



CHAMBER CONNECTION

A publication of the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce



APRIL 2021

Ashanti Mitchell

receives award for

#EverydayExcellence

An Everyday Excellence winner is a person who regularly goes above and beyond in doing their job.

This person chooses to give it their all in a way that brings positivity to their fellow man. The Chamber awards the 2021 first-quarter honor to Ashanti

Mitchell at Sonic on Highway 33 in Ruston.

Multiple shout-outs on Facebook left no doubt that Ashanti embodies the spirit of doing more than



what's necessary and assuring that Sonic customers have a positive experience. You may not know him by name, but you know who someone is talking about when they say "that guy at Sonic North who brings a smile to your face."

Read more...

**EVERYDAY
EXCELLENCE**

Thanks to Sonic's manager, Heath Gilbert, a surprise presentation to Ashanti was made on March 22. In addition to a yard sign proclaiming, "Everyday Excellence Winner Works Here" and a certificate of appreciation, he received a \$50 Visa gift card from NLMC, a \$50 Visa gift card from Sonic, \$25 gift card from Uptown Downtown, and a Ruston t-shirt from Experience Ruston CVB. More pictures can be viewed on Facebook @RustonChamber.

Nominate someone by emailing iflowers@rustonlincoln.org.



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If you would like information on joining the Chamber contact Ashley at asmith@rustonlincoln.org or 255-2031.

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Leadership Lincoln's March focus was on Industry. Our parish is fortunate to have many classifications of industry and the group became familiar with several of them. They began the day at the Visitors Center where they were treated with breakfast and a brief presentation from Devin Davis, a Leadership Lincoln graduate from Southern AgCredit (financial industry) and his teammate, Kelly Coleman. Next, Chris Calhoun showed them the inner workings of the Railway Coffee roasting lab (food industry).

Allison Lee showed them around at the first manufacturing industry stop, Frosty Factory of America.

(Frosty Factory is on the cusp of beginning a 36,000, fully conditioned sq. ft. expansion.) From here they attended a ribbon cutting ceremony and lunch at Delta Broadband (telecommunications industry). Lunch was provided by Delta Broadband from KaceeDillas food truck and Uptown Downtown.

Following lunch, Crystal Richard and Celeste Traylor enlightened them on the industry of news media at the Ruston Daily Leader, where the presses have been running for more than 120 years. They then went to Walmart to learn more about the retail industry from Chantel Coleman. Finishing off the travel portion of the day with more manufacturing, they met with James Roberts and Josh Raymond to tour Andritz Fabrics & Rolls (formerly Xerium). When they returned to the Visitors Center they discussed their class project which involves assisting the Ruston Community Men's Shed with marketing and preparing for the spring ShedFest Makers Market.

For a list of program sponsors please visit our [website](#). More photos on Facebook [@RustonChamber](#).

If you would like information on applying for Leadership Lincoln XXXV which will begin in September 2021, please visit our website, RustonLincoln.org or contact Ashley Smith at 255-2031 or asmith@rustonlincoln.org.



SPOTLIGHT ON

Ambassador

KRISTI GREER

ACADEMY MORTGAGE CORPORATION

MORTGAGE LOAN OFFICER

KRISTI.GREER@ACADEMYMORTGAGE.COM

WHAT MOTIVATES ME TO WORK HARD?

Having a goal to meet; I like having goals and achieving them.

WHAT IS MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT MY CAREER?

I love helping people achieve home ownership and helping them through the process. Everyone deserves to have a place of their own!

WHAT DID I WANT TO BE WHEN I WAS YOUNG?

A retail store owner. I somewhat had the experience, I was shoes and accessories buyer for Lewis' Boutique for 6 years. It was fun going to market and spending someone else money.

IF I COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHAT YEAR WOULD I TRAVEL TO?

Looking back through the years, you learn things from mistakes and accomplishments and make wiser decisions. Even though I would like to go back to be younger, I wouldn't want to relive some lessons I have learned. I would only go back to have more time with my grandparents and get more advice from them, time with them was too short!

WHAT IS MY PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT?

My son, he is my miracle baby! I don't know what I did to deserve him.

SAVE-THE-DATE

Grow with Google

*Seminar, May 19
Details Coming!*



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SPOTLIGHT ON

Board Member

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IF I COULD CHOOSE TO DO ANYTHING FOR A DAY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would fly fighter jets! Taking off and landing on a carrier would be the icing on the cake.

IF I COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHAT YEAR WOULD I TRAVEL TO?

I would go back to 1997 and play my last high school football season again.

WHAT WOULD I SING AT KARAOKE NIGHT?

Probably anything by Journey. I sound just like Steve Perry if it's loud enough and I can't hear myself.

WHAT DID I WANT TO BE WHEN I WAS YOUNG?

In 1st grade my dad was stationed at a Navy base in Millington, TN. There were Marines on base and I would watch them from the front porch as they ran in formation and sang cadence. The first time I saw that, I knew I would be a Marine one day. I enlisted when I was 22, months after 9/11.

WHAT'S MY FAVORITE FAMILY RECIPE?

My all time favorite is my grandmas apple pie, made from scratch. The smiley face she would cut into the top of the crust made it that much better!

DO I PREFER TO LISTEN TO THE RADIO, PODCASTS, OR OTHER?

I make my own playlists and listen to whichever one fits my mood at the given time. I used to make mix tapes by recording the radio when my favorite songs came on. It's so much easier now!

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



BEAU VINES
steakhouse

Tuesday, April 27
5-6:30pm
2647 S. Service Rd. W.

WELCOME New Ambassadors



Kathy Crowder

Crowder Concepts
crowderconcepts@gmail.com



Chris Gantt

Princeton Place
318.245.3887
cgantt@paramounthcla.com



Janet Wilson

Boys and Girls Clubs of NCL
jwilson@bgcofnl.org

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Ribbon Cuttings

More photos on Facebook [@RustonChamber](#).



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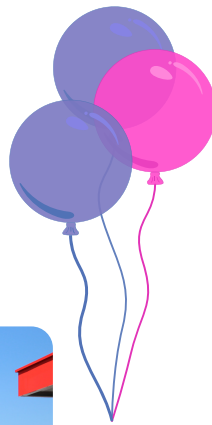
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RUSTON KIWANIS CLUB 2020/2021 OUTSTANDING AWARDS



Each year, the Ruston Kiwanis Club recognizes an outstanding Lincoln Parish individual in the professions of law enforcement, education, and fire fighting. Congratulations to the 2020-21 recipients!



Chance Hankins
Ruston Fire Department
Outstanding Fire Fighter

Chance was born in Texas, growing up in the Ft. Worth and San Antonio areas before moving to Louisiana, where he graduated from Kilbourne High School in 2007. Chance began his career as a firefighter in 2016 when he joined the Ruston Fire Department. He attended the LSU Fire & Emergency Training Institute and graduated as the class Valedictorian in 2016 and received certifications as

[Read more...](#)



Kellye Ketchum
A. E. Phillips
Outstanding Educator

Kellye Auger grew up in Union Parish, born and raised in Farmerville and is a member of a family with a long line of teachers and educators. She graduated from Farmerville High School and then attended Louisiana Tech University, graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors in 2001. Right after graduation, Kellye married Troy Ketchum and suddenly became Mrs. Ketchum to a lively group of 6th graders.

[Read more...](#)



Tyler Edmiston
Deputy, LP Sheriff's Dept.
Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer

Cory Tyler Edmiston is a native of Lincoln Parish where he was born and grew up attending Lincoln Parish schools. He attended Ruston High School where he played baseball for the Bearcats and graduated in 2006. After high school, Tyler attended Bossier Parish Community College for a short time and also began working at Lowe's where he worked his way up to an assistant store manager from 2007 to 2013.

[Read more...](#)

These awards and others will be presented at the 101st Annual Chamber Banquet, which will be scheduled when COVID restrictions are eased.

Happy Anniversary

April

20+ YEARS

Mary Kay Cosmetics - Ruby Garner

10+ YEARS

Bon Chasse Properties, Inc.

Fine Line Supply Co.

Scott's Catfish of Ruston



5+ YEARS

AROS

Crumbs Catering

Gumbeaux Productions

Holiday Inn Express/Sunrise Hospitality

Ruston Farmers Market/North LA Farm Fresh

State Farm Insurance - Kim Dupree

Whataburger

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We wish you all a happy membership anniversary! We appreciate you and look forward to many more years!



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March Happenings!

- April 1 Ribbon Cutting, Park Haus, 2pm *New Business*
- April 2 Good Friday *Chamber will be closed.*
- April 4 Have a blessed Easter!
- April 6 Ambassadors Meeting
- April 8 Leadership Lincoln *Media & Diversity Day*
- April 8 Ribbon Cutting, Paisley Peach Gifts & Boutique, 10am *New Business*
- April 13 Ground Breaking, Frosty Factory, 10am *36,000 sq.ft. Expansion*
- April 22 Ribbon Cutting, Louisiana Orchard Realty, 10am *New Business*
- April 27 Business After Hours at Beau Vines @ The Revelry, 5-6:30pm



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AROS



Thank you Jenifer Johnson & Team at Trio's Dining - Ruston for hosting a great **Business After Hours** in March! Food, drinks, and company was great!

NEXT:
BEAU VINES @ THE REVELRY
APRIL 27, 5-6:30PM



More photos on Facebook [@RustonChamber](https://www.facebook.com/RustonChamber).

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