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St. Tammany Corporation and Louisiana Small Business Development Center at Southeastern Extend Partnership to Provide COVID-19 Technical Assistance Virtual Workshops

Registration Now Open for Assistance with SBA Disaster Loan Applications, Navigating the CARES Act and Paycheck Protection Program

Mandeville, LA – Today, Chris Masingill, CEO of St. Tammany Corporation and Bill Joubert, Director of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Southeastern Louisiana University, announce that its partnership to provide Northshore business owners with COVID-19 technical assistance through virtual workshops will be extended through Thursday, April 9, 2020.

St. Tammany Corporation, in partnership with the Louisiana SBDC at Southeastern Louisiana University (LSBDC), began hosting a series of workshops on Monday, March 30th for businesses to navigate the U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan application process as part of the COVID-19 CARES Act that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump last week. In addition to the *SBA Disaster Loan Application Guidance Workshop*, the *Rescuing America's Businesses: Navigating the CARES Act and SBA Paycheck Protection Program Workshop* was added as a daily afternoon session.

"The Louisiana Small Business Development Centers works with the SBA directly. SBA gives us grant money to assist with all its programs. SBA has asked all Small Business Development Centers across the nation to be the front line communicator to share information and facilitate these disaster programs," says Bill Joubert, Director of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Southeastern Louisiana University. "We get training and updates daily on the program that other entities do not. We have over 20 years of experience and have assisted with many disasters over the years. By attending both of these workshops, business owners will understand the programs and how to use them to address their specific business needs and how to choose a loan that helps facilitate those needs."

"While we are all continuing to work through the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 to our communities, we recognize that small businesses are a critical component to our local economy and we want to do all that we can to help each one navigate the available resources to keep operating," says St. Tammany Corporation CEO Chris Masingill. "Businesses, families and communities remain our TOP priority, so we are encouraging Northshore business owners to register now to have access to information that can really benefit them during this unprecedented time of uncertainty."

The *SBA Disaster Loan Application Guidance Workshop* will be held at 9:00 am CST each day beginning on Monday, April 6 through Thursday, April 9.

The *Rescuing America's Businesses: Navigating the CARES Act and SBA Paycheck Protection Program Workshop* will be held at 2:00 pm CST beginning on Monday, April 6 through Thursday, April 9.

The workshops, co-sponsored by Louisiana Economic Development (LED), SBA, Greater Hammond Chamber of Commerce and Garrety & Associates, are free to join and are facilitated via the Zoom platform each day.

To register or for more information, visit www.sttammanycorp.org.

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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 Louisiana Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Southeastern University: The Louisiana Small Business Development Center at Southeastern offers high-quality technical assistance to existing and start-up small businesses, and to small business entrepreneurs in Louisiana at no cost to the client.