



Mississippi Economic Development Council, Inc.
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PRESS RELEASE

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GRENADA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT WINS COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The Grenada County Economic Development District was the winner of a Community Economic Development Award (CEDA) in recognition of the development and implementation of their economic development district strategic plan 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.

Pablo Diaz, Executive Director of the Grenada County Economic Development District, accepted the award. John Wesley, economic development project manager, Entergy Mississippi, nominated the project.

The Grenada County EDD is the official economic development arm of the county and city of Grenada. They brought together all constituencies in Grenada County to develop an asset-based economic development strategic plan. The goal was to effectively market Grenada's many industrial assets for economic development projects in the southeastern United States.

The strategic plan called for the hiring of a professional economic developer and the immediate development of a new identity for Grenada County that could be embraced by locals and compelling to prospects. Three months before formal completion of the strategic plan, the Grenada EDD hired Pablo Diaz as Grenada's first professional economic developer.

In November of 2009, the Grenada business community came together to receive a final report. In less than 3 months, EDD staff had developed a new image for the community and a professional economic development website that integrates the latest technologies available to facilitate prospect interaction and project management. The website is translated into Japanese, German and Spanish, offers a data center in accordance with the IEDC guidelines, and is compatible with iPhone and other handheld devices. In addition, and with the support of the Mississippi Development Authority, the EDD announced two expansions in their first few months of operations creating 60 jobs and at least 1.5 million dollars in new investment in the community.

"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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