



SUMMER 2010



Kim Dowdy  
Delta EDC Chairman

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**THE DEFINITION OF PREPARED** – properly expectant, organized, or equipped; ready. Sounds simple, doesn't it? But as we all know, this is not always an easy assignment. As the staff and leadership of the Delta Economic Development Center work to recruit and retain businesses in the area, one of the many questions we are asked, "Is Washington County prepared to handle a new or growing company?" The first response is probably "yes" without hesitating or taking a breath. Look around at your surroundings. Are we really prepared? Listed below are just a few difficult questions to ask ourselves. We need to be honest if we are going to be organized, equipped and ready for the future.

- Is the workforce able to commit to working a forty-hour a week without being late? Are they skilled for blue and white collar jobs? Can they pass a drug test? Does our workforce have effective customer service training? Do visitors have a positive experience when they visit the area businesses?

- Education is always a "hot" topic and one that needs to be addressed. Does the business community have the time and energy to assist all of our school systems so our children are learning how to get and keep employment? Are we teaching our youth the right skill sets that will allow them to succeed once they are employed? Are the schools training their students to work in the public and private sectors? Do children today know the proper attire for a job interview? Do they know how to properly fill out an employment application?

- How does our county look to visitors? Are we ready to "impress" big businesses with our current appearance? There are many volunteers throughout Washington County who work on a daily basis to improve the look and feel of their city, but it takes everyone managing their piece of the pie.

These are just some of the important questions we need to ask ourselves. The goal is to be able to say "yes" and continue to improve. No place in this country is perfect, but we can work together to make Arcola, Greenville, Hollandale, Leland and Metcalfe the best places to live in the Mississippi Delta. Since you are a member of the Delta Economic Development Center, we are asking for your help. We want you to be a part of the solution. Join a committee; visit the Center; volunteer your time and resources to make Washington County the premier site for current and new businesses.

Kim Dowdy, Chairman

### DELTA EDC STAFF:

**Sheree Hobart**  
*Executive Director,  
Chamber Division*

**Sherron D. Kirk**  
*Director of Community  
Development*

**Marcus Young**  
*Director of Economic  
Development /  
Senior Project Leader*

**Richard T. Clark**  
*Controller*

**Carolyn Baker**  
*Administrative Assistant*

To find out the latest news and events happening in Washington County, follow The Delta Economic Development Center on **FACEBOOK** ([www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Greenville-MS/Delta-Economic-Development-Center/127560351607?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Greenville-MS/Delta-Economic-Development-Center/127560351607?ref=ts)) and **TWITTER** ([twitter.com/#search?q=deltaedcenter](http://twitter.com/#search?q=deltaedcenter))!



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BRIDGING PROGRESS



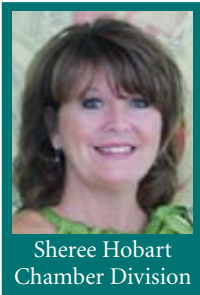
Marcus Young

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OVERVIEW

The Economic Development Department is operating in full throttle with the *Priority One* program. We have managed to complete a couple of site visits, and we are working our way through the identified list of businesses to hear from each of you. This effort is a partnership between the Delta Economic Development Center (Delta EDC) and Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), the state's economic development organization. The initiative is a part of our overall business retention and expansion plan of both entities, and we value the partnership. "The Delta EDC is the delivery agent and conduit for any resources that we can bring to bear," according to Frank Short, Regional Manager for MDA. MDA defines *Priority One* as a program that assists state and local economic development officials in Mississippi determine best business practices to assist our corporate citizens with concerns they are facing. This program is an integral part of MDA's Business Retention and Expansion Program. *Priority One* also allows state and local officials to become more familiar with the companies that call Mississippi home and provides MDA with a view of the business climate in each of the state's communities. No two companies – or communities – are the same, but with this information, MDA can tailor an appropriate response to effectively meet a company's needs and help it grow and prosper.

We will continue to reach out to our entire business community and try to strengthen our local economy by nurturing our existing businesses, but we can only make this happen with your support and cooperation. As always, we will continue strategic recruitment of targeted industry for Washington County. We ask for your continued support, so that we can continue to support you. We look forward to our next visit with you.

Marcus Young, BREPC, Director of Economic Development/Sr. Project Leader

Sheree Hobart  
Chamber Division

## CHAMBER DIVISION OVERVIEW

The Delta Economic Development Center's Chamber Division is here to serve you! Your business is important to us. Your Chamber of Commerce offers many advertising opportunities, such as Membership-Business Guide, Internet Exposure, Quarterly Newsletter, Ribbon Cuttings and Sponsorships. It also offers networking opportunities, such as Business After Hours, Business Showcase at our Annual Meeting, and various Committees, such as Workforce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Government, Healthcare, Education, Retail and Financial, Membership and our finest Ambassadors Council. Come be a part of any one of these that you feel would benefit you or your establishment. We also host the Small Business Leadership Series, which covers various topics that could be valuable to your business. This month's topic is "How to Hire the Best Employees." It will be held in the Center's Board Room, Wednesday, July 21,

2010, 12:00 noon. Please reserve a seat by contacting our office at 662-378-3141.

Recently our Leadership Washington County Class graduated under the leadership of Chair, Larry Cazavan. This is a nine-month program that allows participants to receive leadership skills training and direct contact with the organizations, institutions and people in decision and policy making positions central to the process of change and growth in the city and county. The 2010 LWC Class partnered with Mainstreet Greenville and Keep Greenville Beautiful for their class project to promote keeping Greenville clean and green. Thank you, WXVT TV, for your support by sponsoring this project! Look for the commercials airing daily by the 2010 class. Job well done!

If you are interested in becoming a member or if you are already a member and want to get more out of your membership, please contact Sheree Hobart at 662-378-3141. Please make every effort to become actively involved in mapping the future of all of Washington County!



Leadership Washington County Class of 2010

First row (r to l): Jeremy Bond, Darrail Davenport, Janice Lockhart-Hicks, Sherron D. Kirk, Cindy Clark, Leeson Taylor; second row: Tracie Moore, Shirley Evans, Jan Vaughn, Michael Lard; third row: Marcus Young, Frank Williams, Stephanie Macvaugh; not pictured: Peter Austin



INFINITE CONCEPTS, the fastest growing computer company in the Delta, has grown again! Their office is now located at 1365 East Reed Road, in the old Mainstream Travel building in Greenville. This transition doubles their office space, allowing a larger equipment repair room. And with the prominent visibility of this location, access to their office is easier and more efficient.

According to Rhonda Baker, Vice President of Infinite Concepts, "The new office space is perfect! The technicians have room to spread out and work more efficiently. And dropping off or picking up a computer has never been easier for our customers!"

## CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS

On Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 30 recipients received scholarships presented by Education Foundation Chair, Keesha Lowe and Chairman of DEDC, Kim Dowdy.

Scholarships ranged from \$250 to \$1,500, based on the applications submitted to the Education Foundation. The reception was held in the lobby of the CB&S Bank on Washington Avenue.

### Scholarship Recipients

- |                      |                       |                         |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Julianna Bryant   | 11. Alexis Ervin      | 21. Tarra Head          |
| 2. Fredricka Brown   | 12. Molly Tonos       | 22. Ka'shaye Shaw       |
| 3. Michael Curry     | 13. Daryl Richards    | 23. Kenneth Fang        |
| 4. Michael Booker    | 14. Jameese Williams  | 24. Kalina Deng         |
| 5. Jeremy Rochelle   | 15. Kristina Manning  | 25. Thomas Johnson      |
| 6. Harrison Peyton   | 16. Ashley Greco      | 26. Andrew Norwood      |
| 7. Lindsey Janous    | 17. Melissa Manor     | 27. Shamarcus Stevenson |
| 8. Raghieb Dennis    | 18. Floyd Lee         | 28. Abbie Sandifer      |
| 9. Lauren Chambers   | 19. Taylor Cottingham | 29. Brezelle Dunn       |
| 10. Matthew Clements | 20. Robert Burle      | 30. Carolyn Russell     |



Chairman Kim Dowdy and Foundation Chair Keesha Lowe presenting at CB&S Bank.



Left to right: Liz Clements, Lauren Chambers, Kim Dowdy, and Raghieb Dennis



On May 4, 2010, The Delta Economic Development Center welcomed the Delta Cancer Institute during a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House Behind-The-Scenes Tour. Dr. William Richards (center) cut the ribbon with staff members, Michelle Sugg, Darlene Lawrence, Lisa Parker, Lana Aguzzi and Chamber Ambassadors of the Delta Economic Development Center. They are located at 1514 E Union Street, Greenville, MS.

## TALK IT UP!

*Some of the Latest News and Happenings in Washington County*

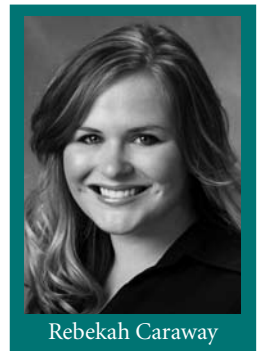
### LOCAL GRAPHIC DESIGNER WINS AWARD

A new and exciting company formed in Greenville, MS has gotten off to a tremendous start! Caraway Designs, owned by graphic designer Rebekah Caraway, is a full service company that produces logos, advertisements, layouts and web design along with selling promotional products. Opened in the fall of 2009, Rebekah has already made a mark (in the industry) with her ideas and designs.

During the American Advertising Federation Mississippi Delta Advertising Federation annual ADDY Awards, Rebekah won the 2009 Graphic Designer of the Year Award, one Gold and one Bronze ADDY award. These annual awards are equivalent to the Academy Awards but in the field of advertising, public relations and marketing. Winning the graphic designer of the year is an accomplishment that many designers never have the pleasure of experiencing, especially in their first year of business.

In the short time that Caraway Designs has been in business, the client base has grown significantly. Businesses such as the Delta Economic Development Center, Washington School, WXVT TV-15, Desoto County Civic Center, Greenville Arts Council, Mainstreet Greenville, Lagniappe Gifts and the Delta State Education Department have hired her to work on projects. This is actually just a sampling of the work Caraway Designs has produced in the last six months. According to Rebekah, "I was honored to receive the AAF MSDAF Graphic Designer of the Year considering we have such talented people in this area. I hope that I can continue to produce quality work for years to come."

Rebekah and her husband, Burt, reside in their hometown of Greenville and attend First United Methodist Church. For more information, contact 662-820-7723 or visit [www.carawaydesigns.net](http://www.carawaydesigns.net).



Rebekah Caraway

## TALK IT UP! CONTINUED

## RIBBON CUTTING FOR KEPLER'S ITALIAN GRILL

Opening a new business in Greenville has been more rewarding than I ever dreamed owning a restaurant could be. I am from the Delta, but grew up and learned the restaurant business in East Texas. When I moved back to Greenville, it was like coming home. The people here are the best I have encountered anywhere. In December, I was approached by Harold McGarrh, and jumped at the chance to have my own restaurant. We opened Kepler's Italian Grill, and the response has been exceptional. When creating the menu, the goal was to offer menu items anyone could enjoy, while keeping our prices reasonable enough that a young family could eat out and not stretch their budget.

Located in the center of town, at the corner of Fairview and Highway 82, we draw from in and outside the Greenville area. For directions, a look at our menu, or pictures of the dining areas, visit our website, [www.keplersitaliangrill.com](http://www.keplersitaliangrill.com), or call us at (662) 332-1225. We want to thank the entire Delta that has supported us and made us successful through our first six weeks. We hope to serve you for many years to come.

— Kepler Martin, Owner



Ribbon cutting ceremony at Kepler's Italian Grill.

## DRMC'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FIRST IN THE STATE TO TRANSMIT EKG'S ELECTRONICALLY

Did you realize that every second counts when you or a loved one is going into cardiac arrest? To make every moment count, Delta Regional Medical Center is using new technology through ZOLL Medical Corporation to aid in rapid cardiac management. This new technology allows DRMC's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to transmit a 12-lead electrocardiogram from their ambulances to the DRMC Emergency Department.

An electrocardiogram, EKG, is a test that checks for problems with the electrical activity of your heart and translates the heart's electrical activity into line tracings on paper. Utilizing this new capability, the doctor can interpret the electrocardiogram before the patient ever arrives in the ER. This not only saves valuable minutes upon arrival to the ER, but also aids the EMS in the methods to treat the patient.

Jerry Graham, Director of EMS at DRMC says, "We are excited to be the first hospital in the state of Mississippi to utilize this new technology. This equipment cuts down on wait time in preparing for the patient at the ER, as it also assists the EMS onsite."

Carmen Wright, Director of the Emergency Department at DRMC says, "By having the capabilities to fax the EKG from one of our ambulances, we are now able to provide more definitive care in a timely manner for patients who are having a heart attack. This is crucial because it can decrease the amount of heart muscle damaged and improve the patient outcome from such a serious illness."



## DELTA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER WELCOMES NEW PEDIATRIC PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Delta Regional Medical Center announces the addition of a new Pediatric Physical Therapist, J.V. Limtengco, PT, to DRMC Outpatient Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine. Limtengco received his Bachelor of Science degree in 2003 from University of the East – Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Quezon City, Philippines. Since that time he has specialized in providing physical therapy to children in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Limtengco has extensive experience in physical therapy for cerebral palsy, spina bifida, Down syndrome, and other disorders/diseases. Limtengco and his wife, Jen Chloe, have their first child on the way, a baby girl, due July 20th. They live in Greenville.

Melissa George, M.S., CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist at DRMC Outpatient Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine, says, "The entire pediatric team at DRMC Outpatient Rehabilitation is very excited about having a new physical therapist join our team." Limtengco joins B.C. Neill-Irwin MOT, OTR/L; Melissa George, M.S., CCC-SLP; Sangie Alford, M.S., CCC-SLP; Jessica Mitchell, Rehab Technician, and Angie McClellan, Patient Services Specialist, to complete the pediatric rehabilitation team. Together the therapists offer a combined 42 years of experience in pediatric therapy.

Stephanie Kent, Director of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at DRMC, says, "The addition of an experienced pediatric physical therapist allows us to provide a full range of therapy services to this population." Outpatient pediatric therapy services are offered at DRMC Outpatient Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine, 1746 C Highway 1 South. The pediatric treatment facilities include two sensory integration gyms, private treatment areas and a therapy pool. For more information, please call (662)334-2021.

Front row (l to r): Melissa George, MS, CCC-SLP; Angie McClellan, Patient Services Specialist; Sangie Alford, MS, CCC-SLP; back row (l to r): BC Irwin, OT; JV Limtengco; Jessica Mitchell, Rehab Tech.

Grand Openings, personnel changes/promotions, awards/recognition/special achievements, special events, or business expansion/relocation/change? Please send us your news to be included in our next issue of Bridging Progress no later than **September 10, 2010**.

Articles should be 100 words or less. Pictures can be glossy or digital. Send to [shobart@deltaedc.com](mailto:shobart@deltaedc.com).

For more information on linking to The Delta EDC's website, [www.deltaedc.com](http://www.deltaedc.com), please reply to [shobart@deltaedc.com](mailto:shobart@deltaedc.com).



Sherron Kirk

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OVERVIEW

### OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST INSTRUCTED SWIM CLINIC IN GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

The Delta Economic Development Center invited 2008 Olympic Gold Medalist, Cullen Jones, to Greenville for the Delta Swim Splash Clinic. Cullen visited the port city of Greenville in between his appearances for his Make a Splash Campaign to instruct over 100 children at the Bobby Henry Memorial Pool and the YMCA (verbally) on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Prior to his swim clinic events, the Delta EDC hosted a

Bobby Henry Memorial Pool renovation fundraiser reception with Cullen Jones and major contributors on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, at the residence of Sam and Kaye Newsom.

It was indeed a privilege to have Olympic Gold Medalist Cullen Jones in Greenville, MS and raise awareness on the importance of swimming as a life skill and health benefits. Our theme for the Delta Swim Splash focused on education, health and inspiration. Cullen's life is an inspiration to all of us and the children, as well as adults, were ecstatic over his visit.

Cullen was born in New York and reared in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He nearly drowned as a small child and now, an advocate for water safety, travels the United States promoting and instructing in the overall importance of swimming. With strong parental support, Cullen has excelled professionally by placing 5th in 2009 World Champion (50m Freestyle), 2007 World Champion (4x100FR-R), World Record Holder (4x100FR), 2006 Fastest Swimmer in the World (50m Freestyle), World University Games Gold Medalist, Pan Pacific Games Gold Medalist and NCAA Champion. Cullen is only the second African American in history to win an Olympic Gold Medal in swimming.

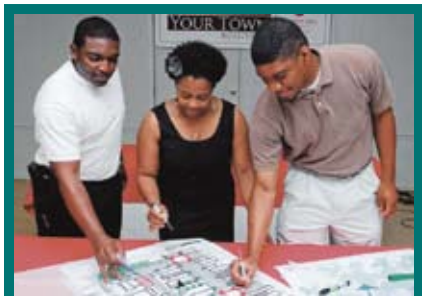
The Delta Swim Splash Clinic events with Cullen were well attended at both locations: Bobby Henry Memorial Pool and YMCA. The Delta EDC would like to graciously thank the City of Greenville's Mayor and City Council, the Washington County Board of Supervisors, Washington County Sheriff's Department, ALL of our contributors and community partners for making this event a lasting one in the lives of our children. As a result of this event, the Greenville Park and Recreation Commission has created a special line item for monetary donations towards the Bobby Henry Memorial Pool's renovations. Please contact Sherron Kirk, Community Development Director, at 662-378-3141 for additional information concerning this project, as well as other community development projects.



Cullen Jones teaching a youngster to swim.

### YOUR TOWN, MISSISSIPPI WORKSHOP

Lorenzo Anderson, Interim Engineer Director for the city of Greenville; Sherron D. Kirk, Community Development Director of Delta EDC; and Marcus Young, Senior Project Leader of Delta EDC learned all about proper community planning and design at the first Your Town, Mississippi workshop held at Lake Tiak O'Khata recently. Anderson, Kirk, and Young attended two-and-one-half days of interactive presentations and worked with a team to plan a hypothetical town. After attending this intensive workshop, many participants returned home to emphasize the linkage of planning with long-term economic viability to their communities.



Lorenzo Anderson, Sherron D. Kirk, and Marcus Young complete the Your Town, Mississippi workshop.

Sponsored by the Mississippi State University (MSU) Community Action Team along with The Montgomery Institute, the Mississippi Development Authority, and the Mississippi Main Street Association, this highly participatory workshop provided Anderson, Kirk,

and Young and 36 other civic and community leaders plenty of technical advice, inspiration, and hands-on training.

Your Town, Mississippi is a direct response to the uncertain future of Mississippi's small towns – a future increasingly threatened by large scale changes in our economy, population shifts, the impact of telecommunications and mass merchandising, and changes in land use policy. Because of these uncertainties, communities find themselves struggling to maintain their vitality and even their sense of identity. Planning and design decisions can make the difference between a community declining or competing in today's global climate.

For more information, contact the MSU Community Action Team at (662) 325-6703 or visit [www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu).

### MVSU 2010 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE CHANGES

The Mississippi Valley State Department (MVSU) of Athletics announced changes to its 2010 football schedule, according to the MVSU's website ([www.mvsu.edu/athletics/football](http://www.mvsu.edu/athletics/football)). "The Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, City of Greenville along with members from the MVSU Greenville Alumni Association reached out to the athletic department regarding the possibility of hosting contests," said Interim Athletic Director Donald Sims. The Delta Economic Development Center of Washington County, the City of Greenville, Washington County Board of Supervisors, Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, MVSU's Greenville Alumni Association, Greenville Public School District, and the entire business community and citizens of Washington County are excited to host three (3) home games in Greenville, MS.

We modestly extend heartfelt thanks to Dr. Donna Oliver, President of MVSU; Mr. Donald Sims, Interim Athletic Director of MVSU; Mr. Archie Tucker, Jr., Interim Executive Director of University Advancement; Ms. Glenda Ransom, Director of Activities; ALL of MVSU's administrators, faculty, staff, students, and graduates/alumni for choosing Greenville as your host site. We, as well as the business community, look forward to your visit and stay in Greenville and trust that it's the best experience ever. It is so befitting for MVSU to share the love of green/white with us because our name speaks volumes to the University's colors: Greenville and Green/White. We Believe in Greenville: a green and clean community where CUSTOMER SERVICE is our top priority.

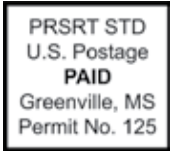
The MVSU 2010 Football Schedule for Greenville is:

- **October 2, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.** ~ MVSU vs. Prairie View A&M (Homecoming). Festivities will begin in the port city of Greenville on Thursday, September 31, 2010.
- **October 23, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.** ~ MVSU vs. Grambling State University
- **November 13, 2010 @ 1:00 p.m.** ~ MVSU vs. Alabama A&M.

All aforementioned games will be held at Greenville Weston High School ~ Charles Kerg Field, Greenville, MS. We will notify you if there are any changes to the proposed football schedule above. Thank you in advance for your participation and continued support.



**THE DELTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
342 Washington Ave. • Suite 201  
P.O. Box 933  
Greenville, MS 38702



**Being a DEDC and Chamber member have a lot of perks. One of them includes being a part of something BIG that affects your community!  
Join one of our Center Committees and make a difference!**

**CENTER COMMITTEES:** • *Government Affairs • Healthcare • Education • Ambassadors*  
• *Retail & Financial Services • Workforce Development • Transportation & Infrastructure*

**JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- July 1-30 Delta Collects: Portraits 2.....E.E. Bass Cultural Arts Center
- July 3 Tracy Lawrence performs .....Harlow’s Casino & Resort
- July 3 Greenville Celebrates America .....Schelben Park
- July 4 4th of July Picnic..... Washington County Welcome Center
- July 11 Gospel Concert ..... Washington County Convention Center
- July 12-16 Winterville Adventures..... Winterville Mounds
- July 18 Gospel Concert ..... Washington County Convention Center
- July 21 Delta State University Small .....Delta Economic Development Center  
Business Workshop: How to Hire  
the Best Employees
- July 23-24 1st Annual Lake Washington .....Lake Washington Southern Star  
Bike Rally Bait-N-Thangs
- July 25 WWISCAA Food Festival..... Washington County Convention Center

**AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Aug. 6-31 Delta State University  
Art Department Faculty Show .....E.E. Bass Cultural Arts Center
- Aug. 18 Delta State University Small.....Delta Economic Development Center  
Business Workshop: Communication: Listening  
and Hearing are Different Concepts
- Aug. 29 Fall Fashion Show ..... Washington County Convention Center

**SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Sept. 1-17 Delta State University Art.....E.E. Bass Cultural Arts Center  
Department Faculty Show
- Sept. 4 Annual Mississippi Jazz ..... Edwards Center at 749 Main Street  
and Heritage Festival & Southern Whispers
- Sept. 8 Blues Festival Event..... Washington County Welcome Center  
at the Welcome Center
- Sept. 11-17 Delta Blues Week ..... Nelson Street
- Sept. 18 Mississippi Delta Blues ..... Washington County Convention Center  
and Heritage Festival 2010
- Sept. 24-30 Delta Artist Association.....E.E. Bass Cultural Arts Center

**2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN**  
**Kim Dowdy**  
*Dowdy Dental Clinic*

**VICE-CHAIRMAN**  
**Cindy Ayers, CEO**  
*Footprints 2010*

**TREASURER**  
**Harvey Tackett, CPA**  
*Tackett & Associates*

**Suresh Chawla**  
*Chawla Hotels, Inc.*

**Andy Dixon**  
*Guaranty Bank*

**Mazie Whalen, Interim CEO**  
*Delta Regional Medical Center*

**Victor McTeer, Chairman**  
*McTeer & Associates*

**Paul Watson, President**  
*Washington County Board of Supervisors*

**Jack Turnipseed**  
*DPL Management*

**Mayor Heather Hudson** | *City of Greenville*

**Mayor Corey Holmes** | *City of Metcalfe*

**Mayor James Lowe** | *City of Leland*

**Mayor Melvin Willis** | *City of Hollandale*

**Mayor Cora Burnside** | *City of Arcola*