinent next steps in moving the Merchant Alliance forward in the most effective way and the vision of where they want to see themselves go.

As we draw nearer to the close out of 2016 The Steamboat City Association is planning its agenda for the coming year. Emphasis will be on investigation of ways to provide transportation for Washington residents who need to go to the doctor or other business, continued emphasis on rehabilitation substandard housing for elderly poor, and providing scholarships to Washington students going on to college or technical schools.

On October 31<sup>st</sup> TheSLP served as a sponsor and participated in the "Safe Halloween for Children at Le Vieux Village" in collaboration with Victoria Ortigo, Girl Scout Recruitment Specialist, and local Girl Scout Troop #2022 to grow Girl Scout capacity within our parish. In the coming weeks will be hosting a Girl Scout outreach event with parent interest received from information capture at the Halloween event.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> SLP will serve as co-sponsor for the Men's Health Summit from 10 am to 2 pm at the Delta Grand Theater. The event is free to men of all ages with a focus on mental, physical and financial health. The event will be comprised of guest speakers, free medical testing, fitness challenges and much more.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, SLP will host its last installment of its LEAD Development Series. Our final presenter will be LSUE Head Coach and Athletic Director, Jeff Willis. Mr. Willis's leadership and adversity as witnessed through his continued impeccable career will be sure to provide great insight and ah ha moments for all those in attendance.

### **Grants Update:**

The FYE 2017 LBIA Grant application has been confirmed as being awarded in the amount of 25,000 for this current state fiscal year. Many kudos to Brandy for all her hard work in bringing this to fruition,

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 been able to help facilitate the discussion with the APC/MPO to do a TAP Grant with DOTD for their pedestrian transportation improvements. We have also recently facilitated the conversation with Project Boost and the USDA Loan Guarantee Program.

## **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. As Loren Scott indicated in his State of the Economy last month, 2017 is projected to be a stabilizing year for oil and gas, with 2018 being a renewed growth year. As leaders we all have to stay focused on the potential and the larger picture. This is not always easy to do and it is very easy to lose sight of the bigger picture with so many important distractions. 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!