

DEVELOPMENTS

THE MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



www.medc.ms

WINTER 2009

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Mississippi Dev. Authority, Jackson
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N. MS Industrial Development Association

Committee Chairpersons:

- Chamber Development - Barbara Smith**
Community Dev. Foundation, Tupelo
- Communications - Elizabeth Fargason Stanga**
Mississippi Dev. Authority, Jackson
- CEDA - Christy Knapp**
Oxford-Lafayette Co. EDF, Oxford
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- Legislative - Phillip D. Hardwick**
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- Membership - Elizabeth Taylor**
Mississippi Dev. Authority, Jackson
- Scholarships - Joy Foy**
Mississippi Development Authority, Jackson

Staff:

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

MEDC 2009 Winter Conference

The MEDC 2009 Winter Conference will be held February 4-6, 2009 in Jackson at the Hilton Hotel.

In addition to the Thursday and Friday speakers, the conference committee has added features to the first day of the conference. On Wednesday, members will meet and greet legislators in the rotunda of the capitol between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. with coffee and continental breakfast. "We are also planning to meet with key legislators and to recognize the day as Mississippi Economic Development Day," said Phil Hardwick, MEDC Legislative Committee Chairman.

The conference will continue at 2:00 at the Hilton

with a two-hour roundtable session led by division directors from the Mississippi Development Authority, in a series of fifteen-minute periods covering each of MDA's economic and community development divisions, tourism and the trade bureau. Participants will be able to attend seven of the nine programs reviewed where they will be given a handout from that division and, after a 15-minute overview and discussion, given notice to move to a new table.

"In addition to our outstanding lineup of conference topics and speakers, these new sessions will allow more interaction with our legislators and with each other, and give us an opportunity to learn more about the services offered by MDA," said Larry Barnett, MEDC Conference Chairman.



Economic Development Headlines

Tupelo - Cooper Tire announced that it would not shut its Tupelo plant. The Findlay, Ohio-based company had spent the past several weeks conducting a network capacity evaluation, and Tupelo's plant was on the list of possible closures. Instead, the company will close its facility in Albany, Georgia.

Magnolia - Indeck Energy Services, Inc. of Buffalo Grove, Illinois and **Homan Industries** of Fulton, Mississippi announce that the ground breaking ceremony for the Indeck Magnolia BioFuel Center wood pellet production plant will be held at the plant site in Magnolia, Mississippi. The plant is expected to be in full commercial operation by September 1, 2009.

Yellow Creek - DynaSteel, a new 42,000-square-foot building, is due to be completed by year-end will add production capacity and at least 50 jobs at the 150-employee Yellow Creek plant.

Hattiesburg - The Area Development Partnership, Brown Bottling Group and Wis-Pak recently announced plans for Pepsi South, a new \$49 million bottling facility in Hattiesburg.

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Calendar of Events

MEDC Welcomes New Members:

Harry Brooks

Graduate Student
The University of Southern Mississippi
Oxford, MS

James Brown

Graduate Student
The University of Southern Mississippi
Brandon, MS

Mary Craig

Graduate Student
The University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS

Marcia Crawford

Director, Information & Retiree Attraction
Harrison County Development Commission
Gulfport, MS

Paula Delcambre

Graduate Student
The University of Southern Mississippi
Arlington, VA

Mary Dixon

Graduate Student
The University of Southern Mississippi
Meridian, MS

Ron Emery

Business Development Manager
Harrell Contracting Group, LLC
Ridgeland, MS

Janice Fitzgerald

Major Accounts Sales Specialist
Cellular South
Ridgeland, MS

Cassie Hicks

Graduate Student
The University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS

Thecla Hinkebein

Director
Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce
Gulfport, MS

Bridgette Jones

Office Manager/Executive Assistant
Harrison County Development Commission
Gulfport, MS

Terrell Knight

Director of Governmental Sales
Cellular South
Ridgeland, MS

Mike Lott

Economic Developer
Petal, City of
Petal, MS

Letter From the President



David Rumbarger

To say this is an interesting time in American/Global business would be the understatement of this new century. In the middle of the bailouts, buyouts, closing and downsizing, Mississippi posted a reduction in overall unemployment this month.

Further bucking the Global trend, several communities experienced good sales on Black Friday after Thanksgiving and are on target for a 7% growth year over year for many Mississippi retailers. All this matched up to an official announcement of recession, with national GDP growth negative for two consecutive quarters. Now the question is when will we come out. Many economic developers tell me that various plants and businesses are having difficulty with slow payments and sluggish sales affecting many communities. These are times of great importance to the economic development community and thankfully our state has responded.

This trend to focus on our resident businesses was recognized by Governor Barbour and MDA Director Gray Swoope by appointing former TVA

Mississippi Regional Project Manager and MEDC member Chandler Russ to direct the state's existing industry and business division. This is just in time to help several communities with potential plant closures and retention efforts. Chandler brings experienced economic development skills and a sharp mind to one of the neediest areas of local economic development planning; the area of existing industry retention and expansion. Congratulations and best of luck Chandler, we're depending on you.

Thank you to our district directors for the various Legislative Forums in the regions and Legislative Committee Chairman Phil Hardwick. We have visited with numerous legislators and have had good attendance. Well done, and keep it up. In this newsletter we have several areas of interest, most notably the upcoming Winter Conference. Larry Barnett and his conference committee have done a wonderful job in planning another dynamic learning conference that will be full of information and fellowship. Make plans to attend. I look forward to seeing you there in Jackson February 4-6, 2009. Have a happy and prosperous New Year.

David Rumbarger
President and CEO
Community Development Foundation

Headlines continued from page 1

The 235,804 square foot facility is currently under construction in Forrest County Industrial Park. Pepsi South is expected to begin production towards the end of 2009.

Ellisville - Howard Technology Park, located in Ellisville, officially achieved the first "Project Ready" status in Mississippi designated by the economic development department of Mississippi Power Co. "Project Ready" status certifies that the park is ready-to-go for industrial prospects, has infrastructure in place and has necessary connections for almost any type of business.

Greenville - Mars Food U.S. announced a \$7 million expansion of its Greenville site as the company recently celebrated its 30th anniversary in the Mississippi Delta. **Mars** plans to build a state-of-the-art distribution center for the Uncle Ben's rice products that come out of the Greenville site.

Blue Springs - Toyota Tsusho America, Inc. will locate two operations in Blue Springs to supply Toyota Motor Manufacturing Mississippi. The company estimates that the two operations could employ up to 70 people. **Toyota Tsusho** production start-up will coincide with that of the vehicle plant in late 2010.



Gray Swoope, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority; Governor Haley Barbour; David Joyce, president and CEO, GE Aviation; Sonny Simmons, CEO, Panola Partnership; and U. S. Senator Thad Cochran at GE Aviation

Batesville - Governor Haley Barbour touted Mississippi's skilled workforce as **GE Aviation** dedicated its new jet engine component factory near Batesville in northwest Mississippi. Formally called GE Batesville Composites Operation, the 300,000-square-foot facility will produce advanced composite engine components, which are unique in the aviation industry. **GE Aviation**, a General Electric Company business unit and world-leading producer of jet engines, employs more than 30 people in the new Batesville facility.

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First MEDC Regional Chamber Workshop Held in South Mississippi



MEDC Chamber Development Committee Chairman Barbara Smith, speakers Mandy Cook and Cari White, Committee members Marie Shoemake and Dianne Carson, and Carol Hardwick.

Chamber executives from across the state attended MEDC's first Regional Chamber Workshop in Collins on November 18. The dynamic duo, Cari White, COO, and Mandy Cook, Membership Director of the Jonesboro

Chamber of Commerce in Arkansas presented their award-winning (ACCE) membership program. Carol Hardwick outlined benefits of MEDC membership and had attendees relate benefits of membership in their organizations. Joy Foy described MDA's Asset Mapping process and Regina Kitchens from Jones County Junior College discussed small town customer service.

Marie Shoemake, Executive Director of the Covington County Chamber of Commerce remarked, "I was delighted to have this chamber workshop in Covington County and feel it was a

great success. I feel attendance will continue to grow as the word spreads. I'm already looking forward to Oxford."

"The regional workshop provided a great opportunity to network and share ideas and best practices. The feedback from the evaluations was very positive. Our plans are to offer a workshop in Oxford in early spring making it easier for the chambers in the northern part of the state to attend," said Barbara Smith, MEDC Vice President of Chamber Development and Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce Division of the Community Development Foundation.



Presenter Regina Kitchens

Many thanks to the sponsors: Area Development Partnership, Mississippi Economic Council, Mississippi Development Authority and Southern Pine Electric Power Association.

The regional conferences are offered in addition to the training provided at the MEDC Winter and Summer conferences. A one-day chamber rate is available for the MEDC Winter Conference in February.

Headlines continued from page 2

Monroe County - Steel Development

Company's \$175 million rebar manufacturing plant is the largest single investment in Amory and north Monroe County. Company officials, joined by state and local leaders, broke ground on the 80,000-square-foot rebar manufacturing plant, which will create 200 jobs. The facility will be situated on 80 acres that have been cleared already near the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in the Amory Port Industrial Park.



Tim Weston, TVA at the Steel Development Co. announcement

Entergy Corporation has made the list of the top 10 utilities when it comes to economic development, said the September issue of *Site Selection* magazine.

Lowndes County - Aurora Flight Sciences'

Golden Triangle Regional Airport facility, a \$15 million project to triple their space, is a

commitment to grow the operation's capabilities. There will be a 64,300-square-foot addition to its facility. Its original space is 21,000 square feet. Company officials intend to double the facility's current workforce of 35 over the next year, then move its employment figure to 200-300 within the next two to three years.

Lowndes County - Stark Aerospace will have a new facility near the Golden Triangle Regional Airport. It will be a minimum of a \$30 million investment. It will create 100 new jobs, and they will pay not less than \$48,600 per year.

Long Beach - Triton Systems, ATM Manufacturer of Delaware Inc. plans to establish a Research and Development Center in Long Beach and to expand the Global Service Center in Memphis.

Pascagoula - Officials with Chevron Corporation announced Thursday the company is taking steps toward another expansion at its refinery plant east of Pascagoula. The refinery would produce 25,000 barrels a day of base oil, used in making premium motor oils. With this addition **Chevron** would become the largest producer of base oil in the world.

New Members (continued):

Dr. Kimball Marshall

Professor of Marketing, MBA Program
Alcorn State University
Natchez, MS

Samantha Minga

Administrative Assistant
Oxford-Lafayette County Chamber & EDF
Oxford, MS

Christina Mullins

Membership & Administrative Coordinator
The Alliance
Corinth, MS

Gina Regan

Information Specialist
Mississippi World Trade Center
Jackson, MS

Jim Richmond

Director of Corporate Communications
Cellular South
Ridgeland, MS

Katie Sandoz

Workforce Development & Small Business
Coordinator
Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce
Gulfport, MS

William Todd

Graduate Student
The University of Southern Mississippi
Senatobia, MS

Patricia Turner

Community Services Division
Mississippi Development Authority
Jackson, MS

Paul Waldrop

Graduate Student
The University of Southern Mississippi
Brandon, MS

Robert Watts

Graduate Student
The University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS

Donna Williams

Chamber Director
Jones County Chamber of Commerce
Laurel, MS

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MEDC Scholarships Benefit Members

MEDC members attended professional development courses during 2008 with MEDC Scholarships. Many thanks to the contributors to the MEDC Scholarship Fund: Mississippi Power Company, Mississippi Development Authority and MEDC. Those attending courses in 2008 on scholarships were:

New South Basic Economic Development

Angela Harper

Marion County Development Partnership

Kristen Holley

City of Ocean Springs

Institute of Organization Management

(Chamber Institute)

Elizabeth Bush

Area Development Partnership

DeAnna Dillard

Clinton Chamber of Commerce

Lisa Howell

Philadelpia-Neshoba Co. Chamber of Commerce

Chance McDavid

Mississippi State University

Rachel Seymour

Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce

Judson Thigpen

Cleveland-Bolivar Co. Chamber of Commerce

Carla Todd

Jackson County Chamber of Commerce

Britanny Wilson

Clinton Chamber of Commerce

Community Development Institute

Darlene F. Jones

City of Natchez

Gwendolyn Woodson

Grenada County Chamber of Commerce

Economic Development Institute

Dianna Eaton

Central MS Planning and Development District

Brian Henson

Kemper County Economic Development Authority

Mitch Stringer

Madison County Economic Development Authority

Martha Swindle

Community Development Foundation

Legislators and Economic Developers Share News and Views

MEDC board members hosted Legislative Forums across the state. Mississippi legislators and local professional economic developers looked back at the previous session and ahead to 2009 to identify ways to help each other better serve each region and the people of the State of Mississippi in matters related to economic development.

"At these forums we learned that issues are not the same in every region. We also were impressed with the value of face-to-face meetings,"

Phil Hardwick, Coordinator of Capacity Development of the Stennis Institute at Mississippi State University and MEDC Legislative Committee Chairman.



The first Legislative Forum was held in Greenwood and was hosted by Sue Stidham, MEDC District 3 Director, and Executive Director of the Montgomery County Economic Development Partnership.



MEDC District 1 Director Lyn Arnold, President and CEO of the Tunica County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Foundation, hosted a luncheon at the Legislative Forum in Senatobia.



Legislators and MEDC members were treated to a tour of the Toyota plant in Blue Springs and lunch, thanks to Stephen Surles, Jr., Executive Director of the Union County Development Association and MEDC District 2 Director.



The coast Legislative Forum was hosted by District 8 Director, Jack Zink, Executive Director of the Hancock Co. Port & Harbor Commission.





MEDC member and State Representative Haskins Montgomery (left) discusses issues in Philadelphia at the Legislative Forum hosted by David Vowell (right), District 4 Director and President of the Community Development Partnership.



Balanced Development

Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) has always taken a balanced approach to economic development. While MDA may be best known for its efforts to recruit new business to the state of Mississippi, the agency considers its support of existing businesses to be equally important.

A majority of economic growth and jobs come from businesses already located in the state. MDA has always been committed to assisting Mississippi companies and working with them to assure their success, but in uncertain economic times, these efforts to retain, support and sustain existing industry are particularly vital.

It is important to note that many businesses continue to thrive in Mississippi, despite worldwide concerns regarding the economy. The groundwork laid in 2005 by Momentum Mississippi to overhaul the states' incentives provided MDA tools not only to assist in industry recruitment, but also, in certain cases, with business retention. In recent weeks a number of Mississippi companies have announced exciting initiatives and expansion projects, made possible, in part, by these tools. In late October, Ayrshire Electronics purchased the former ACT Electronics facility in Corinth. ACT had announced plans to close the Corinth facility and had issued WARN notices to all employees, informing them they would be losing their jobs. Ayrshire Electronics' subsequent acquisition of the Corinth facility and its decision to retain the facility's 200 employees has spared these jobs, demonstrating the company's well-placed confidence in Mississippi's high quality workforce.



The same week, MARS Food US celebrated 30 years of operation in Greenville, Mississippi, where it produces Uncle Ben's® and Seeds of Change® Brand food products. During its anniversary celebration, the company announced

plans to expand its current operations at its Greenville site. The Greenville facility currently processes over 156,000 tons of Delta-grown rice annually and employs approximately 200 people. The company's expansion project, a \$7 million investment, will result in updates to the current facility, construction of a new, modernized distribution center, and the creation of 30 new jobs.

Most recently, on November 3rd, Hol-Mac Corporation celebrated the opening of its new plate processing facility. Hol-Mac supplies steel fabrications, cylinders and tanks to Original Equipment Manufacturers. As a result of its recent expansion, the company has added 70 additional jobs and now employs over 470 workers from Jasper County and the surrounding areas.

With its limited staff, MDA cannot visit all businesses in the state, but that is why we work closely with our partners in the communities to keep abreast of what is happening with our existing industry. Also, to assist our current staff in these efforts, we have added two positions to the Existing Industry and Business Division (EIB). Garrick Combs and Christine Lusteck, both experienced economic developers, will work with Chandler Russ and the EIB team to continue to support and grow the state's businesses. As Russ observed, "At the State level we have a strong commitment and a sense of urgency to do all we can to help our Mississippi businesses remain in Mississippi and keep them strong and vibrant."

MEDC Member-to-Member Seminar "From a Pretender to a Contender" held in Oxford

When Joe Max Higgins, content in his job as the top economic developer in his hometown in Arkansas, received a call from an executive search consultant asking him if he would be interested in taking a similar position in Columbus, Mississippi, he did not think twice. "I hung up on her," Higgins told fellow MEDC members at the Member-to-Member Seminar in Oxford. His perception of Mississippi at that time was based on a few bad movies. When he later received an e-mail from the consultant, he researched and visited the area and found he was, to his surprise, impressed--enough so to become CEO of the Columbus-Lowndes Development LINK.



Joe Max Higgins

About a year into the job, when he decided he had made a mistake, he was reminded of his contract and persuaded to stay. Shortly thereafter, he attended the first "certified megasite" meeting held by TVA. As the criteria were presented, he realized that the Golden Triangle area met the requirements. Higgins was excited. Six weeks later, TVA's first megasite was officially designated, and it was in Lowndes County. SeverCorr moved in. A second megasite attracted PACCAR, Eurocopter and other industry.

Higgins has a spreadsheet on which he keeps a running total of the number of jobs that have been created each year, and it is very impressive, especially for a town that in 2003 had only, "a nice downtown, like downtowns used to be, and some very nice homes," as Higgins' mom described to him over the phone when she was the first to run reconnaissance on the area for him.

The next Member-to-Member Seminar will be held April 14 in Hattiesburg.



MEDC Members on the Move!

Betty Lynn Cameron Director Main Street Greenville Greenville, MS

Craig Farmer Client Development Aquaterra Engineering LLC Ridgeland, MS

Bill Mobley Executive Director Marshall County Industrial Development Authority Holly Springs, MS

Reed Nelson President HM Williams Construction Inc. Jackson, MS

Chandler Russ Director Existing Industry & Business Division Mississippi Development Authority Jackson, MS

Benjamin Teague Senior Vice President Asheville Chamber of Commerce Asheville, North Carolina

Jeffery L. Virgil, II Senior Consultant J. Lewis & Company, LLC Jackson, MS

If you are a Member on the Move or know of one, please email carol@medc.ms or call 601-352-1909.

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MEDC Winter Conference . "Innovation Destination"

February 4-6, 2009 . Hilton Hotel . Jackson, MS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

7:30 -10:30 AM Economic Development Day MS State Capitol 1:00 - 4:30 PM Registration Hilton Hotel 2:00 - 4:00 PM MDA Roundtables Hilton Hotel

"Using the State's Services and Resources to Your Community's Advantage"

Mississippi Development Authority division directors will conduct roundtable sessions to inform attendees of the agency's services and resources available to them.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

7:00 AM Registration 7:00 AM Networking Breakfast 8:00 AM Early Riser's Program

Thinking InsideThe Bomgar Box™

Speaker: Joel Bomgar, Founder and CEO, Bomgar Corporation, Ridgeland, MS

Joel Bomgar developed the first version of Bomgar™ software as a way to provide helpdesk and technical support to disparate users - without leaving his desk. Since founding the company in 2003 at the age of 22, Bomgar has 4,500 corporate customers in all 50 states and 48 countries and is ranked the 28th fastest growing software company in the nation on Deloitte's 2008 Technology Fast 500 list. Joel Bomgar has appeared on ABC News' "Ahead of the Curve" and on NetworkWorld's "Hot Seat." Most recently, he was accepted into the Young Presidents' Organization, the world's largest network of company Presidents and CEOs.

8:45 AM Combined Session

"Mississippi's Energy Future: A Crossroads for the South and the Nation"

Speaker: Kenneth J. Nemeth, Exec. Director, Southern States Energy Board, Norcross, GA

Ken will discuss Mississippi's unique opportunities and indigenous energy and environmental resources that will enable our businesses and industries to compete for economic development regionally, nationally and internationally in the future.

10:00 AM Break 10:30 AM Concurrent Sessions

"Extreme Makeover — Real Estate Re-use in Mississippi"

Panel: Bob Wilson, Executive Director, MS Main Street Association, Jackson, MS

Jere "Trey" Hess, MS Brownfields Program Coordinator, MDEQ, Jackson, MS

Mark Castleberry, President, Castleberry Properties, Columbus, MS

Learn from those who are successful in the redevelopment of downtowns, old industrial sites and other commercial buildings.

"Wearing Multiple Hats in Small Organizations"

Speaker: Bob Harris, CAE, President, NonProfit Center, Tallahassee, FL

This session is for executives of smaller organizations and will focus on managing with limited resources. Bob visits with thousands of associations, chambers and nonprofits to train staff, develop boards and conduct strategic planning. He teaches for the U. S. Chamber Institute at Notre Dame, Villanova and other college campuses, and works closely with the ASAE and its local allied societies. His teaching style is characterized as motivating, practical and relevant.

12:00 PM Heidel Awards Luncheon

"Aaaaaand... ACTION!: Making Mississippi the Coming Attraction"

Speaker: Rick Moore, President, Eyevox, MadGENIUS, Inc., The Screen Engine, Imagination Education, Inc., Ridgeland, MS

Using modern media to change perception has enhanced our state's image. As one of Mississippi's creative class, Rick will discuss how his businesses continue to effectively use technology and innovation to make Mississippi a destination, and how these principles apply to your communities.

1:30 PM Concurrent Sessions

"Flawless Strategic Planning and Implementation"

Speaker: Bob Harris, CAE, President, NonProfit Center, Tallahassee, FL

Your approach to strategic planning will affect the outcome. Learn more about the details of this process.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 (continued)

“Changing your Status Quo to Status Grow: Supercharging Your Chamber”

Speaker: Kordell Norton, President, Synergy Solutions, Twinsburg, OH

In this fast-paced, humorous and mind-shaking session you will get insights on how to position your chamber for growth, customize your message, ways branding can help or hinder your efforts, and easy methods to drastically improve your results.

2:45 PM..... Networking Break

3:15 PM..... Concurrent Sessions

“Innovations in the Future Workforce”

Panelists: Sandie Brock, Workforce Investment Area Youth Coordinator, Southern MS Planning & Development District, Hattiesburg, MS - Career Academies

Brent Hales, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economic & Workforce Development, USM, Hattiesburg, MS - Southern Entrepreneurship Program

Charles B. Holder, Jr., CEO, Ho-Mac Corporation, Bay Springs, MS -Tinkers Camp

Panelists reveal details of successful programs they are using to develop students for the workforce of the future.

“Sales Tips, Tricks and Traps: The 4 Keys to Increasing Sales in the New Buyer-Centric Environment”

Speaker: Kordell Norton, President, Synergy Solutions, Twinsburg, OH

Fun and insightful! Learn the new secrets of consultative sales skills and develop communications abilities to establish yourself as an expert and build solid relationships. Discover strategies to prioritize directions for the greatest return.

Headlines continued from page 3

Baldwyn - ForeFront Group Inc., a Springfield, Tenn.-based supplier of premium golf accessories, has opened its new global distribution center in Baldwyn. Stan Harris, ForeFront’s CEO, said “The strategic location of our Baldwyn facility is going to be an economic catalyst in the area, and the availability of a skilled workforce, coupled with the support provided by the local, county and state governments working together in Mississippi, have made us very welcome. They have a ‘can do’ attitude that makes locating business in the area a very streamlined process.”

4:30 - 5:30 PM..... Penthouse Reception
Sponsor: Entergy Mississippi

Dinner on your own

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7:30 AM Networking Breakfast

8:30 AMMEDC Roundtables

“Innovative Ideas Exchange”

Participate in this interactive exchange of ideas on economic and community development issues.

9:30 AM Combined Session

“From High Tech to the New Economic Imperative: Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks”

Speaker: Gray Swoope, Executive Director, MS Development Authority, Jackson, MS

As Mississippi makes strides in both traditional economic development (investment & expansion) and the knowledge economy, a third arena exists to be explored. Hear about Mississippi’s creative economy and how to maximize this untapped resource.

Also, Gray will debut the new MDA website which can assist in your recruitment, retention and community development efforts.

10:30 AM..... Business Meeting

11:00 AM.....Door Prizes / Adjourn

This conference is recognized by the International Economic Development Council as continuing education for the CECD.

To register, go to www.medic.ms, print registration form, fax form to 601-352-2061. Conference fees may be paid online with a credit card or by check.

Call 601-352-1909 for more information.

Ripley - Industrial Timber will open its newest plant in the North Ripley Industrial Park. It will start with 35 employees and expand to over 100. **Industrial Timber** is North America’s largest, lowest cost supplier of wood frames to the upholstered furniture industry with plants throughout MS, NC, and TN employing more than 350 workers.

Congratulations to all involved with these successful projects. To submit your news, send a link to your news story to carol@medc.ms.

MEDC and Stennis Institute to hold Forums for Southern Growth Policies Board

MEDC will team up with the Stennis Institute at Mississippi State University to hold three regional community forums in association with the Southern Growth Policies Board to find out about MEDC members’ community priorities and concerns around the issue of energy-related economic development. When people think about energy, they often think about the negatives—high gas prices, environmental challenges and national security issues. However, many communities are seeing that there are ways to capitalize on economic opportunities related to energy. What challenges does your community face in pursuing these opportunities? What strategies seem to offer the best path to success?

These forums will be scheduled in February and posted on the MEDC Calendar of Events at www.medic.ms.

NMIDA Annual Banquet

The North Mississippi Industrial Development Association held its Annual Banquet in Tupelo where American Eurocopter LLC was named Industry of the Year. Many MEDC members were in attendance.



Joe Geddie, Executive Director, NMIDA; Carol Hardwick, MEDC Executive Director; MEDC President David Rumbarger, President and CEO, Community Development Foundation; Kim Richardson, Project Manager, NMIDA; Tim Weston, Manager, Field Operations, Economic Development, Tennessee Valley Authority; and Greg Word, Manager, Technical/Graphic Services, NMIDA.

“Always behave like a duck - keep calm and unruffled on the surface but paddle like the devil underneath.”

*Jacob Braude
(provided by Elizabeth Fargason Stanga)*



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MEDC **DEVELOPMENTS**
THE MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Calendar of Events

- Feb. 4 - 6** **MEDC 2009 Winter Conference
"INNOVATION DESTINATION"**
Hilton Hotel, Jackson, MS
See agenda on pages 6 - 7 and at www.medic.ms

- March 24** **SEDC 2009 "Meet the Consultants"**
Dallas, TX

- April** **MEDC Regional Chamber Workshop**
Oxford, MS (date to be announced)

- April 14** **MEDC Member-to-Member Seminar**
Hattiesburg, MS

- July 21 - 23** **MEDC 2009 Summer Conference**
Beau Rivage, Biloxi, MS

MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

**INNOVATION
DESTINATION**

**2009 WINTER
CONFERENCE**

FEB 4 > 6
HILTON > JACKSON

For more info and to register, call or click:
601.352.1909 **WWW.MEDC.MS**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JAN 24

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