



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Louisiana Edible Creations Center® to Open in May at Lamar-Dixon

AEDC and Parish/SMG sign sublease to create Louisiana's first food incubator in Ascension Parish

(Sorrento, April 20, 2006) Ascension Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) officials have signed a one year sublease with Ascension Parish and SMG officials for a 5,000 square foot commissary located at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales to create the Louisiana Edible Creations Center® (LECC), the first shared kitchen food incubator in Louisiana to grow the food processing industry within the State. The facility, pending state and local health permits, expects to begin receiving tenants in late May/early June.

The AEDC board had approved a resolution allowing AEDC President and CEO Tommy Kurtz to enter into final negotiations on the sublease with Parish/SMG Officials at their April 3rd board meeting. The one-year sublease runs from May 1, 2006-April 30, 2007 and rent will be paid by AEDC.

Charlie D'Agostino of Developmental Consulting, Inc. was retained by AEDC earlier this year to complete a feasibility study of the project. The study, whose findings were presented to the AEDC Board at their April 3rd meeting, indicated strong demand for the food incubator from potential tenants in both the Baton Rouge and New Orleans regions. The LECC, which is based on fifteen other food incubators around the country, will provide both the needed physical and technical support to launch new food processing companies in Ascension Parish and in the Baton Rouge region.

LSU AgCenter, the LSU Food Science Department, and the LSU Business and Technology Center will provide needed technical support to tenants operating in the LECC.

AEDC officials have created a charitable foundation for the corporation, the Ascension Economic Development Foundation, to raise funds for the incubator and have more than \$45,000 in grant and corporate contribution requests pending to supplement financial operations at the LECC.

AEDC officials have one major catering tenant who has already signed a rental agreement for the facility and have more than four additional tenants who are applying for admission into the facility.

Edie Michel, AEDC's Director of Business Development, will coordinate the LECC project. Tenants interested in renting space within the LECC can call Edie at 225-675-1750 and can download applications on line at: <http://www.ascensionedc.com/ediblecreations.html>.

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