

From the Executive Director



New SCDF Leadership: A new fiscal year began for the Simpson County Development Foundation on July 1st with exciting new leadership from President Brien Hubbard along with the current Executive Committee: Josh Duckworth, President-Elect; Lacye Evans, Secretary-Treasurer; Malory Yelverton, Past President; Mayors Dale Berry and Todd Booth, VP-Government Relations; Josh Pierce, VP-Economic Development; Stan Bulger, VP-Community Development; and Shannon Welch, VP-Stakeholder Development. Working alongside this year's

excellent officers this year is an exceptional group of elected Directors: Leman Cockrell, Chris Craft, Witt Fortenberry, Christian Carrico, Chris Dunn, Lance Hamilton, Tiffany Kinslow, Bennie Palmer, Eric Adkins, Beverly Barnes, Amanda Blakeney, and Cemper Scott.



Strategic Planning: The major goals for the organization this year include, first and foremost, implementing the new

County Strategic Plan for Economic and Community Development. Developed in partnership with The University of Southern Mississippi Trent Lott National Center for Economic Development and Entrepreneurship, this strategic plan represents the organization's goals and objectives for 2019-2024. As the county works to diversify and strengthen its economy, SCDF has adopted a data-driven method of targeting new business by identifying industries with the highest growth potential and alignment with the county's economic advantages. We will review and measure the process for progress on an annual basis.

Economic Development: As an essential foundation for all our goals, we will continue our strong relationship with all our elected officials, working toward a unified vision capitalizing on our assets. Specifically, we will continue the exploration for additional industrial property, work with the City of Magee to improve the airport, and develop a plan with all stakeholders, community leaders and elected officials for attracting population growth.

Simpson County, Mississippi
Strategic Plan
for
Economic Development
2019-2024



Simpson County
Development Foundation

Developments The Newsletter of The Simpson County Development Foundation

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2019-2020 Officers

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President

Josh Duckworth
President-Elect

Lacye Evans
Secretary-Treasurer

Malory Yelverton
Past President

Stan Bulger
Vice-President

Community Development

Josh Pierce
Vice-President
Economic Development

Mayor Dale Berry
Mayor Todd Booth

Vice-Presidents
Government Relations

Shannon Welch
Vice-President
Stakeholder Development

Staff

Donnie Caughman
Executive Director

Richard Rankin
Office Manager

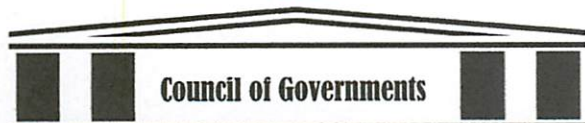
From the Executive Director Continued from Page One

The Foundation seeks to grow wholesale and retail trade by 1-2% annually over the next five years; achieve the average growth aligned with the Jackson Metropolitan Statistical Area in the annual rate of job growth; and establish a business retention and expansion process that supports exiting companies.

Workforce Development: Another goal integral to economic development is to continue our efforts to promote and enhance the workforce through cooperation with our high schools, Tech-Center, Co-Lin Community College, WIN Job Center, and as an ACT Work Ready Community.

Leadership Development: Our Leadership Simpson County program [Simpson Leaders] will begin this month with thirteen of the county's most aspiring young business, financial, and community leaders taking part. The curriculum includes personality inventory, team-building and group dynamics; entrepreneurship; and public service; in addition, participants visit leading industrial and commercial businesses in the county.

Simpson Leaders is a joint project of SCDF's Division of Community Development and Copiah-Lincoln Community College, utilizing the resources of Co-Lin Workforce Education and the facilities of the Co-Lin Simpson County Center.



We will have our quarterly **Council of Governments meeting on Tuesday, August 27th, 7:30 a.m., at Zip's Restaurant in Magee.**

We will be honored to have as our guests Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith and Brad White, Chief of Staff and former Simpson Countian.

Breakfast will be provided by the Foundation.



Workforce Development.

Following our certification earlier this year as an ACT Work Ready Community, Simpson County was tasked with new goals for maintaining its status as a Work Ready Community. Current data show that only five months into the year, we have achieved nearly 100% of our annual goals.

Workforce	Goal	Actual	
Emerging:	175	199	✓
Current:	82	108	✓
Transitioning:	128	112	
Employers:	21	37	✓
Total:	406	456	

Maintaining Goal	Goal	Actual
Improved Certificates	32	13



Dates to Remember

Simpson County Development Foundation

- Regular Meeting – Officers & Directors
- Thursday, September 19, 2019; 10:00 AM
- Location to be announced in advance of meeting

Simpson County Economic Development District

- Regular Meeting – Trustees
- Tuesday, October 8, 2019; 11:30 AM
- Berry's Restaurant, Magee, unless otherwise announced in advance

**WELCOME to
Our NEWEST MEMBER**

**CHRISTIAN CARRICO
Individual**

