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**St. Tammany Corporation and Tri-Parish Works Announce Partnership
to Enhance Business-Focused Delivery Network throughout St. Tammany Parish**

Agencies Will Coordinate Workforce and Improve Services to Help Businesses Continue to Succeed

Mandeville, LA – Today, Chris Masingill, CEO of the St. Tammany Corporation, and Melissa Kirsch, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board for Tri-Parish Works, announced a coordinated effort to expand access to services and resources to the business community in St. Tammany through an innovative agreement that provides for the sharing of key staff positions to continue to build more capacity for both agencies.

“We are proud to be teaming up with Tri-Parish Works to strengthen and streamline business and workforce solutions for our existing business and industry in St. Tammany,” says Masingill. “Economic development is a team sport, and creating stronger alignment and collaborations means more efficient service delivery and responsiveness to the economic drivers of our community, our business and industry. It is important that businesses hear one voice when it comes to accessing the programs and resources to help solve technical business- and workforce-related issues.”

“The workforce board is excited to enhance its already strong partnership with the St. Tammany Corporation,” says Kirsch. “By design, we are creating a seamless business-focused delivery network to reinforce services we offer to support business and industry in St. Tammany. By leveraging our resources, we can continue to improve the landscape to help businesses grow and remain viable and in turn, we are sustaining the community where we all work and live.”

Through this agreement, partners agree to work toward accomplishing the following outcomes:

1. Expand and improve access to employment, training, and other related services to the business community
2. Facilitate the development of career pathways and other business expansion/retention strategies to ensure healthy/thriving employers within the local area
3. Increase the number of businesses served, as well as the quality of services received.

“I am very excited and looking forward to exponentiating coverage of solutions for the business community through this innovative arrangement,” says Alan Thriffiley, Chairman of the Workforce Development Board for Tri-Parish Works.

“This valuable partnership with a highly competent, capable organization like Tri-Parish Works is another step toward our strategic goal of proactively coordinating and aligning business and workforce efforts in St. Tammany, which we set forth in our five-year strategic plan, THRIVE 2023,” says Bill Davis, President of the St. Tammany Corporation Board of Commissioners.

This agreement establishes a framework to reduce redundancy, increase cost efficiency, and continuously improve services to businesses. Both agencies commit to move relationships with business and industry beyond a transactional

level, but truly build relationships, partnerships, and coalitions that are transformational, creating an environment in which our businesses can grow and people and communities in St. Tammany can thrive.

These shared staff positions will serve as a resource expertise and distributor of relevant, timely economic, business and workforce trends, opportunities, and initiatives, including “on-call” immediate responsiveness to special projects, initiatives and requests. In addition, he/she will maintain sufficient knowledge of “business solutions” including local, regional and state programs and services to communicate effectively with employers, and to respond to questions and/or obtain answers from appropriate associates.

The partners are committed to providing high-quality services to a shared client base that lead to positive experiences for businesses utilizing three fundamental principles: expertise, follow through, and consistency.

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About St. Tammany Corporation: As the lead economic development organization for St. Tammany, the St. Tammany Corporation functions as the comprehensive resource center for business formation throughout the parish. The services provided by the St. Tammany Corporation include, but are not limited to, business retention, site selection, workforce development, research and data services, state and local incentives, business attraction, talent retention, certified site development, relocation support and marketing St. Tammany.

About Tri-Parish Works: As the workforce development expert and authority for St. Tammany, St. Bernard and Plaquemines, Tri-Parish Works strives to have an impact on the Tri-Parish area and the region by serving 2,000+ employers annually; posting more than 10,500 job openings and connecting employers to skilled, qualified employees, providing training to hundreds of area residents to connect them to high-demand, high-wage careers, and maintaining strategic training investments in targeted industry sectors to yield \$9.3 million in annual wages in the communities it serves. Tri-Parish Works is overseen by the First Planning District Workforce Development Board and a partner to the Louisiana Workforce Commission and American Job Center Network.