

2024

Bossier  **Chamber**
of Commerce

ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL MEETING • COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE CENTRAL IN LOUISIANA • LOVE THE BOOT • SALUTE TO COMMUNITY HEROES

MORE THAN JUST BUSINESS, MORE THAN JUST BOSSIER.

Check out our newly redesigned site at bossierchamber.com

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY REPORT • RIBBON CUTTINGS CELEBRATING BUSINESS • FALL PUBLIC POLICY SERIES • GOLF CLASSIC



MISSION

The Bossier Chamber of Commerce's purpose shall be to promote the advancement of the civic, commercial, industrial, technological, and agricultural interests of Bossier Parish, all while promoting the general welfare and prosperity of the parish and the stimulation of the public's interest on key issues.

VISION

Be the collaboration hub that cultivates and shapes the business climate.

CHAMBER STAFF

Lisa Johnson, President/CEO

Jessica Hemingway, Vice President

Taylor Belton, Administrative Assistant

Jana Morgan, Director of Programs and Fundraising

Maxey McSwain, Director of Marketing and Communications

DRIVING PROGRESS & PROSPERITY

In 2024, the Bossier Chamber of Commerce celebrated 20 years of Lisa Johnson's leadership. Under her tenure, the Bossier Chamber has earned its 4-star and 5-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber, an elite feat which only 3 percent of Chambers earn. Additionally the Bossier Chamber has earned its Louisiana Chamber accreditation and won Louisiana Chamber of the Year twice. Under Lisa's leadership, the Chamber has grown its membership, community presence, advocacy efforts and military relations.

In addition to welcoming over 100 new members in 2024, we also hosted our first Public Policy series to bring awareness and education to changes in state and national policy. We invited state elected and appointed officials to Bossier Parish to have a conversation about changes in business-related policies. We also held our inaugural class of Community Development Institute (CDI) Central in Louisiana, and doubled the number of Professional Community and Economic Developer (PCED) holders in Louisiana through this effort.

We thank you for your investment and your trust in us to foster your business growth and connections! Embracing our mission, we challenge your business to become an active participant in the Chamber's ongoing engagement and community-focused initiatives.

Read more in this Annual Report about how we have been working for YOU in 2024!



Lisa Johnson
President/CEO



Jonathan Reynolds
Board Chair

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carl Thibodeaux, Community Bank of Louisiana, **Chair Elect**

Jerome DuBose, Louisiana Tech Research Institute, **Finance Chair**

Nicole Wilhite, Citizens National Bank, **Past Chair**

Jay Johnson, General Dynamics Information Technology, Business Development Chair

Mike Busada, Butler Snow, LLC, Government Relations Chair

Scott Solomon, AT&T Government Solutions, Military Relations Chair

Damien Ford, Mike McSwain Architect, Community Sustainability Chair

Col West Anderson, USAF Retired, Boeing

Lisa Babin, LSU Health Shreveport

Melissa Couch, Barksdale Federal Credit Union

Andrew D'Avy, CHRISTUS Shreveport-Bossier Health

Jon Ellis, Radiance Technologies

Kathy French, Port of Caddo-Bossier

Daniel Ihm, Margaritaville/Boomtown Resort Casino

Gary Hubbard, Greater Bossier Economic Development

Kevin Nolten, Cyber Innovation Center

John David Person, Wieland

Vita Riner, 318 Latino Radio/Magazine

Vincent Sedminik, Willis-Knighton Health System

Todd Thompson, Waggoner Engineering

Ashley Warner, Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets

2024
CHAIR



Jonathan Reynolds,
Carter Credit
Union,
Chairman

THE VOICE OF BUSINESS FOR BOSSIER PARISH



QUESTIONNAIRES WERE SENT TO THOSE RUNNING FOR MAYOR IN BOSSIER PARISH



HELD A PUBLIC POLICY SERIES, FEATURING STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS



LED THE CHARGE OPPOSING THE LNG PAUSE AMONG FELLOW CHAMBERS



SUPPORTED THE MILLAGE RENEWAL FOR THE PARISH LIBRARY SYSTEM



43

OF BILLS ACTIVELY FOLLOWED BY THE BOSSIER CHAMBER DURING THE STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BC TO DC

4

DAYS OF MEETINGS

14

APPOINTMENTS ON THE HILL

14

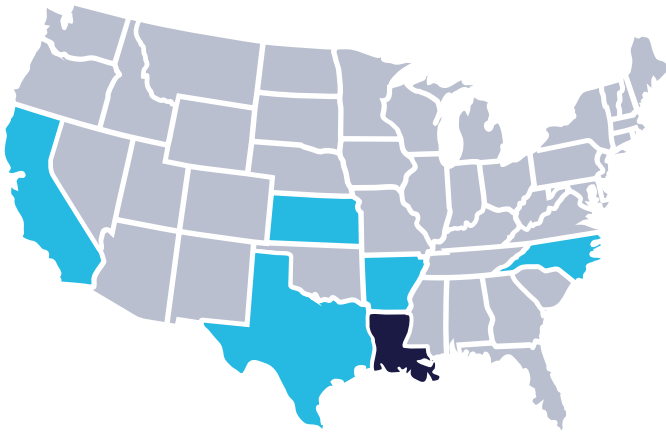
NWLA REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

7

ISSUES RAISED FROM OUR REGION

BOSSIER CITY TO WASHINGTON D.C.





6 STATES

719 MEMBERS

102 NEW MEMBERS

WE LOVE OUR MEMBERS!



70

RIBBON CUTTINGS



20+

EVENTS



5

GROUNDBREAKINGS



59,150

TOTAL PAGE VIEWS ON
BOSSIERCHAMBER.COM
IN 2024, A 29% INCREASE
COMPARED TO 2023.



EVENTS BY THE NUMBERS

488

ANNUAL GALA

SALUTE TO COMMUNITY
HEROES

240

524

PUBLIC POLICY SERIES

GOLF CLASSIC

139

168

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY
REPORT

2,554

TOTAL EVENT ATTENDEES IN 2024

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY REPORT

WHERE DO WE STAND IN KEY INDUSTRIES?



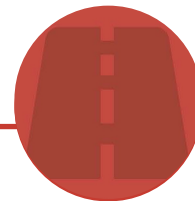
#10

IN THE NATION FOR
BEST STATES FOR
PHYSICIANS



61%

OF NATIONAL LNG
EXPORTS COME FROM
LOUISIANA

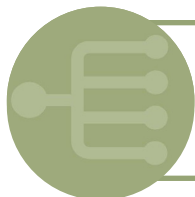


7.3%

INCREASE IN CARGO
TONNAGE OUT OF PORT
OF CADDO-BOSSIER
SINCE 2021

77,000

JOBS IN LOUISIANA SUPPORTED BY
U.S. MILITARY SPENDING

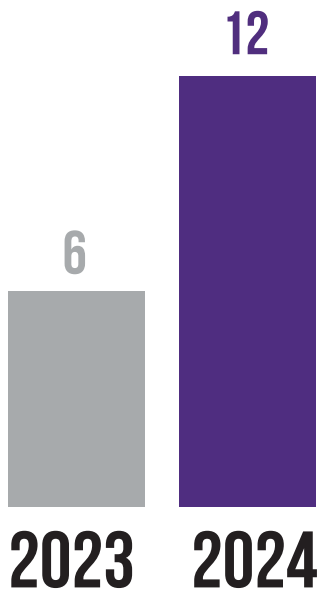


THE DEMAND FOR CYBER JOBS IN OUR REGION
IS PROJECTED TO GROW BY NEARLY

27%



In 2024, the Bossier Chamber partnered with Community Development Institute (CDI) Central at the University of Central Arkansas to host a satellite site of CDI in Bossier City.



24

PARTICIPANTS IN THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF CDI CENTRAL IN LOUISIANA

100%

OF THE STUDENTS WHO TOOK PCED* EXAMS PASSED

The number of PCED* holders in Louisiana doubled after CDI's first class concluded in 2024.

***PCED:**
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPER





**NW LOUISIANA
VETERANS JOB FAIR**

71 VETERAN JOB SEEKERS

354 JOB SEEKERS TOTAL

86 EMPLOYERS

1,000+ JOBS AVAILABLE IN THE AREA

APRIL

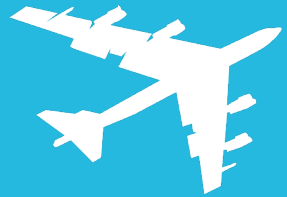
PARTNERED WITH
BOSSIER SCHOOLS FOR
MONTH OF THE MILITARY
CHILD T-SHIRT CONTEST

MAY

PARTNERED WITH
MILITARY COMMUNITY
CHAMPIONS & BOARD FOR
MILITARY MAY



SALUTE TO COMMUNITY HEROES
WE HONORED 20 FINALISTS AND AWARDED 5 NW LOUISIANA COMMUNITY HERO MEDALS



WELCOMED
MORE THAN
1,500
NEW AIRMEN TO
BARKSDALE
AIR FORCE BASE



**SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED TO
HELP STUDENTS
PURSUE
STEM-RELATED
MAJORS IN
COLLEGE**

BOSSIER YOUTH LEADERSHIP

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD



50

**STUDENTS GRADUATED
FROM THE 2023-2024
BYL CLASS**



9

**BYL SESSIONS
CONDUCTED TO
PREPARE STUDENTS
FOR LEADERSHIP**

**150 NEW TEACHERS IN BOSSIER PARISH
RECEIVED WELCOME BAGS WITH CLASSROOM
STARTUP MATERIALS FROM THE LOCAL
BUSINESS COMMUNITY**



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carl Thibodeaux, Community Bank of Louisiana, Chairman
Jerome DuBose, Louisiana Tech Research Institute,
Chair Elect

Johnathan Reynolds, Carter Credit Union, Past Chair

Scott Solomon, AT&T Government Solutions,
Finance Chair

Damien Ford, Mike McSwain Architect, Community
Sustainability Chair

Jay Johnson, General Dynamics Information Technology,
Business/Workforce Development Chair

Kevin Nolten, Cyber Innovation Center, Gov. Relations Chair

Vincent Sedminik, Willis-Knighton Health System,
Military Relations Chair

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Mike Busada, Butler Snow LLP

Melissa Couch, Barksdale Federal Credit Union

Andrew D'Avy, CHRISTUS Shreveport-Bossier Health

Jon Ellis, Radiance Technologies

Daniel Ihm, Margaritaville/Boomtown Resort Casino

Adam Johnston, Citizens Bank & Trust (GBEDF)

Wayne Lancaster, Coca Cola Bottling Company

John David Person, Wieland

Vita Riner, 318 Latino Radio/Magazine

Todd Thompson, Waggoner Engineering

Dr. Mary-Lois White, LSU Shreveport

Nicole Wilhite, Bonvenu National Bank



BUILT TO BE IN BOSSIER.

At Bonvenu Bank, we open doors. Doors to opportunity, to growth and to the future of the community we serve. Our locations are more than places to manage your finances. They're a symbol of our commitment to this community, because we are built to be here - for you, for your family, for your business, for Bossier City.

 **Bonvenu Bank**



BONVENUBANK.COM



Your health. Your life. Our purpose.



You deserve compassionate, advanced care close to home. As our community grows, so do the services available to you. With more physicians, expanded offerings, and enhanced technology,



high quality care is always within reach. Learn more about our services at

CHRISTUShealth.org





**A WORLD
OF GOOD.**

Making Life Better for You and Our Community

A healthy community is a better community. Count on us as a local healthcare organization to nurture your health and the health of the community. We proudly partner with the Bossier Chamber of Commerce to do a world of good, now and in the future.

wkhs.com

WK
Willis Knighton
Health