

Welcome to North Louisiana!

Whether you are new to Lincoln Parish, contemplating a move to this area, or just visiting, I would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome from the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

We are very fortunate to have two great universities in our area. Louisiana Tech University is North Louisiana's only Carnegie Foundation Research University and is also North Louisiana's only Tier I National University. This institution continues to gain national recognition for its academics and athletics.

Grambling State University is a historically black public university. The school is home of the Eddie G. Robinson Museum and is listed on the Louisiana African American Heritage Trail. The Louisiana Board of Regents recently gave Grambling State University the green light to proceed with plans to establish the first undergraduate cybersecurity degree program in the state. The Board of Regents has also recently approved a new undergraduate nursing program for the institution.

Along with our universities, Lincoln Parish is home to one of the best mountain bike trails in American. The Lincoln Parish Park is a treasure for mountain bike lovers and non-cyclist as well. Backpacking, birding, hiking, camping, and swimming are other recreational opportunities for this destination.

Lincoln Parish is fortunate to have one of the top-rated golf courses in the South. Squire Creek Country Club is an eighteen holes championship course designed by Tom Fazio. The course has been rated 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state by Golf Digest.

Art is a very important part of the culture of Lincoln Parish. Along with having several local artists in the area, Ruston is home to the Ruston Dixie Center. This historic landmark houses the Northern Louisiana Arts Council and is a host site for many concerts, plays, and other community events.

Along with many great local restaurants, our downtown area continues to flourish and prosper with growth from new jobs coming to this area and the increasing number of college students from our local universities. We invite you to visit and see why so many residents in this area are proud to call Lincoln Parish their home.

Earl Smith, Chairman