



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN
MISSISSIPPI®

Economic Development News

Sponsored by The Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship

USM Names Henson New Director of the Trent Lott Center



Brian Henson brings a wealth of experience and a vision for success to his new position as Director of the Trent Lott Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM).

A native of Quitman, Miss. Henson has spent the past three years as Chief of Staff for the Delta Regional Authority – a federal-state partnership created by the U.S. Congress to promote and encourage economic development throughout the Mississippi River Delta and Alabama Black Belt regions. Prior to that appointment,

he served as the agency's Special Advisor for congressional and federal affairs.

As the Center's director, Henson will have overall administrative responsibility for developing and coordinating the University's economic development initiatives. In this leadership role, he will spearhead and conduct economic development and business research.

Henson views the Trent Lott Center as a catalyst for economic growth – one that can bridge the many assets of USM to business and industry while also helping to achieve optimum success.

View the full press release [here](#). You may contact Brian at Brian.Henson@usm.edu.

Strong USM Showing at the State Economic Developers Annual Conference



A delegation from USM attended the Exchange 2021 [Mississippi Economic Development Council](#) (MEDC) annual conference in Biloxi to reconnect in person with the economic development community. The conference is an opportunity for economic developers, chamber professionals, and industry partners to learn more about economic development trends, programs, and opportunities from the local, state, and global levels. MSED students including [Joseph Cambonga](#), [Faiyaz Hussain](#), [Florence Maillot](#), and [Abigail Douglas](#) were part of the USM team. The next MEDC conference is the MEDC Legislative Conference tentatively scheduled for February 2-3, 2022 in Jackson.

Alumni Spotlight with Zeke Baucum



A lifelong Mississippian, Zeb Vance “Zeke” Baucum IV was born in Jackson and raised in Laurel. After graduating from West Jones High School in 2009, Zeke followed in the footsteps of nearly a dozen of his family members and attended The University of Southern Mississippi. At USM, Zeke was a member of the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and majored in Healthcare Marketing.

While enrolled in the MSED program, Zeke worked as a graduate assistant, was a member of the Student Economic Development Association, and participated in the True South Economic Development Conference. During his time in the MSED program, Zeke developed an interest in the creative economy, community development, and entrepreneurship. In August 2015, he graduated with his MSED and enrolled in law school at the University of Mississippi. In law school, Zeke was a member of the Student Bar Association, the Federalist Society, and the Business Law Network. He worked on the Sports Law Review and the Business Law Forum (formerly known as the Business Law Newsletter), where he was also Articles Editor for the 2017-2018 school year. In May 2018, he graduated *cum laude* with his Juris Doctor. After passing the bar exam in September 2018, Zeke practiced law with a small firm in rural Mississippi for two years and opened Baucum Law Firm, PLLC, in September 2020.

Having opened Baucum Law Firm, PLLC during a pandemic, Zeke first established a virtual office, meeting with clients via Zoom or Facetime. Baucum Law Firm, PLLC opened a local office in Historic Downtown Laurel in April 2021. Zeke’s primary goal for Baucum Law Firm, PLLC is to build a practice where attorneys work to meet clients’ needs in a timely, cost-efficient, and transparent manner. Baucum Law Firm, PLLC’s client mix has developed into nearly equal parts Wills & Estates, Business Formation and Contracts, Titles & Deeds, and Family Law. Learn more about Baucum Law Firm, PLLC at www.baucumlawms.com or on Facebook and Instagram (@baucumlawms).

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Upcoming Events

[SBDC Workshops/Events](#)

Job Opportunities

[Economic Development Administrator](#)

Online

Economic Development Football Tailgate
September 18, 2021

[2021 True South Basic
Economic Development Course](#)

Hattiesburg, MS
September 20-23, 2021

[Advanced Economic Development
Leadership Academy](#)

Kauffman Conference Center
Kansas City, MO
November 8-11, 2021

MEDC Legislative Conference
February 2-3, 2022
Jackson, MS

City of Ruston
Ruston, LA

[Economic Development Director](#)
City of Roswell
Roswell, GA

[Director of Membership and Programs](#)
Crossroads Economic Partnership
Chamber Division
Clarksdale, MS

[Economic Research and Policy Analyst](#)
Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Baton Rouge, LA

