



THRIVE2023

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St. Tammany Corporation Welcomes New Research Fellow to Support Land & Sites, Research, and Strategic Initiatives

Organization Increases Staff Capacity as Part of THRIVE2023 – St. Tammany’s Five-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan

MANDEVILLE, La – Today, Chris Masingill, CEO of the St. Tammany Corporation, is pleased to announce that Catherine Walker joins the Economic Development Organization as its new Research Fellow.

The opportunity to create the Research Fellowship Program was identified as an initiative in *THRIVE2023*, St. Tammany’s Five-Year Economic Development Strategic Plan, and its main objective is to create an opportunity for an emerging young professional who has interest in the economic development field to gain versatile work experience in a high-performing, high-functioning economic development organization.

During the tenure of her 300-hour fellowship, Walker will work under the direction of Research & Policy Analyst and Project Associate for Strategic Initiatives Elizabeth Lee, collecting, organizing, tracking, interpreting, and reporting on selected economic indicators for the purposes of marketing, educating, and promoting the community. Additionally, she will provide staff support for economic development activities using tools such as Salesforce, GeoThinQ, Louisiana Commercial Database, Emsi, Entergy’s Buildings and Sites database, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and others.

“I am excited to have Catherine join our efforts to continue to make St. Tammany the destination of choice for business formation, attraction, retention, and expansion,” said Masingill. “She will add a great deal of capacity to our team through her engagement with our business intelligence and market research services, which enhance our competitiveness as an economic development organization.”

“I am thrilled to be back home, doing something meaningful and impactful,” said Walker. “This community has been the one that has raised me, and I am thrilled for the opportunity to give back to the community that has given so much to me.”

Prior to accepting this fellowship at St. Tammany Corporation, Walker graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi in May with a Master of Business Administration and graduate certificate in Economic Development. While pursuing her master's degree, she worked as a graduate assistant for the Southern Miss Activities Council in the Office of Leadership and Student Involvement. Additionally, Walker sat on the College of Business and Economic Development Dean's Student Advisory Council, serving as vice president, and was a graduate student representative for the Dean of Student's Conduct Hearing Panel.

Walker is a longtime resident of St. Tammany Parish, graduating from St. Scholastica Academy in 2015. She is excited to return to the community she was raised in and is looking forward to helping her community strive for a better tomorrow.

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About St. Tammany Corporation: St. Tammany Corporation is the economic development organization for St. Tammany. Our vision is to strategically align the economic landscape in St. Tammany to be the destination of choice for highly skilled talent, business formation, attraction, expansion, and retention. To support this vision, St. Tammany Corporation provides business and technical assistance in a variety of areas including financial and incentive services, site selection assistance, business intelligence and market research, marketing and communications, and workforce development. Since July 2018, St. Tammany Corporation has helped to directly facilitate multiple major expansions of existing businesses, representing over \$48 million in capital investment and the creation of approximately 374 new jobs.

