



LOUISIANA TECHNOLOGY PARK

CEO OF LOUISIANA TECHNOLOGY PARK STEPS DOWN

Eddie Ashworth to serve as Undersecretary of Louisiana Department of Social Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Sarah Kracke
sarah@sarahkracke.com
[504] 289-3537

BATON ROUGE, LA [March 14, 2008]—*Research Park Corporation* (RPC) today announces the official resignation of its President and *Louisiana Technology Park's* (LTP) inaugural CEO, Eddie Ashworth. Effective April 07, 2008, Ashworth will assume the role of Undersecretary for the *Louisiana Department of Social Services*. That position oversees DSS's Office of Management and Finance, which is responsible for fiscal services, human resources, information services, budget, support services and emergency preparedness.

Ashworth's replacement has not been named but RPC's Executive Committee has made LTP's Vice President Stephen Loy, interim president. "Eddie has established a remarkable asset for the state," says Chairman of the *Louisiana Technology Park* Board Terrell Brown. "We are grateful for his dedication and commitment to its success and hope he will remain involved with RPC in a volunteer capacity."

Ashworth was recruited from Alabama in 2000 to lead the Research Park Corporation. As president of RPC, Ashworth tenaciously spearheaded the development of LTP and RPC's purchase of Bon Carré. Today, under the ownership group of local community leaders, including the Baton Rouge Area Foundation's real estate investment trust—the majority owner and property manager—Bon Carré is complete and 86% occupied. And while it wasn't part of Ashworth's original plan for RPC to own 25% of the 900,000 square foot complex, it provides a steady stream of income for the incubator.

As CEO of the LTP, Ashworth has worked tirelessly on behalf of the technology community. He spearheaded their support for reinstatement of the CAPCO program in Louisiana and today 10% of all new monies raised by certified capital companies must be invested in early-stage technology start-ups. As a result, the *Louisiana Technology Fund* was established in partnership with the CAPCOs and Louisiana's four research parks, creating a \$3 million pool of investment resources for Louisiana's entrepreneurs. In addition, Ashworth helped broker over \$6 million in savings for the State of Louisiana when *Network Technology Group* purchased the data center assets of *Solid Systems*.

"I have enjoyed and been rewarded by my tenure with The *Louisiana Technology Park* (LTP) and am confident I leave a strong organization capable of supporting Louisiana's technology entrepreneur's for generations to come," says Eddie Ashworth.

Prior to LTP, Eddie was executive director of the *Southern Poverty Law Center*, a renowned charitable organization whose mission is to defend civil rights of racial and ethnic minorities and promote tolerance in America. As executive director, Ashworth set and executed policies for the Center in addition to developing and directing all projects related to operations. Ashworth was also responsible for commissioning acclaimed Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer Maya Lin to design the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama. Today, it is second only to the State Capitol as a tourist attraction for the city.

Says *Louisiana Department of Social Services* Secretary Ann Williamson, “His unique blend of strengths will be a strategic asset for the department. He combines keen business acumen with a fundamental passion for social justice—a rare combination to possess.”

The *Louisiana Technology Park* (LTP) is an incubator for technology-oriented companies and is located in the Bon Carré Business Center on Florida Boulevard in Baton Rouge. The business incubator was created in 2001 to bring promising, emerging technology companies and their products and services to market faster and more effectively. Companies chosen for the program have access to cutting-edge software and hardware, high-speed Internet access, commercial data center usage and first-class business advice. LTP is a wholly owned subsidiary of *Research Park Corporation*. For more information, please visit www.latechpark.com.

-END-