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## Shreveport-Bossier City area moves up in Forbes ranking

*From Staff Reports*

Local leaders credit hard work with Shreveport-Bossier City's recent listing as one of the top metro area's for business.

Forbes.com ranks the area as No. 8 among 333 mid-sized cities for jobs in 2009. The 2008 spot was No. 59.

Joel Kotkin, a Forbes analyst, credited the job stability of the natural gas industry and its accessible port in helping it survive the recession.

James L. Pannell, president of Port of Shreveport-Bossier's commission, said his group is seeing the reward of getting the area's name out years ago.

"We spend less time now going out looking for business and more time evaluating the opportunities that are coming to us," he said. He noted the addition of Pratt Industries' recycling plant that could have been bound for the Dallas area.

Elected leaders also took note.

"To break the top 100 is quite significant," Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover said. "What Forbes is seeing is the commitment and unyielding hard work of city leaders, business leaders and our citizens to make Shreveport-Bossier a more attractive and valuable place to live and prosper."

Bossier City Mayor Lo Walker credited job market diversity.

"We are pleased to earn this distinction from such a reputable business publication," Walker said. "This high ranking shows that Bossier City and Shreveport have a lot to offer in the realm of economic development."

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