



Mississippi Economic Development Council, Inc.
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PRESS RELEASE

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TUPELO AND LEE COUNTY WIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The City of Tupelo and Lee County were the winners of a Community Economic Development Award (CEDA) in recognition of the Manufacturing Solutions Center 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.

Dr. David Cole, Executive Director of the Manufacturing Solution Center, accepted the award. He was joined by Todd Beadles, vice president of the Community Development Foundation which nominated the project.

In 2009, Itawamba Community College (ICC) created the Manufacturing Solutions Center to aid manufacturers in these taxing times. By incorporating the WIN Job Center into the facility, the Manufacturing Solutions Center is truly a one-stop-shop focused on providing industries with all of the tools necessary to be competitive in this ever-changing global marketplace.

A partnership between ICC, the Mississippi Department of Employment Services (MDES), Three Rivers Planning & Development District (TRPDD), Lee County Board of Supervisors, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Mississippi (MEP), the local Workforce Development Board, and local economic development groups, the Manufacturing Solutions Center is a 250,000 square foot facility, housed in the former Lane River Oaks furniture manufacturing facility. ICC received a \$3.7 million grant from the United States Department of Commerce to build out this facility that is the only one of its kind in the State of Mississippi. It is estimated that over 30,000 people came through the facility in 2009, providing over \$8,809,000 worth of technical assistance.

“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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