



Mississippi Economic Development Council, Inc.
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PRESS RELEASE

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TOWN OF ELLISVILLE WINS COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The Town of Ellisville was the winner of a Community Economic Development Award (CEDA) in recognition of The PRIDE Program: Progress, Reinvigorated in Determined Ellisville at the Mississippi Economic Development Council 2010 Summer Conference in Biloxi. The CEDA honors communities throughout Mississippi for their efforts to advance their economic viability through economic and community development programs during the 2008 calendar year.

Mayor Tim Waldrup accepted the award. He was joined by Mitch Stennett, president, Economic Development Authority of Jones County who nominated the project.

What started with an ambitious goal of citizen planning under a newly-elected mayor in the small city of Ellisville, with a population of 3,465 in 2001, led to this year's CEDA winner. Dubbed by Mayor Tim Waldrup as the PRIDE Program, "Progress Reinvigorated in Determined Ellisville," the volunteer committee planning process showed concrete results in 2009: a new fire station, an enhanced industrial access road, a new "hardened" Multi-Purpose Center, a new Library and comprehensive water and sewer improvements.

Mayor Waldrup, with strong support from the Board of Aldermen, county officials, business leaders and everyday citizens, worked tirelessly to acquire over \$3,412,000 in grant funds for these improvements. Matched by local and private-sector funding of over \$1.5 million, all five improvements had measured objectives. Secondary benefits were exponential and prepared the City for new business growth.

The City of Ellisville has engaged its citizens in forward-thinking, proactive endeavors that have led to modernization and new facilities. Many localities can claim they have "the best of both worlds" – small town charm and larger city amenities – but few can live up to that. Ellisville CAN, as it continues to grow in a sustainable manner, consciously involving its citizens and thereby retaining its "small town" livability.

"MEDC is proud to honor this outstanding community and the people who have been involved in the planning and implementation of this worthwhile project," said Carol Hardwick, Executive Director. "We applaud their commitment to excellence in moving their communities forward."

The Mississippi Economic Development Council is an association of community and economic development and chamber of commerce professionals from across the state. MEDC members work closely with state and local government officials to improve the state's competitiveness in the pursuit of new jobs. Programs are sponsored to educate community leaders regarding the mechanics of economic and industrial development. MEDC encourages professionalism among its members through its conferences, workshops and meetings and by awarding scholarships for courses in chamber, community and economic development.

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