

**Developments**  
**The Newsletter of**  
**The Simpson County**  
**Development Foundation**

176 West Court Street  
P. O. Box 127  
Mendenhall, MS 39114  
601.847.2375  
Office

[scdf@bellsouth.net](mailto:scdf@bellsouth.net)  
Email

[www.simpsoncounty.biz](http://www.simpsoncounty.biz)  
Website

**2021-2022 Officers**

**Christian Carrico**  
President

**Josh Pierce**  
President-Elect

**Lacye Evans**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Malory Yelverton**  
Past President

**Pat Brown**  
**Dylan Sanford**  
Vice-Presidents

Community Development

**Eric Adkins**  
Vice-President  
Economic Development

**Mayor Dale Berry**  
**Mayor Todd Booth**  
Vice-Presidents

Government Relations

**Carley Hansbrough**  
Vice-President  
Stakeholder Development

**Staff**

**Donnie Caughman**  
Executive Director

**Richard Rankin**  
Office Manager

- HAPPY NEW YEAR -

2022



**Simpson County Economic Development District sells Simpson County Commerce Park.** The Simpson County Economic Development District (SCEDD) has accepted Mr. Jeff Jennings's bid of \$202,070.00 for the Simpson County Commerce Park. The action was taken at a called meeting of the Trustees on December 17, 2021, and closing is to be within 45 days of that date.

The 110-acre property is located at Bowen Road and State Highway 43. Since acquisition of the property some 20 years ago, the SCEDD has aggressively pursued efforts to sell or lease the property for industrial development, including marketing of the property

through various sources, and has not received any relevant and viable proposals from any interested persons, firms or other entities desiring to purchase or lease all or portions of the property for industrial development. The only use made of the property since its acquisition has been for leasing a portion thereof for temporary storage of pipe and pipeline equipment at various times, thereby recouping the original purchase price of the property.

The SCEDD Trustees authorized the advertisement for sale of the subject property by closed bid, and the bid of Mr. Jennings was the highest bid and was determined by the Trustees to be fair and reasonable.

**SCDF finalizes contract with CMPDD to maintain and host websites.** The Foundation attained a long-standing goal recently when we executed a contract with the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District to maintain and host *both* our websites: the Foundation website at [www.simpsoncounty.biz](http://www.simpsoncounty.biz) and the Discover Simpson County website at [www.discoversimpsoncounty.com](http://www.discoversimpsoncounty.com). The new contract with CMPDD is more cost effective and allows us access to update content ourselves. In addition, SCDF and CMPDD will be working together on a thorough re-working and updating of the Discover Simpson County website.





## Membership

### *In Memoriam*

**Harvey Blakeney**  
Former Chairman, SCEDD



### *Congratulations!*

**Rhuel Dickinson**  
Retirement  
County Administrator

**Josh and Lauren Pierce**  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
2021 Young Farmer and Rancher  
Excellence in Agriculture Award

**Dr. Steven Reed**  
2021-2022 Secretary-Treasurer  
American Optometric Association

Every member of the Simpson County Development Foundation is essential to attaining successfully our goals for the continued betterment and advancement of our community—Simpson County. Our goals are primarily economic; however, we are concerned with every element in the quality of life of our community. You, our Members, have a vital role in the success of each of the Foundation's projects and programs.



The Simpson County Development Foundation is a non-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of Mississippi. For IRS purposes, we are an exempt non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(6). We are not a public or governmental entity. The Foundation is funded by the membership fees of its members.

## Simpson Leaders-2022

[THE SIMPSON COUNTY LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE]

**We are accepting applications for Simpson Leaders-2022 through January 31, 2022.** The tuition remains at \$200 per person, and classroom activities will be on the campus of Co-Lin Simpson Center.

### The schedule is as follows:

Session 1: Thursday and Friday, April 7 and 8, 2022  
Session 2: Thursday and Friday, April 21 and 22, 2022  
Session 3: Thursday and Friday, August 11 and 12, 2022  
Session 4: Thursday and Friday, August 25 and 26, 2022

### The curriculum as been updated to include

Unit I: Getting to Know Simpson County;  
Unit II: Leadership;  
Unit III: Entrepreneurship;  
Unit IV: Community Service.

### Our Classroom Instructors are

Sharon Bridges, Certified Public Manager and Instructor with the Mississippi State Personnel Board's Office of Training and Development;  
Terence Norwood, Extension Instructor with the Mississippi State University Extension Center for Government & Community Development;  
James Wilcox, Director of the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Education;  
Keller (Skip) Wilson, Organizational Development Specialist, formerly with the Training and Development Team at Nissan American Headquarters.

Contact SCDF at 601.847.2375 or [scdf@bellsouth.net](mailto:scdf@bellsouth.net) for more information and applications.

## CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 11, 2022; 10:00 a.m. – The Trustees of the Simpson County Economic Development District will meet at the PriorityOne Conference/Training Facility in Magee.

Wednesday, January 19, 2022; 10:00 a.m. – The Officers and Directors of the Simpson County Development Foundation will meet at the Magee Civic Center.

###