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**St. Tammany Corporation Recognized for Economic Excellence by International Economic Development Council for Sixth Consecutive Year
*Organization Earns Special Event and EDO of the Year Awards***

Mandeville, LA – St. Tammany Corporation has received two 2024 Excellence in Economic Development Awards from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The awards will be acknowledged and honored at the IEDC 2024 Annual Conference in Denver, CO, September 15-18.

St. Tammany Corporation was honored with the following awards for Economic Excellence:

- **GOLD:** NSpire Startup Slam Pitch Competition – Special Event (Population 200,000 to 500,000)
- **BRONZE:** St. Tammany Corporation – Economic Development Organization (EDO) of the Year (Population 200,000 to 500,000)

“St. Tammany Corporation is honored to be recognized by our peers with these two prestigious awards from the International Economic Development Council. These awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team and partners and underscore the importance of our mission to drive economic prosperity that enriches the lives of our residents, businesses, and future generations. We are committed to building upon this momentum to ensure lasting prosperity for our region,” said **Chris Masingill, CEO of St. Tammany Corporation.**

In November 2023, SStartUP Northshore announced that **Kinkz**, a natural hair care line based in Slidell, Louisiana, was the winner of a \$60,000 prize package of cash and services following the live showdown between the company and three other finalists in the first-ever NSpire Startup Slam pitch competition. This award-winning pitch competition represents SStartUP Northshore’s investment in building programs that support local entrepreneurs and cultivate the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem by delivering world-class programming, networking opportunities, access to capital, and mentorship from esteemed industry leaders, investors, and founders at little to no cost to the startups. The NSpire Startup Slam is coordinated and directed by St. Tammany Corporation’s SStartUP Northshore Entrepreneur in Residence and Program Manager Vincenzo Caronna.

"St. Tammany Corporation is setting the standard of excellence for economic development *with its NSpire Startup Slam event and its organizational sophistication as an EDO of the Year honoree*. These awards highlight St. Tammany Corporation's commitment to its community and demonstrates the transformative impact of economic development," said **Nathan Ohle, IEDC President and CEO**, "It is with great pride that IEDC presents these awards to St. Tammany Corporation, celebrating their leadership and innovation in the field of economic development."

Since 2018, St. Tammany Corporation has played a pivotal role in shaping St. Tammany Parish's economy by driving various strategic initiatives that stimulate economic success, attract investment, and enhance the quality of life for residents. St. Tammany Corporation successfully developed, adopted, and implemented its first five-year economic development strategic plan, THRIVE2023. Some of the organization's program of work includes: *Advance St. Tammany* – St. Tammany Corporation's multi-layered business assistance program intentionally designed to support the needs of St. Tammany businesses; *Northshore Healthscape* – a three-parish regional healthcare sector initiative; and the *Workforce Roundtable* – an education, workforce, and talent collaborative, and land and site development priorities. St. Tammany Corporation also earned the designation of Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) from the International Economic Development Council in January 2024.

"2024 has been a banner year for St. Tammany Corporation as the organization continues to evolve in sophistication and capacity. In January, the organization earned the Accredited Economic Development Organization certification through IEDC. Now, St. Tammany Corporation has been recognized as an Economic Development Organization of the year. We are proud of the work of the organization under the leadership of CEO Chris Masingill and look forward to continued advancement and success," stated **Dr. William Wainwright, St. Tammany Corporation Board President**.

Every year IEDC looks specifically for economic development organizations, government entities, initiatives, and programs that have demonstrated consistent, exemplary performance in the economic development profession, leading the execution of projects that have a significant impact on revitalizing communities, and playing a major role in shaping and improving the practice of economic development.

"We are absolutely thrilled to announce this year's award winners. These exceptional projects showcase remarkable dedication and ingenuity within the field," said **Kevin Kramer, Chair of IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards Advisory Committee**. "St. Tammany Corporation's contributions will leave a lasting impact and demonstrate its commitment to creating positive change for its residents."

IEDC is the largest nonprofit professional association for economic developers in the world, and these awards honor the world's best economic development marketing campaigns, projects and programs, and the year's most influential leaders. Awards are judged by a diverse panel of independent economic and community development subject matter experts from around the world, following a nomination process held earlier this year. These award categories honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change at all levels of economic development, including state, regional, and local communities.

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About St. Tammany Corporation: As the lead economic development organization for St. Tammany, St. Tammany Corporation serves as the comprehensive resource center for business services throughout the parish. St. Tammany Corporation's services include business retention, site selection, workforce development, research and data services, state and local incentives, business attraction, talent retention, certified site development, relocation support, and marketing St. Tammany. Since the organization's launch in 2018, St. Tammany Corporation facilitated business expansion and attraction announcements representing over \$286.1 million in capital investment and 2,246 new and retained jobs in St. Tammany Parish.

About the International Economic Development Council: The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,300 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities by creating, retaining, and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth, and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members engage in the full range of economic development practices. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in various settings, including local, state, provincial, and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities, and a variety of other institutions. When IEDC succeeds, its members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. Learn more at www.iedconline.org today!