

DEVELOPMENTS

THE MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



FALL 2010

www.medic.ms

Officers & Directors 2010 - 2011:

President - Christy Knapp
Oxford-Lafayette County EDF, Oxford

President-Elect - Tom Troxler
RankinFirst Economic Dev. Authority, Brandon

VP - Chamber Dev. - Barbara Smith
Community Development Foundation, Tupelo

VP - Community Dev. - Blake Wallace
Hinds County Economic Dev. District, Jackson

VP - Economic Dev. - Cliff Brumfield
Brookhaven-Lincoln Co. Chamber/IDF, Brookhaven

Secretary/Treasurer - Tim Mood
Electric Power Associations of MS, Ridgeland

Immed. Past President - Larry S. Barnett
Harrison County Dev. Commission, Gulfport

Director - District 1 - Sonny Simmons
Panola Partnership, Inc., Batesville

Director - District 2 - Stephen Surles, Jr.
Tennessee Valley Authority, Tupelo

Director - District 3 - Judson Thigpen, III
Cleveland-Bolivar Co. Chamber

Director - District 4 - Jon Maynard
Gr. Starkville Dev. Partnership, Starkville

Director - District 5 - Taurus Wright
Entergy Mississippi, Inc., Jackson

Director - District 6 - J. Britt Herrin
Pike Co. Economic Dev. Dist./Chamber, McComb

Director - District 7 - Kathy Cloyd
Jeff. Davis Co. Community Dev. Assoc., Prentiss

Director - District 8 - Charlotte Koestler
Stone Co. Economic Dev. Partnership, Wiggins

Director - At-Large - Arnie Williams
Mississippi Power Company, Gulfport

Director - At-Large - Beth Stevens
Greenwood-Leflore Co. Chamber, Greenwood

MDA Exec. Director (ex officio) - Gray Swoope
Mississippi Dev. Authority, Jackson

MS SEDC Director - Lyn C. Arnold
Tunica County Chamber & EDF, Tunica

Alt. MS SEDC Director - Kim Richardson
N. MS Industrial Dev. Association, West Point

Committee Chairpersons:
Chamber Development - Barbara Smith
Community Development Foundation, Tupelo

CEDA - Blake Wallace
Hinds County Economic Dev. District, Jackson

Communications - Elizabeth Stanga
Mississippi Development Authority, Jackson

Conferences - Tom Troxler
RankinFirst Economic Dev. Authority, Brandon

Legislative - David Rumbarger
Community Development Foundation, Tupelo

Membership - Elizabeth Taylor
Mississippi Development Authority, Jackson

Scholarships - Joy Foy
Mississippi Development Authority, Jackson

Staff:

Executive Director and COO - Carol Hardwick
Manager, Member Services/Admin. - Chris Hinton

President's Notes



Christy Knapp
MEDC President

Greetings!

The count-down to cooler weather has begun, and with that comes the start of a new year for MEDC. This newsletter edition will introduce you to our new board members as well as acknowledge those who will be returning to serve MEDC for another year. My sincerest

thanks go to our exiting board members - Jack Zink, Sue Stidham and David Vowell - for their outstanding service and commitment to MEDC over the past year. MEDC's growth and success is due, in part, to the outstanding leadership and representation we have from quality professionals throughout our state. It is our goal this year, to continue to provide Mississippi economic development and chamber of commerce professionals with relevant programming that will enhance their professional development and ensure success in their individual communities.

Please watch for announcements regarding future member-to-member seminars, regional chamber workshops and, of course, our upcoming winter and summer conferences. Be sure to attend these seminars and conferences, and use these opportunities to network with your fellow professionals while continuing to expand your

Economic Development Headlines

[Congratulations to all involved with these successful projects. Read more about them at \[www.medic.ms\]\(http://www.medic.ms\).](#)

Columbus - Governor Haley Barbour announced **KiOR** of Houston, Texas, has agreed to invest \$500 million to build three facilities in Mississippi and create an estimated 1,000 jobs. The first, which will be located at the Port of Columbus on the southern tip of "the island," will employ approximately 50 workers on its 22-acre site.

Water Valley - Auto parts maker **BorgWarner Drivetrain Systems** has announced it will expand its operation in Water Valley, adding 120 new jobs by the end of 2012. Currently, the facility employs 300 workers.

knowledge of the newest trends in our profession. The more tools we have in our "toolbox" as we lead our communities out of this recession, the better!

Last, but not least, I wish to thank MEDC's Executive Director, Carol Hardwick, for the outstanding job she did along with Chris Hinton and Amy Wilson in planning and managing the MEDC Summer Conference in Biloxi this last July. I hope you all will join me in praising the efforts of our MEDC staff as they continue to provide quality services to our membership and outstanding support for our organization.

Warmest regards,
Christy

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MEDC Welcomes New Members:

Shanda Barrett

Director of Innovation Services
Center for Innovation-Led Econ. Development
Mississippi Technology Alliance
Ridgeland, MS

Bradley D. Batson

Director, Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce
Gulfport, MS

Karen Bishop

Bureau Manager
Stimulus
Mississippi Development Authority
Jackson, MS

Lela M. Bryan

Director, Jasper County Learning Center/
Chamber Manager
Bay Springs Chamber of Commerce
Bay Springs, MS

Stephanie Butler

Minority & Small Business Development
Mississippi Development Authority
Jackson, MS

Louise Cole

Mayor
City of Okolona
Okolona, MS

Robert Cordle, Jr.

Certified Public Accountant
Watkins, Ward and Stafford PLLC
Jackson, MS

Jason Creel

Economic Development Representative
Economic Development
Mississippi Power Company
Gulfport, MS

Rick Duke

Director
Trent Lott Center
University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS

Ward Emling

Film & Culture Manager
Tourism Development
Mississippi Development Authority
Jackson, MS

Joseph Fratesi

Interim Director
Mississippi State Community Action Team
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS

Alisha Frazier

Economic Development Representative
Economic Development
Mississippi Power Company
Meridian, MS

Leon Hays

Executive Director
Prentiss County Development Association
Booneville, MS

(continued on page 3)

MEDC Elects Officers and Directors

Congratulations to the 2010-2011 officers and the new board members elected at the Mississippi Economic Development Council Summer Conference.

Officers – October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011:



*Christy Knapp, Oxford
President*



*Tom Troxler, Brandon
President Elect*



*Barbara Smith, Tupelo
VP. Chamber Development*



*Blake Wallace, Jackson
VP. Community Dev.*



*Cliff Brumfield, Brookhaven
VP. Economic Dev.*



*Tim Mood, Ridgeland
Secretary / Treasurer*



*Larry S. Barnett, Gulfport
Immediate Past-President*

Directors elected to serve October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2012:



*Stephen Surlis, Jr., Tupelo
District 2*



*Judson Thigpen III, Cleveland
District 3*



*Jon Maynard, Starkville
District 4*



*J. Britt Herrin, McComb
District 6*



*Charlotte Koestler, Wiggins
District 8*

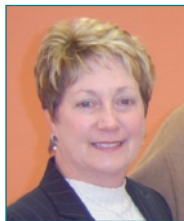
Directors serving October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2011



*Sonny Simmons, Batesville
District 1*



*Taurus Wright, Jackson
District 5*



*Kathy Cloyd, Prentiss
District 7*



*Arnie Williams, Gulfport
At-Large*

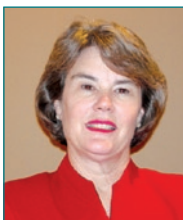


*Beth Stevens, Greenwood
At-Large*

Ex-officio Directors:



*Gray Swoope
MDA Executive Director*



*Lyn Arnold
Mississippi SEDC Director*



*Kim Richardson
Alt. MS SEDC Director*

Hardwick Earns Certified Association Executive Credential



*Carol Hardwick
Executive Director & COO*

The American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) has announced that Carol Hardwick, Executive Director/COO of the Mississippi Economic Development Council (MEDC) has earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE™) credential.

Hardwick was honored by the ASAE at their annual meeting in Los Angeles. The CAE is the highest professional credential in the association industry. Less than five percent of all association professionals have earned the CAE.

“I am very pleased to have obtained this professional goal and hope to use this knowledge

to serve MEDC members by continuing to work to make MEDC the premier association they deserve.”

To be designated as a Certified Association Executive, an applicant must have a minimum of three years experience in nonprofit organization management, complete a minimum of 100 hours of specialized professional development, pass a stringent examination in association management, and pledge to uphold a code of ethics

The American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) is a membership organization of more than 22,000 association executives and industry partners representing more than 11,000 organizations. Its members manage leading trade associations, individual membership societies and voluntary organizations across the United States and in 50 countries around the world.

Farnborough International Airshow

Mississippi Development Authority team members along with representatives from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance, The Greater Jackson Alliance, Key Brothers Aviation and Columbus - Lowndes County Mississippi, recently participated in the Farnborough Airshow held in Farnborough, England. The

organizations exhibited over the five days of the show and held appointments with leaders in the aerospace and aviation industries. In addition, along with Alabama, Louisiana and Florida's Great Northwest, the team helped host the four-state Aerospace Alliance reception which drew over 300 industry leaders to Kensington Palace.



Senator Thad Cochran and Gray Swoope



Joe Higgins, Mike Hainsey, Jon Maynard



Larry Barnett, Gray Swoope, George Freeland

(Economic Development Headlines from page 1)

Columbus - PACCAR Inc. has hired 90 workers and officials with the Bellevue, Wash., truck engine manufacturer expect to meet the goal of starting production in December.

Purvis - South Mississippi Electric Power Association's (SMEPA's) plant in Purvis has begun a \$62-million environmental upgrade project. The project will create 125 construction jobs and pump an estimated \$75 million in construction payroll into the economy. It's scheduled to be completed next summer.

Starkville - Sitel has added more than 110 full-time positions within the past month, and more than 300 full-time positions expected by the end of October.

Pontotoc - Southern Motion says it's investing \$7 million in its new 180,000-square-foot production facility in Pontotoc. The expansion represents a company investment of \$7 million and will create a minimum of 200 new jobs over the next two years, with the potential to create a total of 400 new jobs over the next five years.

Union - Supervisors in Neshoba County have agreed to purchase the former Brook Manufacturing plant in Union and then lease it to a company, **DuraSip**, that will employ 40 by the end of the year.

(continued on page 5)

MEDC Members on the Move!

DeAnna Dillard
Executive Director
Clinton Community Development Foundation
Clinton, MS

Lise Foy
Executive Director
Canton Chamber of Commerce
Canton, MS

Larkin Simpson
Chamber Director
Economic Dev. Authority of Jones County
Laurel, MS

Elizabeth Fargason Stanga
Marketing and Events Manager
Marketing and Communications
Mississippi Development Authority
Jackson, MS

Stephen Surles, Jr.
Manager, Field Operations
Tennessee Valley Authority
Tupelo, MS

Danielle Winningham
Manager, Chamber of Commerce
East MS Business Dev. Corporation
Meridian, MS

New Members (continued)

Christina M. Lakey
District Director
CenterPoint Energy
Ridgeland, MS

Charles Nelms, Jr.
Executive Director
Mississippi Motor Vehicle Commission
Jackson, MS

Reed Nelson
Copeland & Johns, Inc.
Jackson, MS

Linda Perry
State Energy Program Manager
Energy Division
Mississippi Development Authority
Jackson, MS

Crystal Purvis
Economic Development Analyst
Economic Development
Mississippi Power Company
Gulfport, MS

Larry Robinson
Manager of Engineering
Support Services Headquarters
Southern Pine Electric Power Association
Taylorsville, MS

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THANK YOU!

Sponsors of the MEDC 2010 Summer Conference

EVENT SPONSORS

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Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada, PLLC
East Central Mississippi Economic Council
Government Consultants, Inc.
Mississippi Development Authority
Mississippi Power Company

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Cellular South, Inc.
Electric Power Associations of MS
Hancock County Development Commission
Harrison County Development Commission
Mississippi Economic Council
Tennessee Valley Authority

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Chamber Plus / Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership
Harrell Contracting Group, LLC
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Mississippi Business Finance Corporation
Mississippi Manufacturers Association
Mississippi Power Company
Mississippi Technology Alliance
MSU Community Action Team (MSCAT)
Natchez Convention & Visitors Bureau
Pickering Firm, Inc.
Southern Mississippi Planning & Dev. District
Stennis Institute of Government
Stephens, Inc.
Waggoner Engineering, Inc.
Yates Construction / JESCO, Inc.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

CN Railway
Community Development Foundation
CSX Transportation
Greater Jackson Alliance
Greater Starkville Dev. Partnership
Hancock Bank
Jackson County Economic Dev. Foundation
Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
North Mississippi Industrial Dev. Association
Rankin First Economic Dev. Authority
Three Rivers Planning & Dev. District

Governor Cup Awards

On Thursday, July 22, 2010, DuPont Titanium Technologies' DeLisle plant in Pass Christian, Miss., and Thomasson Company of Philadelphia, Miss., were recognized as the statewide winners of the 2009 Governor's Cup Awards during the Mississippi Economic Development Council (MEDC) Summer Conference awards banquet in Biloxi, Miss. They were chosen from the six district winners honored at the event.

"I am pleased to honor DuPont Titanium Technologies and Thomasson Company for their contributions to their communities," Governor Haley

Barbour said. "These two companies are model corporate citizens, and their commitment to their employees, their communities and to Mississippi as a whole helps make our state a better place in which to live and work."

The district winners in each category are:

Big Business (51 or more employees)

North District: Cooper Tire and Rubber Company, Tupelo; Nominated by the Community Development Foundation, Tupelo

“These award recipients represent the many businesses in the state that are making a tremendous impact in their communities and on their local economies.”

Community Economic Development Awards

The Mississippi Economic Development Council, Inc. honored winners of the prestigious Community Economic Development Award (CEDA) at the 2010 MEDC 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 2009 calendar year.

Communities honored:

Population less than 5,000 - City of Ellisville, The PRIDE Program: Progress, Reinvigorated in Determined Ellisville, nominated by Mitch Stennett, president, Economic Development Authority of Jones County.

Population 5,001 – 15,000 - The Grenada Economic Development District, development and implementation of economic development

Central District: Structural Steel Services, Meridian; Nominated by the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, Meridian

South District: DuPont DeLisle, Pass Christian; Nominated by the Harrison County Development Commission, Gulfport

Small Business (50 or less employees)

North District: Tupelo Recycling, Tupelo; Nominated by the Community Development Foundation, Tupelo

Central District: Thomasson Company, Philadelphia; Nominated by the Community Development Partnership, Philadelphia

South District: Shaggy's Harbor Bar and Grill, Pass Christian; Nominated by the Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce

"These award recipients represent the many businesses in the state that are making a tremendous impact in their communities and on their local economies," said Gray Swoope, MDA executive director. "Each one of these companies is dedicated to being a true corporate citizen in its community and throughout the state, and I commend these businesses for their commitment to Mississippi." Photos at www.mississippi.org

district strategic plan, nominated by John Wesley, economic development project manager, Entergy Mississippi.

Population 15,001 – 40,000 - City of Clinton, Clinton Streetscape, nominated by James Powell, director, economic development, City of Clinton.

Population 40,001 – 100,000 - City of Tupelo and Lee County, Manufacturing Solutions Center, nominated by David Rumbarger, president / CEO, Community Development Foundation, Tupelo.

"MEDC is proud to honor these communities and the people who have been involved in the planning and implementation of these worthwhile projects," said Carol Hardwick, Executive Director. "We applaud their commitment to excellence in moving their communities forward." Photos and additional information about each project can be found on the MEDC website at www.medic.ms.

MEDC State CEDA Winners Win Regional Competition

The Southern Economic Development Council, Inc. (SEDC), the oldest and largest regional economic development association in North America, announced the recipients of its fourth annual Community Economic Development Awards (CEDA).

Winners of the Mississippi Economic Development Council, Inc. Community Economic Development Awards are submitted to the regional competition held by the SEDC. Two MEDC winners were chosen as winners of that competition.

The City of Ellisville was the winner in the under-5,000 population category for their project titled The PRIDE Program: Progress, Reinvigorated In Determined Ellisville.

The Community Development Foundation, the Lee County Board of Supervisors and CREATE Foundation was the winner for their community involvement project titled Lee County/Marchbanks

Helping Hand Tuition Guarantee Program in the 40,001 – 100,000 population category.

Winners were recognized at an awards breakfast in their honor Monday, August 16th, at SEDC's annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"The CEDA program is an initiative by SEDC to recognize outstanding communities in our region for their efforts in advancing the economic viability of their community through economic and community development programs," said Angie Cognevich, SEDC chairman for 2010. The projects/ programs submitted were recognized in the categories of business retention and expansion, business recruitment, community development and community involvement.

"This recognition program is allowing SEDC to promote successful, results proven programs that can be shared with other communities," stated Gene Stinson, SEDC president. The entries were evaluated on the programs innovativeness, transferability, community commitment and leverage, measured objectives and secondary benefits.

MEDC Conferences

Summer Conference is now in the past and Winter Conference is on the planning table. Thanks to Christy Knapp, Chairman, and the Summer Conference Planning committee - Larry Barnett, Verdel Hawkins, Max Hipp, Kim Richardson, Sonny Simmons, Barbara Smith, Beth Stevens, Pam Swain, Tom Troxler, Chuck Ueltschey, Blake Wallace, Bill Webb, Sue Wright, and Jack Zink

Right after the last door prize was awarded at the MEDC Summer Conference, Tom Troxler, Chairman, and the 2011 Winter Conference Committee met to start planning the next conference. They reviewed some of the highlights of the Summer Conference - Mandi Stanley fired up everyone with her great presentations and writing sessions; Pat McGaughey kept everyone entertained while he shared his perspective on membership; Jeannette Goldsmith had everyone requesting copies of her valuable information on site selection, Tony Jeff and Sumesh gave a great update on biomass - to name a few. The committee had a lot of momentum on which to build.

They embraced the challenge and were ready with great ideas - building green sustainable communities, green trade and investment, staying on message in tough situations, another legislative breakfast, and the list goes on. The Winter Conference is going to be exciting, informative and relevant.

Visit the MEDC website at www.medc.ms to see the photos from the Summer Conference.



Angie Cognevich, Ellisville Mayor Tim Waldrup, Mitch Stennett, Carol Hardwick



Angie Cognevich, Greg Giachelli, Carol Hardwick

(Economic Development Headlines from page 1)

Columbus - Mississippi Steel Processing

is investing \$15 million in its new Columbus facility, and **New Process Steel's** new facility represents a \$10-million company investment; the two companies will create 55 and 30 new jobs, respectively.

Olive Branch - Soladigm, a supplier of next-generation green building solutions, is locating manufacturing operations in Olive Branch. The project represents a capital investment of more than \$130 million by the company and will create more than 300 new jobs.

Blue Springs - Auto Parts Manufacturing Mississippi, Inc., the U.S. operations of **Toyota Auto Body Co., Ltd.**, will move forward with its plans to provide stamped parts, body weld parts and plastic parts to the Toyota Motor Manufacturing

Mississippi plant at Blue Springs. Governor Haley Barbour announced the restart of construction on the \$200 million facility in Baldwin. The plant is expected to employ close to 300 people.

Olive Branch - Hamilton Beach Brands, Inc., a leading designer, marketer and distributor of small electric household appliances, as well as commercial products for restaurants, bars and hotels, is relocating its distribution operations to Olive Branch, Miss. The move will bring 125 jobs to the area.

Iuka - Officials from Dennen Steel Corp. have announced the company is locating manufacturing operations at Yellow Creek Port in Iuka, Miss. The project represents a company investment of more than \$74 million and will create 50 new jobs in northeast MS.

(continued on page 7)

Sponsors of the MEDC 2010 Summer Conference (continued)

GENERAL SPONSORS

- Community Development Partnership
- Coopwood Communications
- DeSoto County Economic Dev. Council
- Greenwood-Leflore-Carroll Economic Dev. Foundation
- Grenada County Economic Dev. District
- Hinds County Economic Dev. District
- Marshall County Industrial Dev. Authority
- Oxford-Lafayette County Economic Dev. Foundation
- Panola Partnership, Inc.
- Southwest Mississippi Partnership
- The Alliance
- Tunica County Chamber & Economic Dev. Foundation

New Members (continued)

Chris Root

Architect
JBHM Architects, P.A.
Tupelo, MS

W. Michael Russ

Attorney
Public Finance
Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada, PLLC
Ridgeland, MS

Janet Sacks

Contracts & Development Director
Hancock County Development Commission
Bay St. Louis, MS

Brian Sanderson

Vice President
Econ. Development & Associate General Counsel
Tradition Properties, Inc.
Biloxi, MS

Rebecca Smith

Executive Director
Department of Finance & Economics
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, MS

Brandon Taylor

Plant Manager
Pearl River Plant
Calgon Carbon Corp.
Bay St. Louis, MS

Robert Thompson

Manager of Technical Services
Mississippi Polymer Institute
Hattiesburg, MS

Kay Troxler

Executive Office
Mississippi Development Authority
Jackson, MS

William Truly, Jr.

Mayor, City of Canton
Canton, MS

Daron Wilson

Disaster Recovery
Mississippi Development Authority
Jackson, MS



Join the MEDC group on Linked In. Members can initiate and participate in discussion forums on this site. Chamber of commerce members can also join the special MEDC Chamber group.

Go to the MEDC website and click on the LinkedIn icon. Membership will be limited to MEDC members only.

Letter from Gray Swoope



Gray Swoope

Last year, I started talking about five areas of focus at MDA. These guiding principles have served us well and have yielded noticeable results in the past year. They are: *thinking globally, building strategic partnerships, being innovative, adjusting to the market and maintaining*

fiscal responsibility.

A commitment to *thinking globally* continues to be critical to our future success, as many of the opportunities to create jobs and attract investment that we are seeing are global in nature. In January, high-tech German pipe manufacturer Wilh. Schulz GMBH announced it had selected Tunica County for its first North American production facility. Since then, European companies Siemens and Fiskars have announced they are locating distribution operations in Mississippi. In August, the Mississippi State Port Authority and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority each signed agreements with the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), committing to build strategic partnerships between the Port of Gulfport and the Tenn-Tom Waterway and the ACP to pursue mutually beneficial business development opportunities.

We continue to see benefits in forming *strategic partnerships*, as well. One example that comes to mind is the Aerospace Alliance, a partnership between Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida's Great Northwest that works to establish the Southeast United States for what it is – a world-class aerospace and aviation corridor. In June, the Alliance members hosted a joint reception at the Farnborough International Airshow, which was attended by approximately 300 key decision makers in the aerospace and aviation industries. Alliances like these allow us to reach numerous potential clients and our existing businesses in a very cost-effective way.

As we move forward, we must continue *being innovative* as we search for ways to create economic prosperity in our communities. In upcoming weeks, we will be releasing a creative economy study, the result of a joint partnership between MDA and the Mississippi Arts Commission, which looks at the creative economy in Mississippi and offers insight into ways to grow

this important, and often undervalued, component of our state's economy.

MDA, like last year, will continue to *adjust to the market* as needed. A year ago, market conditions told us that we had to increase our efforts to support our existing industry and business. Accordingly, we shifted resources to our Existing Industry & Business Division and launched the PriorityOne Program. This program is already yielding excellent results. We have learned about a number of potential growth opportunities through PriorityOne – the Newly Weds Foods, BorgWarner and Grenada Stamping expansions all come to mind – and have been pleased to have worked with you, our local economic development partners, and these companies to help turn these opportunities into expansions. In fact, through our efforts to support our existing businesses, we have seen some businesses, such as Grenada Stamping and Southern Motion, expand twice this past year, despite a still-sluggish economy.

Finally, we are committed to maintaining our focus on *fiscal responsibility.*

We have reduced our workforce by 15 percent over the past few years but have remained committed to our core mission of creating jobs and economic opportunities for Mississippians. We at MDA appreciate the support we receive from MEDC, especially as we prepare to go before the Legislative Budget Office for our annual appropriation request hearing on September 22nd.

We continue to look to these five areas of focus to guide our agency and shape our focus as we work with you to create jobs and economic opportunities for the people of Mississippi.



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Economic Development News

Scholarships
Conference Discounts
Networking

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Join NOW!

www.medic.ms

MSU MSCAT Holds Your Town, Mississippi Workshop

MEDC members served as facilitators, presenters and participants at the first Your Town, Mississippi workshop held at Lake Tiak O'Khata recently. The two and one-half day workshop included interactive presentations and a team project to plan a hypothetical town.

Sponsored by the Mississippi State University (MSU) Community Action Team along with The Montgomery Institute, the Mississippi Development Authority, and the Mississippi Main Street Association, this highly participatory workshop provided 37 civic and community leaders technical advice, inspiration, and hands-on training.

Your Town, Mississippi is a direct response to the uncertain future of Mississippi's small towns—a future increasingly threatened by large scale changes in our economy, population shifts, the impact of telecommunications and mass merchandising, and changes in land use policy



(back row) Virgil Culver, Chance McDavid, Joy Foy, Cynthia Wilson and (front row) Marcus Young, Dianna O'Toole, Carol Hardwick, Mitzi Stubbs and Phil Hardwick.

– that cause communities to find themselves struggling to maintain their vitality and even their sense of identity. Planning and design decisions can make the difference between a community declining or competing in today's global climate.

For more information about Your Town, Mississippi, contact the MSU Community Action Team at (662) 325-6703 or visit www.mscat.msstate.edu.

SEDC Young Professionals Janus Economics Forum

Janus Economics and SEDC hosted the Young Professionals Forum in Tallulah Falls, Georgia, to discuss the future of the economic development profession and emerging issues and their impact on both experienced and young professionals.



MEDC Members attending the SEDC Young Professionals Janus Economics Forum: (back row) Mitch Stennett, Chris Hinton, Larkin Simpson, Michael Ingram (front row) Angie Cognevich and Lyn Arnold

(Economic Development Headlines from page 5)

Bogue Chitto - Gatlin Corp. owner Jeff Gatlin is planning to increase the size of his subsidiary company, **Gatlin Feed Mill**, in a \$1.2-million project that has the potential to create up to 10 new jobs.

Ripley - Furniture manufacturer **Albany Industries** is expanding its operation in Ripley in northeast Mississippi and could hire up to 200 more workers.

Senatobia - **Twin Creeks Technologies** has broken ground for its new solar panel manufacturing facility in Senatobia. The project will

MEDC Session at MML Summer Conference



Joy Foy, Director of the Mississippi Development Authority's Asset Mapping Division, made a presentation entitled "Economic Development is More than Industrial Development" at the

Mississippi Municipal League Summer Conference at the session provided to MEDC. Foy enlisted the help of the mayors of four towns who had experienced the Asset Mapping Team in their towns. Mayors Eddie Fulton of Quitman, Arthur Evans of Crystal Springs, Jimmy Clyde of Magee and Chip Johnson of Hernando voiced their admiration not only for the program, but also for Joy Foy's leadership. They enthusiastically encouraged others to take advantage of this highly beneficial program.

create 512 jobs in two phases, and it represents a company investment of more than \$175 million.

Jackson - Work continues on the old Kmart building on the frontage road along I-55 in north Jackson as the cable company, **Comcast**, plans to house some 350 employees.

Columbus - A Wisconsin automotive supplier will locate a plant in Columbus and bring in about 240 jobs. Milwaukee-based **Janesville Acoustics** is one of the world's largest producers of acoustical and thermal fiber insulation and a leading producer of automotive decorative trim and molded fiber products.

MEDC Scholarship Application Period Open – Adds Courses

New courses will be added to the list of approved courses for the 2011 MEDC Scholarship Program. In addition to offering tuition scholarships for Economic Development Institute, Community Development Institute, Chamber Institute and New South Basic Economic Development, the committee is adding courses from the National Development Council. "We are excited to have this level of contributor participation that makes it possible to offer these valuable courses," said Joy Foy, Scholarship Committee Chairman.

Applications are being accepted October 1 through November 15, 2010 for scholarships for tuition for approved courses in 2011. "A special thank you to the contributors to the MEDC Scholarship Fund – Entergy, Electric Power Associations of Mississippi, Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Economic Development Council, and Mississippi Power Company, who see the value of training of our economic and community development and chamber of commerce members in helping them be the best that they can be in their profession," said Carol Hardwick, MEDC Executive Director.

Check the Professional Development section of the MEDC website for a listing of these courses and an application.

Member-to-Member Seminar



Third Wave of Economic Development

Rick Duke, CEcd, EDFF, Director of the Trent Lott National Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, spoke to MEDC members and friends at the Member-to-Member Seminar in September. He talked about the third wave of economic development and how it placed an emphasis on universities and their research capabilities. As the new director of the Trent Lott Center, he will be trying to make sure it fulfills this role. He also discussed his perspective of Mississippi based on his 25 years of experience in the economic development field.



MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
WWW.MEDC.MS

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DEVELOPMENTS

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DEVELOPMENTS

THE MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Calendar of Events

- October 16-19** 34th Annual Southeast U.S./Japan (SEUS Japan)
Renaissance Hotel, Downtown Nashville, TN
www.mississippi.org
- October 20** MEDC Regional Chamber Workshop
Petal, MS
- October 28** Mississippi World Trade Center
Annual Meeting & International Business Awards Luncheon
Embassy Suites - Ridgeland, MS
- October 28** Mississippi World Trade Center
International Food & Wine Festival
Viking Cooking School - Ridgeland, MS
- 2011**
- February 2-4** MEDC 2011 Winter Conference
Hilton Hotel, Jackson, MS
- July 12-14** MEDC 2011 Summer Conference
IP Resort, Biloxi, MS

MEDC Fall Regional Chamber Workshop

*"Show Me the Money –
Creating \$\$ In Your Budget"*

Petal, Mississippi
October 20

\$25 - MEDC member
\$40 - Non-members

www.medc.ms
call 601-352-1909
or email carol@medc.ms

For more information on these and other events go to www.medc.ms