



Quarter 2 - News & Events - June 2020

From the Director

Looking Ahead

I hope all of you are well as we continue to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. As the weeks go by, I often wonder what life will be like after COVID-19. I have participated in countless ZOOM meetings, had discussions with my counterparts from around the state/region, and read many articles on how we should respond and recover from this crisis. Along with other economic developers, I am anxious to see how this pandemic has impacted economic development and the site selection process in particular. An article in *Site Selection* magazine suggests some interesting takeaways from the COVID-19 crisis:

- COVID-19 will be a catalyst for restoring manufacturing jobs back to the United States from China and elsewhere.
- Communities will implement aggressive marketing campaigns to distinguish themselves in the competition for jobs and new industry.
- COVID-19 will forge a resurgence of relocations to rural areas such as the Mississippi Delta; densely populated urban areas have become hotspots for COVID-19.
- Unheard of low interest rates and an over-abundance of job seekers eager to go back to work will kick start many site selection projects that have been put on hold prior to COVID-19.

We are not sure what post COVID-19 will look like for economic development. State leaders are predicting a long, slow economic recovery. Whatever the case may be, our community will be ready for business.

Continue to stay safe and well.

Angela Curry

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CONTACT US:

402 HWY 82 WEST
P.O. BOX 26
GREENWOOD, MS 38930
P: (662) 453.5321
F: (662) 453.8003

Angela Curry, Executive Director
ACURRY@GREENWOODMS.COM

May McCarty, Marketing
MMCCARTY@GREENWOODMS.COM

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