



JEDCO

Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission

PRESS RELEASE
August 2, 2016

Gretna receives outstanding community award from the Southern Economic Development Council

GRETNA, La. -- [The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#) would like to congratulate the [City of Gretna](#) on its recognition as an outstanding community for economic development by the [Southern Economic Development Council \(SEDC\)](#). On Monday at SEDC's Annual Conference in Kansas City, MO, Gretna received a [Community Economic Development Award \(CEDA\)](#) for having made significant contributions to the economic vitality of its community.

The City of Gretna was specifically recognized for its Expressway Revitalization Program, an initiative to spur economic growth and reinvigorate retail activity along its primary commercial corridor. Since FY 2013-2014, the City has attracted more than \$70 million in new construction and redevelopment projects in the target area. Major projects include:

- **Rouses Grocery Store:** A 45,000 square foot, \$7.3 million facility to better serve the grocery needs of Gretna and West Bank citizens.
- **Neighborhood Walmart:** A new \$13.1 million, 43,101 square foot store recently opened, driving commerce to a historically underutilized and blighted location.
- **11-acre Hotel Development:** A \$50 million mixed use hotel, retail, and restaurant development. This is the largest economic development in the City's history, which will bring much needed hotel accommodations to the West Bank and will set the standard of further West Bank revitalization for decades to come.

The Expressway Revitalization program is a multi-pronged strategy consisting of internal departmental collaboration, aggressive outreach to national and local retailers

and developers, improved marketing and branding by the City, local legislative action, and intergovernmental support.

"Though honored about receiving the award, we are most excited about what these developments mean for the future of our city," said Gretna Mayor Belinda Constant. "Being the small community that we are, it is important that we continue to capitalize on all economic opportunities for our residents."

"The City of Gretna is highly deserving of this prestigious national award," said Jerry Bologna, JEDCO President & CEO. "The City's Expressway Revitalization Program has had an incredible impact on community growth and sustainability and it continues to enhance the overall economic climate within Gretna. As Gretna's partner, JEDCO readily offers support and resources to this project and many others. We are pleased to see that Gretna has experienced such wonderful recognition for its efforts."

The [Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association \(LIDEA\)](#) nominated the City of Gretna for the SEDC Community Economic Development Award and JEDCO served as a mentor to the City of Gretna during the submission process. The award is given to five communities across the southern region of the country, representing different population categories. Community programs and initiatives were evaluated on innovation, potential to be used by other economic and community development agencies for similar opportunities or solutions, community commitment and leverage, a list of measured objectives, and secondary benefits to the community.

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About JEDCO: The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission](#) (JEDCO) is the economic development organization for the parish with the main objective of attracting, growing, and creating new business in the area. JEDCO's mission is to proactively influence the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment in Jefferson Parish. Located in the growing [Churchill Technology & Business Park](#), JEDCO is home to a [business incubator](#) for early-stage ventures and it also operates a state-of-the-art [Conference Center](#). For more information, visit www.jedco.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Vimeo](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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JEDCO

Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission

PRESS RELEASE
July 27, 2016

JEDCO releases Kenner Business Resource Guide in Spanish

KENNER, La -- The [Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission \(JEDCO\)](#) is pleased to announce the release of the Kenner Business Resource Guide in Spanish. The Business Resource Guide, which details information about starting a business in the [City of Kenner](#), was translated into the Spanish language to support the large Hispanic population in the community.

Through the updated [Jefferson EDGE 2020](#), the Parish's long-term economic development strategic plan released in late 2015, JEDCO identified a need to make its services accessible to a larger, more diverse population of business owners. Plans to translate the Kenner Business Resource Guide into Spanish were outlined in the strategic plan and implemented within the second quarter of 2016. The document was translated in-house by JEDCO employees and Commissioners. Additionally, it was reviewed by NOLA General Services and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana.

Kenner is ranked the [11th most diverse city of its size in the United States](#), according to an analysis by WalletHub of U.S. Census Bureau data. Hispanic residents make up over 22% of Kenner's population. Many Hispanic business owners in the community speak Spanish as their native language.

"It is JEDCO's goal to assist all Jefferson Parish citizens and through the Spanish translation of the Kenner Business Resource Guide, we are able to reach a wider audience within the City of Kenner and Jefferson Parish," said Jerry Bologna, JEDCO President and CEO. "I am especially proud of the JEDCO staff for spearheading this

initiative internally and producing a high-quality document that can better support our diverse community."

"Considering that one out of five residents in Kenner is Hispanic, anything that we can do to work with Hispanic entrepreneurs should certainly benefit the city in the long run," Acting Mayor Michael Sigur said. "Having a Spanish version of the Kenner Business Resource Guide makes sense and is just another example of the excellent work that JEDCO is doing on our behalf."

Spanish-speaking business owners can find the Kenner Business Resource Guide in Spanish at Kenner City Hall in the Mayor's Office, Council Office, and the Department of Inspections and Code Enforcement. Additionally, the guide is available at the City of Kenner's Hispanic Resource Center. An online version can be found on [JEDCO's website](#).

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Biz JEDCO Releases Kenner NEW ORLEANS Business Resource Guide In Spanish

By 7-29-16

KENNER, LA – The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) announced the release of the Kenner Business Resource Guide in Spanish. The Business Resource Guide, which details information about starting a business in the City of Kenner, was translated into the Spanish language to support the large Hispanic population in the community.

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An online version can be found on JEDCO's website.

Themed "Voices of a Generation," the fourth annual **Millennial Awards** honored New Orleans millennials who are not only excelling in their industry, but also making a difference in the community.

Peoples Health New Orleans Jazz Market was the site where nominees, their friends and families gathered on Saturday (July 16) to see who was voted tops in their fields. More than 200 nominations were submitted, and judged by a panel of fellow millennials -- those born in the 1980s to early 2000s.

Fifty-four finalists competed in 18 categories, and the 2016 award winners were:

Business: Mark Berger

Changemakers: Kendal Eroll Francis, Iman Shervington

Culinary Arts: Michael Gulotta

Digital Media: Summer Suleiman

Economic Development: Kate Moreano

Education: Melissa Manuselis

Fashion: Sophia Aomo Omoro

Film: Nailah Jefferson

Financial Services: Catherine Blume

Healthcare: Heather Ferdinand

Hospitality: Tara Letort

Innovation: Crystal McDonald, Reagan Amyre Wainwright

Journalism: Kristi Coleman, Sharief Ishaq

Law: Brad Cashio

Music: Justen Williams

Real Estate: Glenn "Chip" Gardner

Service Person: Kevin Jamal McCathen

Social Entrepreneur: Dana Reed

Emcees **state Rep. Walt Leger** and WWL-TV reporter **Tamica Lee** charmed the audience and kept the momentum going for the night's program, which also included entertainment by **DJ RQ Away, DJ R&R, T-Ray the Violinist,** and **Mia Borders,** and a restaurant contest by Yelp with **Katie's** (the 2015 winner), **Charlie's, Dat Dog, Dirty Dishes, Sac-A-Lait, Good Bird** and **Primitivo** competing for the "Millennial Restaurant of the Year" title. Charlie's, located in Violet, La., won the challenge.

The awards, presented by First NBC Bank and Tulane Health System, is produced by **Cleveland Spears III** and his **Spears Consulting Group.**



CityBusiness names 2016 'Money Makers'

By: Natalie Chandler, Editor July 28, 2016 0

New Orleans CityBusiness has selected its 2016 class of Money Makers, an event and publication that honors local professionals for financial achievements in their respective industries and their community impact.

This year's honorees are:

Banking

Jimmy Baum – JEDCO Commissioner

Bennett Blackledge

Gary B. Blossman

Mark S. Boucree

Joseph C. Canizaro

Anne M. Cochran

Brandt Dufrene

Bruce Falkenstein

James Hudson

Thomas S. Mabon

Darrell Mipro

Thomas Ogg

Ashton Ryan Jr. – JEDCO Challenge, EDGE Investor (First NBC Bank)

Corporate

Robert Brickman

Steven M. Dugal

Derek Gardes

Cheryl D. La Borde

Steve Marsh

Paul M. Mastio

John Payne

Clark Todd

Patrick Voss

Investment

Leo Barros

Helen C. Bost

Barrett Cooper

Michael J. Eckert

Curtis D. Eustis

Shelley M. Ferro

Bill Freiberg

Jennifer A Hyde

A. Kelton Longwell

Diana Matherne

Richard Romano

Matt Schwartz

Gary Smith, Sr.

James M. Spiro

Professional

Tim Baudier

Alison L. Burns

Chris Costello

Quinn H. Eagan

Philip Gunn – EDGE Investor (Postlethwaite & Netterville)

Ralph Leopold

Emily Madero

Toni McCord

Wesley J. Palmisano

Todd Tournillion – EDGe Investor (Postlethwaite & Netterville)

Kemberley J. Washington

Ellen S. Yellin

The 2016 Money Makers will be honored at a noon luncheon event October 27 at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel. A special publication highlighting their accomplishments will be part of the October 28 issue of CityBusiness. Event ticket information is available [here](#).

To sign up for free CityBusiness Daily Updates, click [here](#).

Biz JEDCO, Jefferson NEW ORLEANS Chamber To Host Workplace Safety Seminar

By 7-20-16

AVONDALE, LA – As part of the 2016 Prosper Jefferson seminar series, JEDCO and the Jefferson Chamber are teaming up to help keep employees and businesses safe.



On Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at the JEDCO Conference Center, 701A Churchill Parkway, in Avondale, from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., three experts will share suggestions and facts to improve

safety management and avoid workplace injuries.

Topics will include:

- Statistics and overview of workplace injury and deaths
- Elements of effective safety management systems
- Working with law enforcement to maintain a safe business environment
- The importance of crime cameras within the community
- Identifying worksite hazards

Speakers will include:

- BETH INBAU, National Safety Council

Inbau is the President & CEO of the National Safety Council, South Louisiana Chapter. Since 1993, she has led the not-for-profit training and membership organization in its mission of reducing deaths and injuries at work, on the road and in homes and communities.

Inbau is a native of the New Orleans area and earned an Associate's Degree and a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Safety & Health. She is a National Safety Council certified instructor for the Defensive Driving Courses, the First Aid & CPR courses and the Occupational Safety & Health courses. She is a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician, as well as a LA state certified EMS instructor. She currently serves as President of the New Orleans River Region Chapter of the LA Association of Nationally Registered EMTs, Past President and active member of the New Orleans Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers and of the Delta Safety Society, active member of the Southeast LA DWI Task Force, New Orleans Regional Traffic Safety Coalition, Hammond Safe Communities American Coalition, Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club and more.

- BRYAN LAGARDE, Project NOLA

A New Orleans native, Lagarde is a criminologist and the director of Project NOLA, a 501(c)3 non-profit created to help reduce crime by dramatically increasing police efficiency and citizen awareness. Lagarde developed the largest and most cost-efficient High Definition citywide networked crime camera system in America, which has also become the most successful crime fighting program in New Orleans given the hundreds of felony investigations Project NOLA routinely helps close. With his law enforcement background, formal education of criminology at Loyola, and ability to monitor criminal behavior in real time from over 1800 HD crime cameras across the metro New Orleans region, Lagarde possesses a highly unique and insightful knowledge of criminal tactics.

A former law enforcement officer, Lagarde has dedicated his career to improving public safety. While working with the NOPD as a patrol officer, Lagarde received certificates of merit from the Mayor and New Orleans City Council for taking the most firearms off the street. As an investigator for the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office, Lagarde specialized in economic and organized crimes and received special training by the FBI and the Department of Justice. At the DA's office, Lagarde created and managed the office's first investigations tracking database that cataloged case notes, evidence, reports and acted as a contact and scheduling management software solution, which dramatically increased office efficiency and helped the Economic Crimes Unit recover 4x more in victim restitution. As a police consultant, Lagarde now actively assists Federal, State and local law enforcement with the investigation of felony crimes.

- PETER QUITZAU, Entergy

Quitau is a Certified Occupational Safety Specialist who works for Entergy Louisiana in the Distribution and Utilities Operations group. Quitau provides guidance and support to Entergy employees within the Distribution organization to ensure that they understand and are adhering to Entergy safe work rules and policies.

Quitau started his career with Louisiana Power and Light Company in 1982 as a lineman in the East Jefferson and East St. Charles Parish areas. He worked on a line construction crew for 7 years before accepting a position as Service Operator in the Line Construction and Service Department. In 1991, Quitau made another career change, moving into the Distribution Engineering Department as an Engineering Associate. For 23 years, Quitau designed projects to replace old poles, relocate equipment for customers and provide electric service to new residential and commercial property. During his time in Engineering, Quitau participated on many safety teams, including Behavioral Based Safety, Smith System Driver Training, Human Performance, and Safety Advisory Boards - just to name a few. He quickly realized his passion for safety, so a year and a half ago, he made it a full-time job and transitioned into his current position as Safety Specialist.

This event is free and open to the public.

[Click here to register](#)

PROSPER JEFFERSON

2016 Seminar Series



PRESS RELEASE
July 20, 2016

JEDCO, Jefferson Chamber to host workplace safety seminar

(Avondale, LA) -- The safety of your employees is paramount to the success of your business. It is vital to ensure a hazard-free environment for the men and women who work for you. Not only will a focus on workplace safety protect your employees while they are on the job, but it will also protect your business from legal challenges and public relations issues that result from workplace injury or death. As part of the 2016 Prosper Jefferson seminar series, [JEDCO](#) & the [Jefferson Chamber](#) are teaming up to help you keep your employees and your business safe.

Three experts will share suggestions and facts to improve safety management and avoid workplace injuries. Topics include:

- Statistics and overview of workplace injury and deaths
- Elements of effective safety management systems
- Working with law enforcement to maintain a safe business environment
- The importance of crime cameras within the community
- Identifying worksite hazards

Join us **next Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at the JEDCO Conference Center (701A Churchill Parkway, Avondale, LA 70094) from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** for our upcoming Prosper Jefferson seminar. This event is free and open to the public. Please register at www.jedco.org/events

Meet our Speakers

BETH INBAU, National Safety Council

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About the Jefferson Chamber: The [Jefferson Chamber](#) is the leading voice for Jefferson Parish's business community. As a non-profit, membership-driven organization, the Chamber is an effective advocate for small and large businesses at the local, state, and federal levels. The Chamber's mission is to work for the advancement of the business community; to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment; and to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish. The Jefferson Chamber is Four-Star Accredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the 2013 Chamber of the Year Award by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in the Large Chamber Category.

For more information about the Jefferson Chamber, visit www.jeffersonchamber.org, and follow on [Facebook](#), Twitter [@jeffersoncoc](#), and [YouTube](#).

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Southern Business & Development: Louisiana No. 1 In Number Of Major Business Projects Per Capita

Lake Charles ranks as No. 1 small market in South, based on 2015 project investments and job creation

BATON ROUGE, La. — Today, *Southern Business & Development* magazine ranked Louisiana No. 1 among Southern states for attracting the most significant capital investment and job-creation projects per capita for the seventh year in a row. States earn points for large employment projects (200 or more jobs) and large capital investment projects (\$30 million or more) attracted during 2015. Louisiana led the region with the most points-per-million at 114.9, easily outdistancing second-place Tennessee (82.0) and third-place Alabama (73.4). Texas and Louisiana ranked No. 1 and No. 2 overall in total points, but the publication awarded the 2016 State of the Year designation to the No. 3 points leader, Tennessee, in part because of the variety of industry sectors that invested and created jobs in the state.

Louisiana, which has ranked No. 1 in the South for seven straight years in the points-per-million category, has earned State or Co-State of the Year honors from *Southern Business & Development* six times in the past 10 years. In addition to Louisiana's top-ranked 2016 performance, Lake Charles earned the magazine's designation as the 2016 Small Market of the Year, while New Orleans and Baton Rouge earned honorable mention recognition for top markets of the year.

"Louisiana remains a leading destination for companies planning expansions or new investments, and today's recognition from *Southern Business & Development* validates the confidence we have in our state's ability to sustain a strong business climate and attract new job-creation projects," Gov. John Bel Edwards said. "From IBM in Monroe to Axiall and Lotte in Lake Charles, we are creating an environment that encourages new development and provides opportunities so that Louisiana residents can find quality jobs and build great careers in the place they call home."

The latest *Southern Business & Development* State of the Year results are published in the magazine's SB&D 100 issue, which reports the Top 100 economic development deals across the South in both investment and job categories. Each state earns 10 points for projects within the investment and job Top 100 lists. Projects below the Top 100 that include at least 200 jobs or \$30 million invested net five points each for their states.

Louisiana Economic Development Secretary Don Pierson said the latest SB&D results confirm Louisiana's attractiveness for existing employers who are expanding in the state and for new out-of-state investors, including significant foreign direct investment projects.

"We are exceedingly proud of Louisiana's track record as one of the top economic development states in the South for the past decade, with Louisiana having won the *Southern Business & Development* State of the Year honor as far back as 2007 and as recently as 2014," Pierson said. "We're particularly proud of the performance of our regional markets, and LED is working hard to strengthen our cohesion with partners all across the state. Louisiana's brand as a highly competitive state is well-known, with a strategic infrastructure, sound business climate and dynamic workforce."

In particular, the outstanding performance of our LED FastStart® team has been a real differentiator for Louisiana.”

Business Facilities has honored LED FastStart® as the nation’s No. 1 workforce training program for the past six years in a row. *Business Facilities* also ranked Louisiana No. 3 in the publication’s 2015 ranking of state business climates.

“We’ve really connected with what today’s expanding companies need most in their workforce,” said Jeff Lynn, LED’s executive director of workforce programs. “With LED FastStart, our approach allows us to fully evaluate an employer’s culture and project needs. We apply that deep knowledge to powerful, professional recruitment, screening, training and orientation tools. The result is that companies expanding in Louisiana can launch a project with a workforce that’s fully trained from day one and much better prepared than the company could have accomplished on its own.”

Lake Charles (115 points) received the title of 2016 Small Market of the Year, which evaluates markets in the South with a population under 250,000. In the 2016 Major Market of the Year category, which ranks performance for metro areas with population of at least 750,000 but less than 2 million, New Orleans (175 points) and Baton Rouge (45) joined Knoxville, Tennessee (100), as honorable mention winners.

Louisiana earned honorable mention State of the Year honors with a wide variety of project announcements in 2015, such as IBM’s 400-job Client Innovation Center in Monroe; EPIC Piping’s 560-job advanced pipe fabrication facility and corporate headquarters in Livingston; Monster Moto’s minibike and go-cart manufacturing plant in Ruston; Formosa Petrochemical Corp.’s potential \$9.4 billion industrial complex in St. James Parish; and the combined \$3 billion investment by Axiall and Lotte Chemical for new chemical manufacturing plants in Lake Charles.

In four national business climate rankings – those published by *Area Development*, *Business Facilities*, *Site Selection* and international location marketing firm DCI – Louisiana now ranks among the Top 10 states in the U.S. This year, Big Four accounting and consulting firm KPMG ranked Louisiana as the most competitive state in the U.S. for business costs while its three largest cities – New Orleans (No. 4 for lowest costs), Baton Rouge (No. 2) and Shreveport (No. 1) – rank among the most cost-competitive cities in the Southeast U.S.

For more about the 2016 State of the Year rankings and the SB&D 100 report in *Southern Business & Development*, visit www.sb-d.com.



JEDCO seeking Economic Development Specialist (WEBSITE)

AUGUST 1, 2016

The Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) is an independent, yet complimentary arm of Jefferson Parish government with the main objective of attracting, growing, and creating new business in our area. JEDCO's mission is to proactively influence the economy through the retention and creation of quality jobs, entrepreneurship, and investment in Jefferson Parish.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Economic Development Specialist position supports JEDCO's Economic Development Services department by encouraging the retention of existing businesses in Jefferson Parish. The ideal candidate possesses the knowledge, skills, and sincere interest in the Economic Development industry. Prospective applicants will have the chance to work alongside passionate and talented individuals, working to advance the overall economic viability of Jefferson Parish and ultimately the Greater New Orleans region.

PRIMARY DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Implement JEDCO's business retention and expansion program, which includes outreach and assistance to new and existing Jefferson Parish businesses
- Identify and coordinate business development opportunities that retain and create jobs
- Conduct business and economic research to support JEDCO's programs and in response to varied business inquiries
- Research and retain extensive knowledge of available properties within the parish for business retention and attraction prospects
- Assist implementation of various special projects, with a focus on the EDGE 2020 Strategic Plan

PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Undergraduate degree required; Master's degree preferred
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite required; Salesforce proficiency beneficial
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational and analytical skills
- Ability to manage complex projects and multiple assignments under tight deadlines
- Strong interpersonal skills, maintaining a high degree of professionalism to develop relationships with business owners and executives, community leaders, commercial real estate community, and strategic industry partners.
- Planning, public policy, market research, real estate development, or economic development experience preferred

Salary commensurate with credentials. Forward resume and cover letter to JEDCO, Attn: Human Resources, 700 Churchill Parkway, Avondale, LA 70094 or hr@jedco.org. Resumes will be accepted through August 14, 2016. EEO

2016 NEWSLETTER: Q2



Living on the EDGE *2016 JEDCO Newsletter: Second Quarter*

Last year, [JEDCO](#) updated the Jefferson Parish long-term economic development strategy. Called the [Jefferson EDGE 2020](#), this five-year plan serves as a roadmap for economic vitality in our community. In the second quarter of 2016, the community has already started to reap the benefits of the updated plan and its long list of momentum-building action items. For example, Jefferson Parish applied for a \$17.8 million federal grant to give the Jefferson Highway corridor a makeover. This was done in partnership with JEDCO & Ochsner Health System. It was an item outlined in the EDGE 2020 plan months ago to further solidify the region as a hub for destination health care.

Additionally, JEDCO hosted the first of several Neighborhood Revitalization Study meetings to discuss improvements to the building and housing stock in Jefferson Parish, which was another action item outlined in the plan. The Jefferson EDGE is ingrained in the day-to-day activities of the JEDCO staff as well. Through the Jefferson EDGE 2020, five industry clusters with the highest opportunities for growth were identified: Food, Beverage, Fishing & Seafood; Water Transportation, Distribution & Logistics; Health Care; IT Systems and Products; and Water, Coastal & Environmental Industries. The Economic Development team focuses on a different cluster outlined in the EDGE every quarter to ensure that our organization and our community are meeting the needs of our growing industries.

We've stayed busy with other major activities as well in the second quarter: some of the JEDCO team was at the [International Council of Shopping Centers](#)™ annual conference in Las Vegas in May, JEDCO hosted three Prosper Jefferson seminars on a variety of topics in partnership with the [Jefferson Chamber of Commerce](#), and we

released our [2015 Annual Report](#). There are big things happening in our community and we are excited to be a part of it!

Top 3 Takeways

1. Setting Sail: In June, a luxury startup river cruise line announced its arrival in Jefferson Parish. [French America Line](#) located its corporate headquarters in the [Churchill Technology and Business Park](#) and named the Gretna Ferry Landing as the home port for its deluxe, 150-passenger vessel, the *Louisiane*. The company will create almost 100 jobs. Inaugural sailings of the *Louisiane* start in September 2016. [Read the full press release here.](#)

2. From Muffalettas to Manufacturing Awards: [Boscoli Foods, Inc.](#), which manufactures a variety of high-quality Italian food products from its facility in Kenner, recently received a prestigious 2016 Louisiana Lantern Award for manufacturing excellence. JEDCO nominated Boscoli because of its growth in sales, dedication to customer service, and the innovative new products being introduced into the market. Congratulations to the Boscoli Team! [Read the full press release here.](#)



3. Happy Anniversary IEDC:

In May, JEDCO joined thousands of economic development organizations around the country and internationally to celebrate Economic Development Week. It's part of the International Economic Development Council's (IEDC's) 90th anniversary, which it is celebrating all year long. In support of this, the Jefferson Parish Council issued a proclamation recognizing 2016 as the "Year of the Economic Developer" and highlighting JEDCO's many achievements. [See the full story here.](#)

Business Blurbs

Congratulations to our first entrepreneur challenge winner, Be Well Nutrition, Inc. The company behind ICONIC Protein a line of healthy beverages for on-the-go people, [raised over \\$1 million](#) for marketing, retail expansion, and inventory.

Exciting things are happening at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. In June, it opened up bidding for a [three-star hotel](#) to be built next to the new terminal, which is currently under construction. Thinking about taking a trip overseas? Last month, Condor Airlines [announced direct flights from New Orleans to Germany!](#)

The Harvey Canal Industrial Association has [a new name to match its cool new logo](#). The organization renamed themselves the Westbank Business and Industry Association (WBIA) to incorporate their broad reach in Jefferson Parish.

[CarMax is coming to Kenner!](#) The company will build its second store in Louisiana on 25-acres near the Esplanade Mall.

Jerry Bologna, our President and CEO, received a 2016 Merit Award from the Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR) for Excellence in Government. Jerry has been with the organization since 2000, serving JEDCO in a number of capacities. He has been our President/CEO since 2013. [See the full list of award winners here.](#)

Louisiana received a [2016 Silver Shovel Award](#) from *Area Development* magazine. This is the seventh consecutive Silver Shovel designation for the state.

Upcoming Prosper Jefferson Seminars

July 27 Workplace Safety	August 31 Protecting Business Assets	September 28 Leadership Management
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All Prosper Jefferson events are scheduled for 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM at the JEDCO Conference Center. They are free and open to the public.

Register at www.jedco.org/events.

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Kenner officials say economic development is picking up

Thursday, July 21st 2016, 5:53 pm CDT Thursday, July 21st 2016, 7:10 pm CDT
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NEW ORLEANS, LA (WVUE) -

Kenner leaders said there is still room for more growth, but economic development is picking up.

It was a proud moment inside the Esplanade Mall on Thursday, when a ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the Kenner Community Health Center as a new tenant in the mall that is not as robust as some elected leaders would like.



"We're seeing something that could infuse some more walking traffic in this mall and hopefully give further development based on the traffic that's going to come to Access Health," said Jefferson Parish President Mike Yenni, who not that long ago was Kenner's mayor and one who sought to infuse new life into the mall. "I told them anything they needed me to do I would do. One previous mall manager reminded me that I'd gotten elected mayor, not the mall manager."

"Much as some people would like to believe that we're not growing, we have new businesses, new developments coming in," said Kenner Acting Mayor Mike Sigur, who is also handling his City Council duties until the fall mayoral election is held.

He said developers plan to build a 200-plus unit apartment complex on the site of the old Hollywood Cinema called Gateway at Esplanade in the rear of the mall property. Also on acres of vacant land just outside the mall property between 32nd Street and I-10, used car giant CarMax will be a \$25 million facility to serve the region.

"They will use our site to feed these other sites automobiles," Sigur said.

Still, a privately owned strip mall nearby on West Esplanade is mainly devoid of tenants.

"I venture to say he's looking for some bigger retailer to take that versus going to single, smaller stores," Sigur said.

Near Lake Pontchartrain on Williams Boulevard, construction is well underway on a Planet Fitness, while a developer's idea for upscale condos is not off the ground.

"He is still interested and we're meeting his challenges because that's a big project for him and the area," Sigur said.

Despite challenges, retail activity is going in the right direction in Kenner.

"They had a four-percent increase in sales tax revenue in the city of Kenner, and even with the Esplanade being slightly down, that's still huge because that shows people are investing in this community," said Yenni.

And the hope is that more young people will want to live not only in Kenner but the rest of Jefferson Parish.

"In the 2010 census we lost population and that's concerning to me, and that happened parish-wide and that's why we've got to start going after that younger generation," Yenni said.

Sigur said he is in talks with the airport in hopes of getting the Aviation Board to free up some of the unused land in Kenner for businesses eager to open in the area.