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NEWS RELEASE

Monroe Chamber Announces Retirement of Sue Nicholson

Monroe-It is with regret and warm wishes that the Monroe Chamber Board of Directors announces the retirement of Sue Nicholson, President and CEO of the Monroe Chamber. Nicholson will remain in her current position until her successor is appointed. The Monroe Chamber Board of Directors has initiated a process to identify Nicholson's replacement and intends to have someone on board by the end of May. Nicholson is the second longest serving president in the 120-year history of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and is the organization's first female CEO.

"On behalf of the board, I want to thank Sue for her leadership and the significant contributions she has made to the growth and success of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce. Sue has been integral to the success and continuity of the Chamber for the past sixteen years," said Chairman of the Board John Landry. "Sue's leadership and organizational expertise will be missed. The board and management team are committed to ensuring a smooth transition, and we are grateful that the chamber will continue to benefit from Sue's experience and perspective throughout the transition."

"The Monroe Chamber has evolved significantly since I began in 2005, and I have been honored to lead the organization as President and CEO," Nicholson said. "After sixteen years with the Chamber, I believe now is the right time for it to evolve to the next phase of leadership. I intend to work closely with the board to help successfully transition to a new CEO."

During her tenure, Nicholson prioritized forging strong relationships with the Chamber's member businesses. Under her leadership, the Chamber pursued impactful partnerships with area governmental bodies, educational providers, and foundations and nonprofit organizations. The variety and depth of these collaborative endeavors, several supported by major grants secured by the Chamber, produced one of the most innovative and integrated workforce development efforts in the nation.

In addition, as the principal advocate for its business membership, the Chamber cemented its role as one of the area's primary watchdogs on regulatory and tax issues. The Chamber's advocacy efforts have been met with strong financial support from its members, and as a result, the organization's financial standing is as strong as it has been at any time in its history.

Nicholson has been active in statewide and area civic affairs for many years. She served on various boards and commissions under multiple governors, as well as on numerous boards in Ouachita Parish, including those of ARCO, Volunteers of America, Boy Scouts, and the Fourth Judicial Youth Services Board. She currently serves on the boards of the Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Business Bureau and the Region 81 Workforce Investment Board, which she chairs.

"Sue's leadership, commitment and dedication have been instrumental in moving our community forward," said Landry.