2019 ANNUAL REPORT
A REVIEW OF 2019 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE GREATER BOSSIER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND THE BOSSIER COMMUNITY.
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The Greater Bossier Economic Development Foundation (GBEDF) is the leadership organization for economic development in Bossier City and Bossier Parish. Our goal is to position Bossier to be competitive in securing new jobs and investment. Beyond our partnership with local governments, we also support regional efforts sponsored by the Bossier Chamber of Commerce, Regional Air Service Alliance (RASA), Port of Caddo Bossier, BRF, Coordinating and Development Corporation (CDC), Cyber Innovation Center, Barksdale Air Force Base and the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) in order to diversify our local economy.

2019 MEMBERS

Friends
Riverside Animal Hospital
Jim and Catherine Vanderberry

Regular
Ark-La-Tex Title
AutoBody Express
Balar Associates
Barksdale Federal Credit Union
Beasley-Keith Insurance
Benton & Brown, LLC
BRF
Blanchard, Walker, O’Quinn & Roberts
Bonomo Builders
Charles Boone
Bossier Crossroads
Bossier Parish Community College
Bossier Press Tribune
Brooks Heating & Air Conditioning
Calumet Lubricants
Carter Federal Credit Union
CenturyLink Center / SMG
Coldwell Banker
Cole, Evans, & Peterson
Custom Bill Cabinet & Supply
Disc Oil
Eagle Distributing
Fitzgerald Contractors
Foley & Judell
Gilchrist Bank & Trust
Gordon Inc.
Highland Clinic
Hilton Hotel Bossier City
Heard McElroy & Vestal
Home Federal Bank
John Hubbard
Ivan Smith Furniture
Jean Simpson Personnel
John Harvey Toyota-Lexus
John Turner Companies
Johnson’s Furniture
Johnson & Pace Inc.
Jones Brothers
LA Boardwalk Outlets
Margaretville Resort Casino
McElroy Metals, Inc.
Mitchos Brothers Construction
Moffitt Volkswagen
Mehr & Associates
Montgomery Insurance
Mosley Title Company
Payne Company
Red River Bank
Red River Motor Company
Doug Rogers
Sealy & Company
Sheer Technology, LLC
Shirley Insulation
Smeitherman, Hill, & Brice
Squires, Inc.
Stirling Properties
Supreme Sweet
The Fortis Company
UL, Coleman
Vintage reality Company
Weems, Schmepf, Haines, Shemwell & Moore
Dennis Wilson
Yokem Toyota
Youngblood & Hodges

Sponsor
Alliet, Fennet, Jolly, & McClelland
BancorpSouth
Beard Properties
Bogg & Posle Contracting Group
Bossier Federal Credit Union
Brown Builders
Carr, Riggs, & Ingram
Citizens National Bank
Coordinating Development Corporation
Coyle Engineering
Hand Construction
Hubbard Investments
Magee Resource
Neil Erwin Law, LLC
NWLA Association of Realtors
Origin Bank
Pabst Creative Communications Inc.
Wiltie Electric

Sustaining
AEPSWECO
Builders Supply
Capital One Bank
CellXion
Centerpoint Energy
Chase Bank
CHRISTUS Shreveport-Bossier Health System
DiamondJacks
Eldorado Casino
Alta and John Frankes Foundation
Haynesville Mercantile
Horseshoe Casino
Romp & Pou
Rose-Neath Funeral Homes
Sierra Frac Sand
Willis-Knighton
General Dynamics
Harratt’s LA Downs

City of Bossier City
The Honorable Lorenza Walker, Mayor
City Administrator, Pam Glorioso
BOSSIER CITY COUNCIL
David Montgomery, Jr.
Timothy Larkin
Scott Irwin
Jeffery Darby
Don Williams
Jeff Free
Thomas Harvey

Town of Benton
The Honorable S.G. Horton, Mayor

Town of Haughton
The Honorable Jack Hicks, Mayor

Town of Plain Dealing
The Honorable Cindy Dodson, Mayor

Bossier Parish Police Jury
Bill Allitus, Parish Administrator
“Coach” Bob Brotheron
Glen Benton
John Ed Jordan
Jack “Bump” Skaggs
Chris Mangiola
Jimmy Cochran
Jim Johnson
Charles Gray
Jerome Darby
Tom Salzer
Paul Plummer

Bossier Parish Sheriff
Julian Whittington

Industrial Development Board
Officers:
Charles Boone, President
Perry V. Hubbard, Vice President
David R. Rockett, Secretary/Treasurer
Board of Directors:
Wayne Davis
Carlton Golden
Jim Johnson
John Michael Moore
Bill Schwartz

Bossier Public Trust Financing Authority
Officers:
Perry V. Hubbard, President
John Michael Moore, Secretary/Trustee
Trustees:
Wayne Davis
Carlton Golden
Jim Johnson
Tommy Boggs
FROM THE CHAIRMAN

DEVELOPING THE NEXT DECADE

It is my honor and privilege to provide you with this comprehensive report on the activities and accomplishments for the GBEDF and the Bossier community. As our community continues to grow, the GBEDF has focused on positioning Bossier to be competitive in securing new jobs and investment.

This past year brought both interest and investment within Bossier’s industrial parks. Edko, LLC has purchased six acres in Viking Drive Industrial Park with plans to construct a 16,000 sq ft office and warehouse facility. The company will make a $2M capital investment and bring 52 jobs to Bossier. An additional 5-15 jobs are expected within 24 months of construction.

Our economic development agenda focuses on delivering industry diversity and allows the GBEDF to support and invest in initiatives that sustain our community. This agenda could not be accomplished without your support and investment to make Bossier prosperous. The GBEDF continues to be a good steward of our investment dollars entrusted to us by our members and the business community. These funds have allowed us to impact the community by enhancing business development in our regional economy. In addition to working with our partners to bring new investment to Bossier, the GBEDF also invests in the community. Our total community investment in 2019 was $110,000 and directly impacts the film industry, Barksdale Air Force Base, infrastructure, tourism, education, and workforce development.

On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to thank you for your continued support, confidence, and eager participation in our mission. Additionally, I want to extend a thank you to our governmental supporters at the City of Bossier City, Bossier Parish, NLCOG, along with LED who have worked with us to establish Bossier and Northwest Louisiana as the most dynamic economy in the state. We are proud of our partnerships and look forward to the continued working relationships in our community.

TIM WILHITE
2020 GBEDF Board Chairman

FROM THE DIRECTOR

RELATIONSHIPS, RESOURCES FURTHER ADVANCE THE REGION

The Officers and Directors of the GBEDF would like to take this opportunity to thank our members and investors, the City and Parish of Bossier, and Louisiana Economic Development (LED) for helping us to accomplish great things in 2019. In the past year, GBEDF has fielded increased interest in Bossier’s industrial parks. As a result of this increased interest, the GBEDF has been active in pursuing state certification for the larger tracts of land available in Benton’s industrial parks through the Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Certified Industrial Sites Program. This rigorous certification program helps to identify development ready sites and requires an extensive application process which includes an exhaustive review. This increases the marketability of the land once obtained and the certification is helpful to have during the site selection process. More recently, we have fielded interest from developers as a result of the launch of the Federal Opportunity Zone program. The Opportunity Zone program was established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to spur long-term private sector investments in low-income urban and rural communities. The GBEDF created the website www.InvestNWLA.com in order to provide a resource for the region’s designated opportunity zones. The website provides a regional overview and serves as an interactive tool where users can determine specific demographic information related to each zone in order to assist in their decision-making, navigate the Opportunity Zone investment process, and learn more about the areas designated for development. Additional resources produced by GBEDF include a free monthly economic indicator report as well as the annual economic information and statistics publication for the Shreveport-Bossier MSA. These resources help to tell the story of Bossier community and the wider Shreveport-Bossier MSA.

We look forward to the future and the new opportunities brought about by positive change. We stand ready to assist the business community and welcome you to join us in our efforts to build tomorrow’s success stories today.

DAVID “ROCKY” ROCKETT
GBEDF Executive Director
Below is a snapshot of the economic trends for the Bossier community for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. The GBEDF tracks economic indicators such as local retail spending, construction, employment, and tourism to keep a finger on the pulse of the economy. Understanding the trends and applying them to the decision-making process can help businesses with their bottom line.

**Estimated Retail + OMV Sales**

Retail data is provided monthly by the Bossier City Tax Division. The GBEDF tracks retail spending to show the discretionary buying power of the area. Retail dollars also affect the city/parish’s budget through sales tax dollars. Those dollars are used to fund infrastructure projects, quality of life enhancements, public safety, etc.

### Retail

- **Bossier Parish Estimated Retail Sales**
- **Bossier City Estimated Retail Sales**

### OMV

- **Bossier Parish Estimated OMV Sales**
- **Bossier City Estimated OMV Sales**

### Employment

- Total Civilian Labor Force: 187,600
- Total Employment: 181,700
- Total Unemployment: 10,408
- 2019 Unemployment Rate Annual MSA Average: 5.1%
HOTEL/ MOTEL REVENUE + CASINO ACTIVITY

Hotel/motel data is provided by the Bossier City Tax Division. The health of the tourism and hospitality industry can be measured by casino activity and hotel/motel tax revenue. Revenue from these sectors are invested back into the community for economic development initiatives and public safety purposes.

HOTEL SALES

CASINO REVENUE

COMMERCIAL + RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Much like retail spending, construction activity is a leading indicator. These indicators are directly related to consumer confidence and consumer spending which drives the economy by creating a demand for goods and services.

CONSTRUCTION

KEY INDUSTRIES

Goods Producing
Service Providing
Total Private
Private Service Providing
Mining, Logging and Construction
Construction
Manufacturing
Trade Transportation & Utilities
Information
Financial Activities
Professional and Business Services
Education and Health Services
Leisure and Hospitality
Other Services
Total Government
Accommodation and Food Services

Shreveport-Bossier MSA
Current Employment by Industry
BOSSIER RANKS IN TOP 10 IN LOUISIANA FOR ECONOMIC EXPANCTION

BOSSIER PARISH RANKED IN THE TOP 10 IN LOUISIANA FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION, ACCORDING TO A NEW STUDY.

SmartAsset released a study that shows Bossier as one of the best parishes in the state for having the most incoming investments. “Bossier Parish ranked among the top places in Louisiana due to a strong showing in each of the factors considered including business growth, GDP growth, new building permits and federal funding,” a press release on the study said.

BOSSIER CITY HOUSING MARKET GETS HIGH MARKS FROM NEW STUDY

Bossier City ranks No. 2 in the state for affordable housing, according to a new study by SmartAsset.

BOSSIER CITY FEATURED IN PROMINENT RETIREMENT MAGAZINE

Bossier City has been selected as a top retirement destination by Where to Retire, the only magazine in America geared toward helping people with retirement relocation decisions. Bossier City is profiled in a feature titled “8 Veteran-Friendly Cities” in the May/June 2019 issue, available nationwide now.

JOHN FLEMING SWORN-IN AS HEAD OF EDA

Former U.S. Rep. John Fleming (R) was sworn-in on after being confirmed by the U.S. Senate earlier this month for his presidential appointment to the post of Assistant Secretary of Commerce and head of the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

LED SECRETARY DON PIERSON NAMED TO U.S. INVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced that LED Secretary Don Pierson will serve on the U.S. Investment Advisory Council, a 25-member panel of national experts who will advise the federal government on attracting and retaining foreign direct investment, or FDI, in the U.S.

LOUISIANA NO. 2 FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT THAT SUPPORTS ECONOMIC GROWTH

For the second consecutive year, Louisiana ranks No. 2 among U.S. states for infrastructure investment that supports economic growth, according to Site Selection. In the magazine’s Global Groundwork Index, first published in 2018, states are evaluated for significant investment in corporate facilities concurrent with investment in roads, bridges, airports, pipelines, railroads and more. Louisiana ranked behind only Texas among U.S. states.

BOSSIER CHAMBER EARN S U.S. CHAMBER’S 5-STAR ACCREDITATION

The United States Chamber of Commerce awarded the Bossier Chamber of Commerce with 5-Star Accreditation for its sound policies, effective organizational procedures, and positive impact on the community.

307TH BOMB WING GETS NEW COMMANDER

Col. Steven Kirkpatrick, 10th Air Force director of staff, became the new commander of 307 Bomb Wing. Kirkpatrick replaced outgoing wing commander, Col. Robert W. VanHoy, who is taking a position with Pacific Air Forces Command.

BUSINESS FACILITIES’ 15TH ANNUAL RANKINGS: STATE RANKINGS REPORT

Louisiana, no. 3 in our cyber growth potential ranking, has established an impressive array of cybersecurity R&D and innovation assets.

LED FASTSTART NAMED TOP STATE WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR 10TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

LED FastStart was named the nation’s top state workforce training program for the 10th year in a row by Business Facilities magazine.

LOUISIANA RANKS NO. 2 IN SOUTH FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

Southern Business & Development magazine has ranked Louisiana No. 2 for securing the best economic development performance in the South on a per capita basis.

BOSSIER PRINCIPAL NAMED 2020 LOUISIANA ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Bossier Parish principal Lisa Burns took center stage at the 13th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards, where she was named the 2020 Louisiana Elementary Principal of the Year. Burns has served as an educator in Bossier Parish for 22 years and is currently the Principal of W.T. Lewis Elementary.
CHRISTUS SHREVEPORT-BOSIER ANNOUNCES NEW CEO

CHRISTUS Shreveport-Bossier Health System has a new Chief Executive Officer. Dr. T. Steen Trawick will become CEO, effective Aug. 12.

OCHSNER LSU HEALTH HAS ONLY LEVEL II PEDIATRIC TRAUMA PROGRAM IN LOUISIANA

The only Level I trauma center in North Louisiana now also is recognized as a Level II pediatric trauma program. The facility is the first and only program of its kind statewide.

BARKSDALE AFB’S ‘SPARK TANK’ REWARDS AIRMEN’S INNOVATIVE IDEAS

“The spark tank takes innovative ideas that are geared toward increasing lethality and the readiness of the B-52 Stratofortress,” said SMSgt Gregory Butler, 2BW process manager. Ideas were presented to a panel of six judges from the 2nd BW leadership. This year Barksdale’s Squadron Innovation Fund provided $675,000 for the best innovations.

BRF CEO AND EAP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED MOST INFLUENTIAL IN TECH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN LOUISIANA FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT YEAR

BRF President and CEO John F. George Jr., M.D., and BRF’s Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program (EAP) Executive Director Dave Smith have been named to Silicon Bayou’s 2018 Top 100 list, which names Louisiana’s most influential people in tech and entrepreneurship. This is the fourth year that both men have been included on this list.

EAP ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE BOSSIER PARISH COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2-MINUTE DRILL

Students at Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) pitched their business ideas in the form of 2-minute elevator pitches for the chance to win a cash grand prize of $500. The event was presented in partnership with BRF’s Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program (EAP), BPCC, and the Air Force Reserve’s 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base. Winner, Dakota Ferry (Associate of Applied Science in Cyber Technology and Network Security), pitched a clean water filtration/collection and power generation plan, which is patent pending.

BOSSIER CITY FEATURED IN PROMINENT RETIREMENT MAGAZINE

JOHN FLEMING SWORN-IN AS HEAD OF EDA

BPCC NAMED LOUISIANA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER PARTNER OF THE YEAR

LED FASTSTART NAMED TOP STATE WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR 10TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

FORMER USAF GENERAL HEADS LOUISIANA TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

BARKSDALE AFB’S ‘SPARK TANK’ REWARDS AIRMEN’S INNOVATIVE IDEAS
SHREVEPORT REGIONAL AIRPORT SEES MORE THAN 681,000 PASSENGERS IN 2019

Shreveport Regional Airport (SHV) saw 681,790 passengers in 2019, an 8% increase in travelers compared to 2018 passenger numbers. That 8% increase equates to 52,481 more passengers in 2019 than in 2018. The last time passenger numbers were this high was in 2000.

BOSSIER POLICE JURY FOCUSING ON RURAL INTERNET ACCESS

Bossier Parish and national leaders are looking at different technologies that might assist securing broadband internet for rural areas in Louisiana. Hosted by U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, Altimus and other state and parish officials attended a rural broadband conference on Sept. 4 in Covington. Altimus also advised the police jury that while he was attending the conference, he learned that Gov. John Bel Edwards recently issued an executive order to structure a commission for broadband access for everyone in Louisiana.

CASSITY JONES BUILDING MATERIALS OPENS NEW LOCATION IN BOSSIER CITY

Cassity Jones, a leading provider of building material for the home construction industry, recently opened a new facility in Bossier City to accommodate increasing demand and rapid growth in the market.

CEO John Jones commented, “I am pleased to announce Cassity Jones’ expansion in Bossier City, which is a thriving market for the home construction industry. This new facility will serve existing and new customers and will fill the incremental demand created by the expansion of the Louisiana housing market. The decision to expand our presence in the Bossier City area was a logical step in our business growth strategy, and we look forward to becoming a valued member of the community.”

GOV. JOHN BEL EDWARDS HAS SIGNED AN ACT ENABLING HAUGHTON TO CREATE ITS OWN METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION (MPC).

The act will go into effect on Aug. 1, 2019. “I think it’s a great idea that they are combining with Bossier Parish to have a joint office. You are able to share resources and bodies and such. It just works out really well,” said Sam Marsiglia, director of the Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC). It will be a collaborative effort with the Bossier City-Parish MPC.

MAJOR RENOVATIONS PLANNED AT TINSLEY PARK

The $14 million dollar project is part of the $60 million dollar bond passed by the city. Tinsley Park currently has 5 baseball/softball fields. Those fields will be converted from grass to turf. The 70 acres of wetlands behind the park will be converted to another 5 turf fields, concession stand, ADA playing field and more parking.

MEET PLAIN DEALING’S FIRST FEMALE MAYOR

Last year, Plain Dealing residents elected Cindy Dodson as their new mayor, the first woman to hold the position. Before Dodson’s win, she was the Bossier Parish Police Jury secretary for more than 25 years and, for the past four years, has been a Plain Dealing Town Council member.
NEW SUBDIVISION TO MAKE ITS WAY TO BOSSIER PARISH

The police jury approved a zoning change to land directly behind the Rosedale subdivision located off Airline Drive. The 161 acre subdivision will be called Canes Landing.

CENTURYLINK CENTER SHOWS OFF NEARLY $10M WORTH OF IMPROVEMENTS

“We want to remain competitive here in Bossier City. We want to continue attracting big headliner acts,” says General Manager Rebecca Bonnevier. “The City of Bossier City invests in the CenturyLink Center to ensure the arena is competitive and relevant.”

NW LOUISIANA’S I-20 BECOMING A “CYBER-TECH CORRIDOR”

During his keynote address at the National Governors Association CyberSecurity Conference, Edwards took time to point out Louisiana’s emergence in cybertechnology industry. “We want to harness all of our regional assets in our effort to combat cyber-threats,” Edwards explained. “Because of this work the I-20 corridor in Louisiana is now one of the fastest growing cyber-security regions, not just in Louisiana, not just in the south but across the nation.”

AMAZON WORKS WITH LOUISIANA COLLEGES ON NEW COMPUTING DEGREE

Louisiana’s community college system is creating a new, two-year associate degree in cloud computing, in coordination with Amazon Web Services.

GOVERNOR, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS CELEBRATE START OF CONSTRUCTION ON NEW BARKSDALE ENTRANCE

Gov. John Bel Edwards was on hand for the groundbreaking of the I-20/I-220 BAFB Interchange Project. The $71.8 million project will create a new access road into BAFB extending southward from the existing I-20/I-220 interchange.

GOV. EDWARDS, BPCC AND CYBINT JOIN TO ANNOUNCE LOUISIANA’S FIRST CYBER EDUCATION CENTER

Dr. Rick Bateman and Bryan Dickens signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing the parties to the development of a cyber center that will be located at Bossier Parish Community College’s Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Technology. The BPCC building will host ongoing cybersecurity training, credential coursework, and field exercises on a virtual cyber range for in-person trainees and online participants across the state and around the world.

GOVERNOR, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS CELEBRATE START OF CONSTRUCTION ON NEW BARKSDALE ENTRANCE

Bossier City broke ground for the second time this week. City leaders announced phase one of a new project that they say will ease traffic. This new Parkway will stretch from north Bossier to south
Bossier. It begins at U.S. Highway 80 and Traffic Street and will go all the way to the intersection of old Benton road at Shed road.

**LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT TO BREAK GROUND SOON ON NEW FACILITY**

LSU Health Shreveport is about to break ground on a new $56 million facility. The LSU Health Shreveport Center for Medical Education & Wellness will allow the university to handle up to 150 students by 2020.

**NEW REPORTS SHOW CADD-BOSSIER SEE INCREASE IN TOURISM**

The UNO Hospitality Research Center’s May 2019 report entitled Tourism Spending in Louisiana Parishes found that the Shreveport-Bossier metropolitan statistical area ranked third overall among Louisiana destinations for tourist spending in 2018, with approximately $1 billion of visitor spending taking place within the Shreveport-Bossier MSA. For context, the New Orleans MSA generated $8.3 billion in visitor spending and the Baton Rouge MSA generated $1.4 billion.

**BPCC ONLY LOUISIANA COLLEGE TO RECEIVE MILITARY SPOUSE FRIENDLY DESIGNATION**

Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) is proud to announce that it has been named to the 2019-2020 Top Military Spouse Friendly® School list, and is the only Louisiana college (2-year or 4-year) to receive this designation.

**BOSSIER CITY MOVES TO START BUILDING CONNECTOR BETWEEN MAJOR RETAILERS ON AIRLINE DRIVE**

The Bossier City Council has approved litigation that would see a new path between retailers to reduce traffic on Airline Drive. Assistant Bossier City Attorney Gordon Mosley said the city started looking into this issue after several citizens asked for an easier way to travel between the two stores. “We began this project because the public desired a way to access the Walmart and Kroger parking lot without having to travel on Airline Drive,” Mosley said.

**NEW MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR FACILITY OPENS IN, BRINGS JOBS TO HAUGHTON**

The Haughton community celebrated the grand opening of a highly anticipated new business Oct. 1. Haughton Environmental, a new $4.5 million facility formerly known as Duckwater Services, opened its doors Tuesday morning. Haughton Environmental will create 15 new direct jobs with an average wage of $15 – $25 per hour and an annual salary of $50,000 – $70,000 for management positions.

**HAUGHTON OPENS VETERANS THERAPY GARDEN AND WALKING TRAIL**

The Town of Haughton opened a new feature Monday aimed at helping veterans. The Veterans Therapy Health Garden and Walking Trail, located at Joe Delaney Memorial Park officially opened to the community Monday morning. The town hopes that the gardens and walking trail can be a place of relaxation and healing for those veterans who have sacrificed for their country. The gardens and walking trail were constructed through a joint effort of the Town of Haughton, Bossier Parish Police Jury, Trailblazer RC&D, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK TO EXPAND TO SOUTH BOSSIER CITY**

In a time when many major national bank brands are retrenching and shuttering branches in Bossier City and Bossier Parish, one bank is expanding its presence in the community. Citizens National Bank will soon open a new branch in SoBo.

**BPCC & EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY SIGN AGREEMENT BOSSIER PARISH**

Community College Dr. Rick Bateman, Jr. and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Associate Executive Director of U.S. Campus Operations Dr. Toni Castillo signed an articulation agreement to develop innovative transfer pathways between the two institutions. “Partnering with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University aligns with BPCC’s commitment to serve the more than 15,000 active duty and Air Force Reserve members serving at Barksdale Air Force Base,” said Bateman. “This relationship will ensure continuity of care for BPCC students as they transfer to the Barksdale Air Force Base Embry Riddle campus or to any of the 128 Embry Riddle campuses worldwide.”

**EDWARDS Commits $10 Million in Capital Outlay to Cyber Innovation Center**

Gov. John Bel Edwards announced on Monday the commitment of $10 million in capital outlay to build a new, state-of-the-art Louisiana Tech Research Institute (LRTI) at the National Cyber Research Park in Bossier City. LRTI is a nonprofit developed from the collaborations between Louisiana Tech University, the Cyber Innovation Center (CIC) and the Bossier community to support the growth and secure the sustainability of Barksdale Air Force Base, including the Force Global Strike Command, and leverage its presence for new and accelerated regional economic growth opportunities.

**NWLA SCHOOLS ACHIEVE OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC SUCCESS ON 2018-2019 REPORT CARDS**

State report cards are out for 2018-19 and schools in Northwest Louisiana are making the grade. The Bossier Parish School District received an “A” for student growth from the Louisiana Department of Education.

**NEW REPORTS SHOW CADD-BOSSIER SEE INCREASE IN TOURISM**

The new report shows a significant increase in tourism spending in the Shreveport-Bossier area, with $1.4 billion spent in 2019. This is compared to $8.3 billion spent in the Baton Rouge area and $1.5 billion spent in New Orleans. The report also highlights the importance of tourism to the local economy and the need for continued investment in tourism infrastructure.

**BOSSIER PARISH**

The Bossier Parish School District received an “A” for student growth from the Louisiana Department of Education, indicating that the district is making significant progress in improving student outcomes.

**CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK**

Citizens National Bank announced the opening of a new branch in South Bossier City, which is expected to bring jobs and growth to the area.

**EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY**

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University has signed an articulation agreement with BPCC, which will allow students to transfer between the two institutions and access new educational opportunities.

**LRTI**

The Louisiana Tech Research Institute (LRTI) has received a $10 million commitment from Governor John Bel Edwards to support the growth and sustainability of Barksdale Air Force Base, including the Force Global Strike Command.
ADVANCING OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

We place emphasis on funding projects and initiatives that create jobs for the local economy. Our community investment impacts workforce development, manufacturing, quality of life, infrastructure upgrades, and assists Bossier’s rural communities in economic development.

Over the past three decades, the GBEDF has impacted the community by enhancing business development in our regional economy thanks to our stewardship of investment dollars entrusted to us by our membership and the local business community.

BOSSIER’S MAJOR EMPLOYERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barksdale Air Force Base</td>
<td>9,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bossier Parish Schools</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christus Health System</td>
<td>900</td>
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<td>Margaritaville Resort Casino</td>
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2019 GBEDF Community Support

Film Industry
Marketing
Infrastructure
Tourism
Bossier Chamber of Commerce

BOSSIER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The GBEDF is proud to sponsor and support several chamber initiatives throughout the year. From advocacy efforts to business awards, the GBEDF is a great community partner for businesses in Bossier. Pictured L to R: 2019 GBEDF Chairman of the Board Charlie Coyle, George Fritze, and Dana Smelser at the 71st Bossier Chamber Annual Gala.

TOURISM

AT-6 Texans fly in formation during the Defenders of Liberty Air & Space Show at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., May 18, 2019. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Jacob B. Wrightsman)

INFRASTRUCTURE

The GBEDF provides assistance to local businesses needing upgrades to enhance production. GBEDF has funded various projects such as the Viking Drive Expansion and actively supports long-range plans for the I-49 and I-69 corridors.
"Buy Bossier" was created to encourage shoppers to purchase local, specifically in Bossier Parish. The campaign is meant to deter retail leakage due to the more increasingly popular trend of purchasing goods and services online through companies outside of the area.

The GBEDF has created a website to showcase the relevant data related to our retail sector in order to engage locals in ways they can be a part of their community’s economic success. Additionally, the site hosts a tool which allows users to search within Bossier for any goods or services for those who rely on the convenience of online shopping. Retaining retail trade dollars in our market and keeping the local income circulating in our trade area is an important part of Bossier’s economic success.

“When you Buy Bossier, you help to build a better Bossier,” shared Rocky Rockett, executive director of the GBEDF. “Retail sales tax dollars flow back into the local municipality’s bottom line, which in turn helps to further fund investments in public safety, quality of life and infrastructure improvements.”

Patronizing Bossier businesses, both big box retail as well as small businesses, does in fact have an impact on the further development of the area. Additionally, local businesses are more likely to support and invest in community events. The GBEDF invites the business community to join with them in advancing their mission to market the Bossier community in Northwest Louisiana.
• Has provided educational, benevolent, and charitable works exclusively for Bossier Parish Community College for more than 20 years

• Recently certified as an Investment Steward for its endowed and non-endowed funds by the Centre for Fiduciary Excellence (CEFEX)

• First non-profit organization in the state of Louisiana to receive the CEFEX certification promoting fiduciary best practices in the investment management industry.

• More than $4.3 million in total assets

• 13 State of Louisiana Board of Regents Sponsored Programs endowed scholarships

• 2 State of Louisiana Board of Regents Sponsored Programs endowed professorships

• 30 annual scholarships in various areas of study

• More than $650,000 in scholarships and over $6 million in overall school support awarded

GIFTS TO THE BPCC FOUNDATION PROVIDE:

• academic scholarships for students

• professional development opportunities for faculty & staff

• endowments and investments for long-term support of the College

The BPCC Foundation, Inc. was established in 1997 as a non-profit corporation and 501(c)(3) organization for the purpose of engaging in educational, benevolent, and charitable works exclusively for Bossier Parish Community College.

www.BPCCfoundation.org • 318.678.6010
WE ARE MOVING!

Stay tuned for the details and information on our new location!
BUSINESS MEANS BUSINESS.