



Executive Director's Report — June 2019

Greetings! It is time once again to give a quick high-level monthly summary of the forward momentum in our area and for Acadiana. As a parish, we continue our climb in some of our fundamental indicators, such as the unemployment rate with is down by .09% from a year ago. Sales tax collection has a modest dip over the same month last year but has large gain from the composite collections in March.



April St Landry Composite Sales Taxes Collection
• \$ 6,311,663 April 2019
• \$ 6,783,548 April 2018
• \$ 5,191,009 March 2019
• \$ 6,452,452 April 2017

March St Landry Unemployment Comparisons
• Mar 2019 5.1% -
• Mar 2018 6.0 %
• Mar 2017 6.9 %
• Mar 2016 7.9 %
• Mar 2015 8.1%

Each month we try to find some relevant topics of interest that help paint a picture of the economic picture here in St Landry Parish, as well as the Acadiana Region. This month we will taking a closer look at the residential real estate market in Lafayette Parish and how that may be impacting the strong real estate market in St Landry Parish we looked closely at last month.

As a reminder, we looked at figures in the early part of the 2019 in St Landry Parish, which were:

- 100% increase at 58 sales.
- In comparison with January of 2019 there has been a 71.43% increase in sales.
- The dollar volume in homes sold in the parish was just over 7m, which is a 150% increase over the volume in February of 2018.

We are including a recently published news article from Andrew Capps with the Daily Advertiser. Andrew recently did a deep dive in the market with residential expert Bill Bacqué. Please note the bold highlighted areas. Here are the results of this interview:

The average sales price of a home in the parish is 147K, which is up by 25% from last year and surely looks like the current sweet spot in the residential price range for the parish market. Finding a house in Lafayette Parish could be getting harder for people looking to spend less than \$300,000 thanks to a lack of new construction in the most common housing price range in the area.

A Market Scope Consulting analysis of real estate data from the Acadiana Multiple Listings Service shows a decline in availability of houses between \$150,000 and \$300,000, which accounted for nearly 60% of housing sales in the first four months of this year.

Market Scope President Bill Bacqué, former president of real estate company Van Eaton & Romero with more than four decades of real estate experience in Southern Louisiana, pointed out that of three major price classifications — under \$150,000, \$150,000 to \$300,000 and \$300,000 and up — only the middle range saw a decline in active listings in Lafayette over last year.

That range saw a 32% drop in new construction listings so far this year.

“In the \$300,000 to \$349,999 range last year, there were only 34 sales. There were 59 this year. That is where the biggest increase is, which is driving that as opposed to the high, high upper end, which is still healthy, but not as robust as that range,” Bacqué said.

“What’s happening in new construction is that middle range is where we are seeing a decline in new construction sales by 13%. Interestingly, the amount of active inventory is down by about 31.6%, so builders are not building in that price point right now.”

That change has pushed the \$150,000 to \$300,000 range down to a five-month supply in Lafayette Parish, according to Bacqué, down from 5.7 months last year and less than half of the 12.8-month supply of homes in the \$300,000-plus range.

Bacqué said a balanced market usually has about a six-month supply, with a lower amount signifying more demand and a higher amount indicating over-supply. That can be a good thing for folks looking to sell their homes, he said, but it can also put off buyers who have the option to wait for better opportunities.

“In that middle price range, for the most part, there is more demand than supply, which can be a good thing but can also at some point become a detriment,” Bacqué said. “If a buyer doesn’t have to buy but cannot find a selection in the marketplace that meets what their desires are, then quite often they’ll just wait.”

Those who can’t or don’t want to wait seem to be going outside Lafayette Parish, where the price of a home is nearly \$80,000 lower on average. To Bacqué, the difference in cost and the ease of accessibility to amenities and attractions in Lafayette has prompted major growth in housing sales in surrounding parishes in the first four months of this year over the same period in 2018.

Lafayette Parish saw just a 1.9% increase in new and existing homes sold so far this

year, compared to a 26.6% increase in sales across Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion parishes.

“As Lafayette has grown and the cost of housing has grown, one thing that has impacted desirability in Lafayette is its infrastructure,” Bacqué said. “You now can live in south Lafayette, and if you want to get across town, it might take you 30 minutes to do that. If I live in New Iberia and I want to drive to the south side of Lafayette, it takes me about 20 minutes, so **the allure of being in Lafayette Parish because it’s where all the action is, isn’t quite that much of an allure in my mind anymore.**”

Andrew Capps Published 2:50 p.m. CT May 17, 2019

Beyond the obvious nature of the figures related to sales and prices, you may ask why this is important to the economic picture for St Landry and some of the outer parishes. One of the things this is likely to do is being to influence the population dynamics. The families that are looking to buy in the ranges under 300k are likely middle-class working families, many with children. As they come into the area, they will in many cases have higher expectations for things such as public schools, planning, infrastructure and sound political leadership. They also begin a trend of bring an attractive audience into the area that will interest various segments of retail and commercial industry because of their incomes and educations levels.

This does not substitute for the importance of growing industry in the area, both from within and from without. Quality residential roof tops, however; are a catalyst for a population mix that becomes desirable for companies that compete on a national and international scale with complex products and equally complex business models. This concept crosses the lines of virtually all our primary business sectors, which includes healthcare, manufacturing, food and beverage transportation/distribution, to name just a few.

We hope these thoughts provide some value and would welcome your thoughts, or additional insights into these areas of conversation. We at SLED and its affiliate entities thank you for all you do and look forward to working with all of you through 2019 to create further positive momentum while building sustainable foundations for future growth.

The SLED Team

Communications

We continue to work with Golden Shovel on improving our website presence by delving into platform features that will enhance our visibility and attraction locally, regionally and worldwide. We participated in our fourth GateKeeper discussion in May 2019. We are actively working on the inclusion of a complete marketing strategy to include a detailed BRE Program and Workforce Development component in the form of concierge type service to be created by Golden Shovel and incorporated into SLED's strategic plan. Our next GateKeeper discussion is scheduled for May 22, 2019.

This web strategy will contribute to the overall marketing success and develop pathways for digital marketing, content strategy support, and overall awareness of the goals and objectives. It will also contribute to the development of the product box, which is the community identifier(s) used to attract the target audience.



There have been 117 articles written for this campaign to shine a light on positive things happening in St. Landry Parish. While we are no longer loading articles into the site, we will be including these and future articles into the newly developed opportunitystlandry site, so people can continue to hear more about some of the great things happening in our area.

A GIS database now allows site selectors to search, select and compare sites and has details about key industries and leading employers. Users also can create custom reports.

Each of St. Landry Parish's communities is profiled on the site, which also outlines recreation, education and health care options as well as the area's distinct arts and cultural heritage. Citizens will appreciate that the user-friendly website includes positive business news stories and a government page with up to date information on services and contacts.

Included in this new communications design effort is 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.

We are also working on an initiative to further promote outreach through print leader mail outs, electronic newsletters video story telling clips promoting our good news, as well as give the average person a better understanding of what economic development looks like this parish and this region.

In July, we will be working with the leadership of the four different boards in the SLED Group on considerations for bringing in an outside contractor to handle a renewed campaign to take the place of SLPForward. This campaign will put a heavy focus on telling the story of what economic development is along with the significant progress our groups are making around the area. The emphasis of the campaign will be to rely heavily on video production that ties into Opportunity St Landry, as well an aggressive social media campaign effort in venues such as LinkedIn and Facebook.



Twenty-two St. Landry Parish projects announced over the past 45 months have created

- 1,193 new fulltime jobs.
- Retention of 340 existing jobs.
- Creation of at least 374 indirect jobs
- Support of an estimated 5,045 temporary constr. jobs

Who's Growing?

This month will consolidate the projects section into those projects at a 90%, or better rating for completion. In total we 20 projects that we are actively engaged with at this time. The following 10 that are at currently at an imminent development status. FTE stands for full time employee. Capex means money invested in property and equipment. Some of the projects listed below have been at the cusp of announcement for a while. We anticipate most of the projects to have either a soft, or public announcement into the reaming of the first and into the second quarter of 2019. Projects that have been soft announcements are indicated below and include updates to the graph to the left.

Project Anchor – In state expansion, area recruitment. 2.5m capex 45 FTE's, 15 retained **Geaux Bear Development:** projected construction completion for first phase is 2nd quarter. Public ceremony tentative late April/May.

- **Project Belt** – Area expansion. 2.1m capex 15 FTE's (Expansion, currently underway, soft announcement **Noble Plastic Expansion** at Opelousas Site)
- **Project Boost** – Area expansion/retention. 107m capex, 5 FTE's (High Wage) Coordinating company announcement. **Delek Refinery Alkalization Facility.** Included in Vista Presentation.
- **Project Clean** – In state expansion, area recruitment. 2.3m capex. 25 growing to 50 FTE's (Project is now hiring. Working to coordinate timing on a formal announcement) **Westport Medical.** Not reflected in count.
- **Project Doughnut** – Area recruitment, in state expansion. 3.5m capex, 15FTE's (2nd quarter public announcement anticipated)
- **Project Drop Off** - Area expansion. 1.5m capex, 10FTE's **Dixie Storage Expansion** Project (Construction completed, soft announcement to be included in Industrial Park Announcement in May.
- **Project Gateway** - This is a large multi-use development project in the central parish on a 100-acre site. (Multiple new medical building announcements in 1st quarter) **Lily Pad Pediatrics** Groundbreaking. Not reflected in count

- **Project Link** – Area expansion. 10.5m capex, 25 FTE’s (Potentially pending local ITEP considerations)
- **Project Ride** – In state expansion, area recruitment 9m capex, 55FTE’s (Currently in construction, Team Honda.) Anticipate 3rd quarter completion. Part of the Gateway Plaza Project as well. Not reflected in count
- **Project Vista** – Area expansion project, 156.5m Capex, or more, and 47 FTE creation, or more. 1500 temp construction jobs. 200 FTE retained. This has been a high-profile project for our area due to ITEP as a tool for this investment. There have been very optimistic signs that our site is in a good position. Project announcement on May 23rd.
- **Project Wrench** – Area expansion, .9m capex, 12FTE’s (Currently in construction, soft announcement)

Business Outreach

We continue consistent and formal outreach to some of the key employers throughout our area. Over a rolling period of 12 months, we have logged 23 visits to improve the quality of relationships with these organizations and their leadership. Many of the expansion projects we deal with are initially founded in these outreach visits. For many of these employers, this is not a once a year visit. It is not uncommon for our group to engage with them multiple times on multiple challenges they may be having through the year that may affect their competitiveness, or growth potential. In this capacity we often act as the bridge between government entities and their company.

Area Development



Vision St Landry - has been focused on support for long-terms priorities as well as improving some its internal operating guidelines. Some of its advocacy and support for core areas has included.

Parish Employer Visits Over Past 12 Months

- Sunland Construction
- Med Express
- Piggly Wiggly Stores
- C&G Container
- Delek Refinery
- Wal Mart Distribution Center
- Evangeline Downs
- Dixie Storage
- Savoies Foods
- Gaubert Oil
- Riceland Crawfish
- Dupree Carrier Godchaux Insurance
- Giles Automotive Group
- Acadian Medical Group
- Opelousas General Hospital
- MANCO Containers
- Prairie Construction
- Design Precast Concrete & Pipe
- Lemoyen Timber
- Gaienne Lumber
- Noble Plastics
- Courville Toyota
- Stage Retail

- Improving education (SLP District Plan and Efficiency Evaluation)
- Redevelopment of downtowns (Opelousas DDD, Eunice Planning)
- Development of the I-49 Corridor (CSLEDD, GCEDD, Midway, Gateway Plan)
- Building leadership capacity – Vision Member in Training Consideration

Vision St. Landry held its third quarterly meeting of 2019 on June 10th. The board has recently approved its recommendations to be submitted to the respective appointing authorities as it relates to CSLEDD EJC reappointments. Project identification was discussed in collaboration with the I-49 Midway Corridor Plan with next steps in place to begin implementation process, with a much heavier discussion to follow on the role as it relates to Vision St. Landry's future. The next scheduled Vision meeting will be July 29, 2019 beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the form of a special meeting focused on its sustainability and future.



The Central St Landry Economic Development District, CSLEDD - Continues to progress with implementing their 2018 priorities and aggressively moving into 2019. These include:

- Improving wastewater capacities to the north and south

Morgan Goudeau has completed a wastewater infrastructure assess plan for both the north and south sections of the I-49. The plan to the south has been submitted to Office of Community Facility Planning and currently awaiting follow-up for plan approval and notice to move forward with design. The land acquisition process is in play for the physical location and anticipated to be signed in the coming weeks. We anticipate a plant to the south to be in construction in as soon as 24 months.

- Maintenance of the grounds and trash along the I-49
 - The lawn maintenance and litter abatement schedule for 2019 remains on task.
 - Soon spot litter abatement around intersections of 1-90, Creswell Lane and Judson Walsh will look to be conducted as well as cleaning on overpasses and tree service along Judson Walsh interchange area.
 - Herbicide treatment was recently approved for aprons and rail pads, around trees on mulching, bayou that crosses I-49 midway of the corridor, and the drainage ditch that crosses the NE side of 190/I-49 interchange, and also any overgrown non accessible wet areas.

- Lighting along the I-49
 - Harry Guilbeau – Currently waiting on two (2) poles with fixtures to come in. Once installed all lighting at interchange will be complete.
 - Creswell Lane – It has been identified that seven (7) new poles need new foundations. The materials have been ordered. Also, two (2) locations north of interchange needs rewiring.
 - I-90 – There are four (4) single arm poles that need to be replaced. There are two (2) double arm poles that need to be replaced along with some foundations as well.

- Master planning the EVD Property.
 - A 45,000 sq. ft Convention Center with small break out rooms is being considered
 - An open air, event center arena with 250 stables is being considered.
 - An upscale RV component with 300 spot locations accompanied with a water component is currently considered Phase I. The possibility of a primitive RV location along with the open space concept, a club house area and potential cabins is also being discussed.
 - Discussions have been had with HR&A regarding retail to the front of property for restaurant placement.
 - On June 13, 2019 Charlie Kolarik with Populous and Jeff Bell with CSRS provided an in-depth presentation on the Master Plan Conceptual for the Boyd Gaming property via teleconference. Once feedback is received from presentation, report will be finalized within a week or two regarding the planning portion of report. It was noted that the Market/Feasibility Consultants will have additional work to complete once a proposed budget is provided from the master plan concept. In closing it was estimated within a month's time the plan will be complete with a final presentation provided.

The Downtown Development District Board (DDD) – Their recent progress includes:

The RFP for consultant identification has been provided to six (6) recommended consultants on an ODDD Master Plan on May 29, 2019. The consultant selection and project initiation will occur based on the following schedule:

1. Review of Proposals – June 2019
2. Potential Presentations by Short-listed Firms – Early July 2019
3. ODDD makes final decision on consultant – July 19, 2019
4. Notice to Proceed with Study – July 22, 2019

In the Region



One Acadiana - SLED takes an active leadership role in many of the *One Acadiana Committees* and board efforts that are focused on various key elements in the region. We will be collectively sharing some of the messages from our leadership exchange trip in late March to Greenville, SC to various governmental bodies across the region over the next several weeks. There are several simple, but powerful messages that were taken from the trip.

1. *Try to get the buy-in.*
2. *There's strength in numbers.*
3. *Grow your own.*
4. *It takes time.*
5. *Nothing's perfect.*



Acadiana Planning Commission (APC) We regularly engage on a broad range of planning and related efforts that include:

- The I-49 Midway Corridor Project,
- The Opportunity Zone Investment Program Presentations (Eunice and Lafayette)
- St Luc Hospital Environmental studies,
- Regional transportation infrastructure priorities
- Community MPO related projects
- Discussion on feasibility for a phase 2 northbound public transportation system on I-4



AEDC, Acadiana Economic Development Council:

Economic development professionals from 7 Parishes focused on making progress on issues that impact all the parishes in Acadiana, particularly in the parishes surrounding Lafayette. This group works to find solutions to common challenges faced by the economic development

leaders in Acadiana and host monthly board meetings that facilitate these actions. The group covered the cost for ED Professionals in the region to attend the leadership exchange trip in Greenville, S.C.

Educational Progress



District K-12 Education: We continue our work with Patrick Jenkins, St Landry Parish Schools Superintendent, his staff and the SLP School Board through many efforts that include:

- Recognizing in person outstanding career and technical teachers, as well as teachers and administrators of the year at a recent awards ceremony.
- Fiscal and advocacy support for St. Landry Parish Schools Plan and cost efficiency evaluation done by Gibson Consulting.
- Direct supporters of the SLPS JAG Program.
- Active in selecting the students of the year for the district and ongoing competitions.
- Advisory Board of the Bio-Med Academy
- Active attendance in formal district board and related meetings around redistricting
- Providing leadership on establishing a St Landry Parish Foundation to help target uncovered educational needs.
- Secured funding for the Junior Achievement financial literacy program in the spring semester at Opelousas Middle School with a JD Bank partnership.



T.H. Harris: The TH Harris enrollment figures were up again in the spring semester. SLCC was recently recognized as a top ten college nationwide for enrollment growth. We continue to work with the TH Harris on:

- The new LPN/RN Program supported by SLED has confirmed for fall 2019.
- Vision St Landry student scholarship for 2018/2019.
- Continue with Quarterly meetings with key leadership of SLCC to discuss current needs and standings.
- Regularly meet to identify critical area workforce shortages and proactive educational solutions. New evening 15-week welding program is scheduled to launch in May. Programs being considered are CDL Training and Scaffolding Certification.



LSU-Eunice: LSU-E continues to increase its enrollment with to increase for the spring with enrollment figures that shows continue to rise with their numbers now over 3300-students. Our engagement includes:

- Sitting member of the LSUE Chancellor Search Committee. New Chancellor, Dr Nancy Sorenson named as Chancellor last week.
- An active member of the LSUE Board of Advisors
- Leading the effort to have Vision \$10,000 in matching scholarship monies for St Landry Parish students looking to attend LSUE. Scholarship presentations and May Graduations.
- SLED continues to host a lead role in helping to facilitate a Eunice Area Plan that puts LSUE in a pivotal role in the process
- Active member of the LSUE Business Management Advisory Committee
- Continuing advocacy through the board of advisors for the new surgical tech campus in the Lafayette General Orthopedic Towers.

Community/Cultural Development



Eunice: Multiple planning efforts and initiatives through effort led through:

- Coordination on Opportunity Zone action steps (May 16th Education Session held at LSUE.)
- Held final planning session on March 26th for the City that focused on identifying top priorities will be identified within the goals outlined throughout plan that can be attainable with 2019.
- **The plan will be presented at the July 2019 Eunice City Council.**
- May 22nd Lafayette Opportunity Zone Presentation that will include Eunice.
- SLED co-sponsored a small business education event with the SBDC and the SBA at LSUE on May 16th.



Opelousas: Multiple planning efforts and initiatives through effort led through:

- Area economic development district, CSLEDD initiatives
- Area economic development district, ODDD initiatives
- Secondary and post-secondary education direct support
- Midway Corridor Project implementation (August 28th Policy)
- Midway Corridor Project action (July 8th Working Group)
- Coordination on Opportunity Zone action steps (April Education Session at the Business Center and May 22nd Lafayette presentation).

Arnaudville: Multiple efforts associated with the cultural economy including:

- Continued input and guidance on plans for the St Luc Hospital, which includes helping to get support for the phase I and phase II environmental reviews.
- Engaging the LSU School of Art and Design for an area cultural economy plan
- Establishment and management of Creative Placemaking Task Force
- Received revised design for Phase I of the project: "The Sculptural Pathway." This included dimensions and installation under the Hanging Garden placemaking anchor project.
- Provide inputs on quality of life planning initiatives
- Community efforts were featured in the recent Edition of Southern Lifestyle Magazine

Grand Coteau: Ongoing efforts include:

- Implementation of the Midway Corridor Plan (May 29th Policy Team)
- Helping prioritize economic development district projects along the business corridor
- Leading progress on a TAP Grant that will provide pedestrian access through the business corridor of the town.
- Promoting efforts for an engineering analysis of roundabout traffic solution for the east frontage road; now in its final approval stage.
- Using our government affair team for capital outlay on the roundabout project
- Working with the town to complete and application for the MPO Project call to help fund a round about
- Promoting and engineering plan for overhead lighting at the Exit 11 interchange
- Working as a liaison with local businesses in construction with DOT to ensure the interests of long-term drainage are in concert with new development
- Leading area cultural economy and place making task force initiatives
- Promotion of the area's first certified shovel ready light industrial site

Sunset: Support of the town through:

- Implementation of the Midway Corridor Plan (August 28th Policy Team)

- Midway Corridor Project action (July 8th Working Group)
- Cooperative employment of our development planner
- Assistance in putting in 2019 Capital Outlay request through our government affairs team
- Numerous areas associated with the cultural economy and the place making task force, including the Old Sunset High School and the Sunset Arena
- Continued promotion of the area's first certified shovel ready light industrial site

Port Barre:

- Announced on May 31st two large shovel ready light industrial development sites.
- Established boundaries that could be used as an area economic development district
- Early discussions with the new administration on cooperative planning possibilities

Washington:

- Implementation of the Midway Corridor Plan (August 28th Policy)
- Midway Corridor Project action (July 8th Working Group)

St Landry Young Professionals, TheSLP



The St. Landry Professionals hosted it's the first of many *Cocktails and Conversations* social on June 13th, *Cocktails and Conversations*, at a Frank's Po'boys. Our increased social media activity has garnered substantial viewing and likes to our Facebook. One key feature to highlight drawing in the significant activity is that of our weekly scheduled Parish Update announcements which features articles written and placed onto our opportunitystlandry.com site highlighted with an eye-catching title driving users back to our SLED site. We also identified a project that will serve as a public education campaign as it relates to the upcoming election based off the Rock the Vote Concept which will be targeted at the millennial demographic specifically.

The Business Center

We have **10** tenants in the Business Center that include

- Boone Speech and Learning Services
- Miracle-Ear
- Magnolia Community Development Corporation
- Victory Manufacturing
- WIOA 40
- Global Environmental Solutions (Storage Only)
- Mind and Body Connections, LLC
- St. Landry – Evangeline United Way
- Infinity Back-Ground Chex
- Starr Staffing, LLC (July 1, 2019)

The Business Center now has more than 26 employees in working out of the building on a regular basis with hundreds of persons visiting the center in some capacity each month. The center at capacity with new inquiries on space continuing to increase.

We are continuing our work with on-going facility upgrades at the main business center with roof replacement being the biggest improvement project that has been completed. We recently replaced the mother board in for our front sign which is now 100% operational.

The last LSBDC, ULL SBDC counseling session was held on June 11, 2019. The next round of sessions will be held July 9th. Services are available to businesses at any level of growth, are confidential, and are free of charge. SLED co-sponsored a small business education event with the SBDC and the SBA at LSUE on May 16th.

Our CAVE area is getting increased usage for planning and presentations. On average, the room is getting used at least several times per week. It is highlighted on our new website displaying all the technology assets offered. Please let us know if you are aware of businesses in the area that could utilize our CAVE area for small retreats, or breakout planning sessions.

Grants Update

The 2018-2019 LBIA Grant of \$25,000.00 was dedicated towards the replacement of the business center roof and has been fully reimbursed. The final report was submitted on June 9, 2019. 2019/2020 request projects are being considered.

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 town has confirmed their match allocation of 210k to match for 480K. We have met twice already with their new leadership team on this project. We are also working with their team on a project call application to the MPO on their roundabout project.

We continue with local partners TAP Grant for sidewalk improvements around the Courthouse. Currently the preliminary analysis is near completion for the two (2) sidewalks along

W. Landry Street between the intersections of S. Market Street and S. Court Street. A final design is to be submitted to DOTD in the 2nd quarter of 2019 by the Cities engineering firm.

In concert with our Government Affairs team we engaged with the Parish and CSLEDD on capital outlay funding for wastewater capacity projects along I-49. We plan to be in construction of a wastewater treatment facility to the south in early 2020.

In collaboration with LSUE, LSBDC, USDA and SBA we coordinated a Small Business Capital Access Information Session which was held on May 16th on the campus of LSUE. The event focused on access to capital and loan programs available to the small business community. The presentations from SBA, USDA, LSBDC at UL Lafayette, and area bankers focused on the importance of developing a business plan, preparing a loan package, types of loans, understanding credit and the role credit plays in the loan process, and the importance of owner investment (skin in the game). Attendance was in the double digits and a wealth of knowledge was gained by those present.



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 courses. *The New South Basic Course* in Hattiesburg this September of 2019 will focus on:

- 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. on June 21st, SLED Bldg.
- Central St. Landry EDD Board Meeting, 8:30 a.m. on July 11th, SLED Bldg.
- Vision St Landry special board meeting, 11:30 a.m. on July 29th, SLED Bldg.