



All activities have been performed by economic development staff in partnership with Board of Directors, ally organizations, appointing authorities and other community stakeholders. We thank the Vermilion Parish elected officials, residents, and businesses for their continued support and efforts to #DevelopVermilion.

## DEDICATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

**Maintaining a professional organization working for Vermilion's success.**



- Secured \$63,750 in public funds & \$20,000 commitment for 2020
- Added 3 new, private stakeholders and renewed commitment from 6 existing
- Gave 7 presentations and 24 interviews about projects & services
- Wrote 17 press releases about opportunities or updates for publication
- Worked with local and state officials on 35 parish issues
- Parish rep for Acadiana Economic Development Council, One Acadiana, & LIDEA
- Identified legislatively-created funding mechanisms for evaluation

## EXISTING BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

**Assisting the existing business community is our #1 concern.**

- Conducted 32 business visits
- Answered 145 inquiries
- Attended 7 ribbon cuttings
- Managed 11 retention projects, 7 of which were new
- Distributed 14 newsletters (events/tips) to 7% larger database with a 26% open rate



**Encourage local spending to have an economy that's self-supported.**



- Produced 23 "Business Spotlights"
- Provided marketing services & supplies to 19 companies for Small Business Saturday
- Hosted social media class in partnership with Matthew Aaron Agency for 18 attendees

**We're matching our local jobs with our local talent.**

- Co-hosted a training for 20+ jobseekers in anticipation of annual job fair
- Marketed job openings at 20 local companies/agencies
- Directly assisted 7 jobseekers with their resume and job hunt
- Co-hosted an employer workshop to educate employers on the latest in human resource law
- Co-hosted parishwide job fair with 27 companies and, 3 resource providers, & 92 attendees
- Launched 55 by 25 Initiative with press conference & tour of school system's Jump Start programs



\*Monthly & special reports can be accessed at [www.developvermilion.org](http://www.developvermilion.org)

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

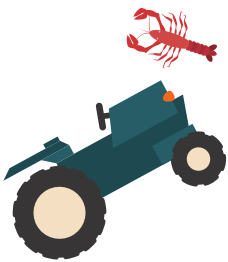
### Growing & attracting investment opportunities.

- Reached out to 32 new businesses, counseled 15 pre-ventures
- Worked with 11 prospects on due diligence & market research
- Maintained over 50 locations on site portal & added 27 listings to LED Site Selection website
- Submitted new site for State's site work plan consideration & received approval
- Answered 18 Requests for Information/Properties from interested businesses
- Co-hosted Opportunity Zone workshop & shared information for local development
- Created new "Doing Business Guides" for municipalities in coordination with each community
- Created Vermilion Parish One Page to use in recruitment activities
- Initiated contract with Site Location Partnership to maximize activities with expanding companies
- Completed research for Fabtech Expo (also attended), Pack Expo, & Advanced Manufacturing Expo
- Met with 2 site selectors to promote Vermilion Parish
- Helped organize & co-hosted Destination Downtown event with 40 points of interest; Coordinated public tours of 4 available buildings & 3 redevelopment projects



### Using agriculture, aquaculture, & fisheries to keep our uniqueness.

- Supported Vermilion farms at Louisiana Food Summit "field experience"
- Coordinated with USDA & LA SeaGrant to maximize plans for the seafood industry
- Assisted UL Lafayette & Meridian Institute in seafood industry study unveiling
- Recommended small business gap financing to spur growth in seafood industry
- Requested grant funds for a cattle supply chain study with written support from the Farm Bureau Federation, Senator Hensgens, & Representative Bourriaque



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



### Supporting improvements & partnerships that create better communities.

- Coordinated Palmetto Island development meetings with Lt. Governor's office & local businesses
- Maintained parish's social media accounts; Shared 527 positive articles to build community pride
- Prepared and hosted Leadership Vermilion "Commerce & Sustainability Day" presentations
- Worked with Vermilion Arts Council to provide support to art-based businesses
- Assisted United Way of Acadiana in locating funds for the parish's Leader in Me program
- Assembled meeting of port directors & Representative Bourriaque to better leverage resources
- Held meetings with Erath & Gueydan mayors to coordinate with their visions for each town
- Assisted ENCORE LA in promoting Kaplan as a Retirement-Ready Community
- Attended Vermilion Coastal Day with area partners for recaps of current & future restoration plans
- Wrote letters of support for Acadiana Planning Commission's EPA and DRA grant proposals
- Built website for Kiwanis of Abbeville to promote new Kiwanis Educator Award program