

Developments

The Newsletter of The Simpson County Development Foundation

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To all our Friends, Members, and Supporters,

We wish you a Blessed Christmas Season

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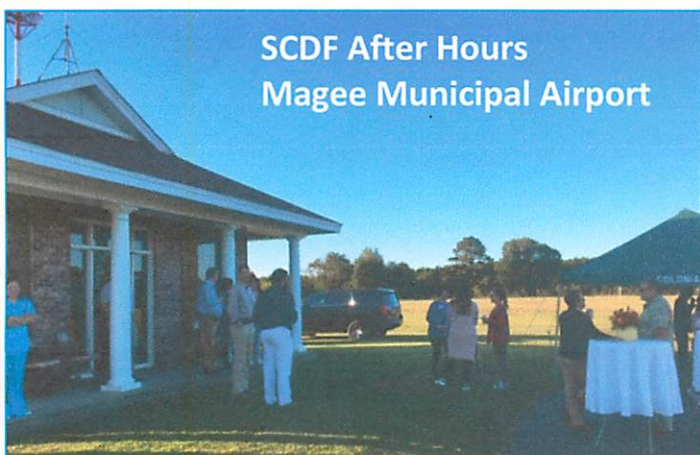
A Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*The Officers, Directors, and Staff
Simpson County Development Foundation*

The Simpson County Development Foundation is a non-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of Mississippi. It is not a public or governmental entity. The Foundation is funded by the membership fees of its members.

Scholarships awarded to students participating in ASPIRE. This past year, SCDF initiated ASPIRE, a program whereby high school seniors in the county enhance their educational experience in business and entrepreneurship through shadowing and interning opportunities with Simpson County business owners and professionals.

Over 30 students participated in the program, and three participants have each been awarded a \$500 scholarship to the college of their choice. Congratulations to Kennedy Hanna, Zachary Holbrook, and Hannah Newsome.



SCDF After Hours event held at Magee Municipal Airport. On October 22, in the early evening, those attending *SCDF After Hours* at the Magee Municipal Airport enjoyed an opportunity to find out what's happening in Simpson County in a relaxed, convivial setting with good eats and drinks. Activities included a brief presentation on developing plans for the airport.

Simpson Countians attend MEC's 18th Annual Hobnob Mississippi. On October 31, over 1,500 leaders from across the state attended the Mississippi Economic Council's 18th Annual Hobnob Mississippi at the Mississippi Coliseum. Attendees heard from candidates for each of the eight statewide offices and networked with fellow leaders from across Mississippi. Evelyn Copeland, Donnie Caughman, and Richard Rankin represented the Simpson County Economic Development District and SCDF.

18th Annual Hobnob Mississippi



L-R: Richard Rankin, Donnie Caughman, Evelyn Copeland, Karen Moseley, Leslie Gipson, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson.

SCDF hosts Lunch & Learn featuring Co-Lin Workforce Development. On November 20, in partnership with Co-Lin Workforce Education, SCDF presented a Lunch & Learn event for members and the Simpson County business community, including business owners, managers, and human resource directors.



Held at Co-Lin Simpson Center, the event included introductory remarks by Dr. Jane Hulon, President, Co-Lin Community College. [continued p. 3]

Presenters included Stephenie Sullivan, Director, Co-Lin Workforce Center; Kenny Goza, Co-Lin Community and Economic Development Coordinator; and Jimmy Giles, Southcentral Mississippi Works (CMPDD).

Participants learned about resources, including available funding, for workforce training and career technical education; apprenticeships; the WIN Job Centers; and ACT Workkeys.



Workforce Development Update. 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 as of October 31, 2019, we have achieved 94% of our current annual goals.**

Workforce	Goal	Actual	
Emerging:	175	215	✓
Current:	82	125	✓
Transitioning:	128	128	✓
Maintaining Goal	Goal	Actual	
Improved Certificates	32	14	

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Simpson County receives award as ACT Work Ready Community.

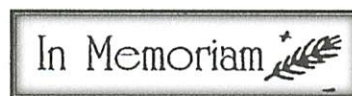


PHOTO INFO: Award Presentation--Simpson County Development Foundation (SCDF) Executive Director Donnie Caughtman, Co-Lin Workforce Director Stephenie Sullivan, SCDF Office Manager Richard Rankin, SCDF President Brien Hubbard, Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon, Co-Lin Workforce Navigator Jeanna Hartzog, Co-Lin Community and Economic Development Coordinator Kenny Goza
[Photo: Celeste Williamson, Co-Lin]

WELCOME to Our NEWEST MEMBER

AIRSOUTH LLC
Patron

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Earlier this year, we were saddened at the lost of our longtime supporter and friend **SID DAVIS**, and we extend our condolences to his family.

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Visit Our Website at
www.simpsoncounty.biz

Be on the lookout for an additional feature on our website. Our SCDF officers and directors have decided to incorporate our "tourism website" – discoversimpsoncounty.com – into our main website. Planned changes include updating and editing of the Discovery Simpson County content and, most importantly, the ability to edit and update the content ourselves without the necessity of contracting with a vendor.



Dates to Remember

Simpson County Development Foundation

- Regular Meeting – Officers & Directors
- Thursday, January 16, 2020; 10:00 AM
- Location to be announced in advance of meeting

Simpson County Economic Development District

- Regular Meeting – Trustees
- Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 11:30 AM
- Berry's Restaurant, Magee, unless otherwise announced in advance

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