



**Central Louisiana Regional Port**

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**CENTRAL LA REGIONAL PORT HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - (Alexandria, LA)

September 10, 2020 - The Central Louisiana Regional Port (CLRP) Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce their new Executive Director Mr. Ben Russo. Mr. Russo joins the Port with experience in governmental affairs, corporate strategy, economic development, marketing, and business development, to name a few.

Board President, Terry Spruill stated, “Ben’s experience will add significantly to the Ports ability to create opportunities for growth; we are excited to have him join the Central Louisiana Regional Port.”

According to Personnel Committee Chairman Basil Smith, “After the tragic death of our Executive Director Blake Cooper, the Board of Commissioners was tasked with finding a new executive director. There was an overwhelming response to our search and the Personnel Committee along with the Board of Commissioners took this task very seriously. We are thrilled to announce Mr. Ben Russo will be joining the Port’s team as Executive Director beginning October 1, 2020. We look forward to utilizing his experience and expertise as the Port continues to grow.”

Mr. Ben Russo commented, “I am extremely honored and excited to be given the opportunity to advance the Central Louisiana Regional Port’s objectives. All the while, helping the area where I grew up and live.”

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About the Central Louisiana Regional Port (CLRP):

Originally created in 1988, the Central Louisiana Regional Port is located off US I-49 at mile 90 on the Red River. The Port provides access to Union Pacific and KCS Railroads, Interstate 49, U.S. Highways 71, 165, 167 and Louisiana Highways 1 and 28. Alexandria International Airport is located approximately 3 miles away. Primary cargoes include inbound and outbound fertilizer, military cargo, aggregates, citric acid, equipment, bio- carbon and fuels. During the 2015 Regular Legislative Session, the Port was made a parish-wide public entity and renamed as the Central Louisiana Regional Port. The CLRP Commission is comprised of individuals appointed by the City of Alexandria, RPPJ, City of Pineville, and the Town of Boyce.