

**Alan Barefield**

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Alan Barefield is an Extension Professor with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. His primary role is to facilitate economic and community development educational programming efforts in the state of Mississippi. Specific areas addressed include business and entrepreneurship development, community economic and social analysis, business retention and expansion, and community infrastructure development and analysis. Barefield has received the BREI Distinguished Service Award in 2010 and the Master Business and Retention Professional designation in 2011. Barefield has had several service roles with Business Retention and Expansion International including serving as a member of and current chair of the BREI Education Committee, rewriting the curricula for the BREI Fundamentals Course with Kathy Tweeten and developing curricula for several BREI Continuing Education courses.

Jason Guidry

Director, Trade and International Partnerships
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Jason has over fifteen years of economic development experience, in the fields of BRE, sector development, and investment attraction & foreign direct investment. In addition, Jason has experience in the private sector in the banking and investment brokerage fields. Jason holds a BREP designation and has served two terms on the board of directors with Business Retention and Expansion, and is currently president-elect, starting his term in June 2021.

His strength is working one-on-one with businesses to help connect them to the resources and partners they need to succeed and prosper. He uses his public and private sector experience in business retention and expansion, investment attraction, and sector development to make Halifax a welcoming place for businesses, and assists with their integration into the Halifax business community. Jason's Acadian roots give him the ability to serve businesses in both French and English.

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Devon Meadowcroft

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Devon Meadowcroft is an Assistant Professor for the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University. She began work at Mississippi State in August 2020 and is based out of the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, MS. Devon's work is primarily in rural development and health. Originally from New Jersey, Devon completed her Master's degree at the University of Delaware and her Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.