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**SEUS-CP Conference to Feature Fox News Anchor Shepard Smith and FedEx Executive Frederick W. Smith**

The Southeastern United States - Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) Alliance will feature FedEx Executive Frederick W. Smith and Fox News Anchor Shepard Smith at its Third Annual Conference, which will be held in Biloxi on April 11-13, 2010. Shepard Smith will serve as moderator of the town hall session, and Frederick W. Smith will serve as keynote speaker of the SEUS-CP Conference.

Shepard Smith, host of Fox News' signature evening newscast *The Fox Report with Shepard Smith* and the news network's daytime hard news programming *Fox News Live*, is a native of Holly Springs, Miss. He joined Fox News in 1996 and has since been promoted to senior correspondent for the channel.

Frederick W. Smith is chairman, president and chief executive officer of FedEx Corporation. He provides strategic direction for all FedEx Corporation operating companies, including FedEx Services, FedEx Express, FedEx Ground and FedEx Freight. FedEx serves more than 220 countries and territories with operations that include approximately 650 aircraft and over 80,000 vehicles.

The SEUS-CP Alliance is a strategic partnership between states in the southeastern United States and member provinces from Canada. The Third Annual SEUS-CP Conference is expected to attract approximately 300 Canadian and U.S. business and government leaders to Biloxi and will present unique business-to-business matchmaking and two-way trade and

investment opportunities across a range of industry sectors.

For more information about SEUS-CP, visit the Alliance Web site at [www.seuscp.org](http://www.seuscp.org).

### **MDA Awards Funding for Two Improvement Projects**

The Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA's) Community Services Division recently awarded approximately \$35,000 in CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funds for two improvement projects in Mississippi. To receive CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding, a project must demonstrate urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community.

The CDBG Emergency Public Facilities awards include:

- Webster County - \$12,862 for water well improvements
- Town of Sturgis - \$22,134 for sewer improvements

To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community Services Division, please visit [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org) and select the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

### **Free Procurement Development Workshop to be Offered March 4 in Natchez**

The Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA's) Minority and Small Business Development Division and the Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program (MPTAP) will sponsor a Business/Procurement Opportunity Workshop at Copiah Lincoln Community College's (Co-Lin's) Natchez campus on **Thursday, March 4, 2010**. The workshop will be held at 11 CoLin Circle, Natchez, Miss., from **9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

The workshop will provide attendees with information on how to secure government contracts, how to take advantage of Mississippi Planning and Development District Finance Programs and Small Business Administration (SBA) 8a Programs, how to benefit from Co-Lin's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and how to do business with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The workshop will host four presenters, including Jonithan Hatcher from MPTAP, Jeff Waller from Co-Lin's SBDC, Alice Doss from SBA and Shirley Reed from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Business/Procurement Opportunity Workshop is free of charge, and interested persons can register before or at the event. MDA encourages its partners to share this information with their communities! Details are available online at [www.msccpc.com](http://www.msccpc.com); select the "Events" link from the left menu, then select "Business/Procurement Opportunity Workshop" from

the March 4 box. A registration link is available at the bottom of the information page. For more information, contact Joycie Lenoir with MDA's Minority and Small Business Development Division at 601.359.3448 or via email at [jlenoir@mississippi.org](mailto:jlenoir@mississippi.org).

### **MDA, MSWTC to Host Luncheon on Doing Business in Israel**

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) and the Mississippi World Trade Center (MSWTC) will host a luncheon on **Monday, March 15, 2010**, for Mississippi companies interested in learning more about doing business with Israel and the Middle East. The luncheon will be held in Jackson, Miss., at the Capitol Club at 125 South Congress Street from **11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Cost to attend will be \$20, which includes lunch; attendees must register for the luncheon by Friday, March 12, 2010.

All Mississippi business owners interested in trade opportunities with Israel and other countries in the Middle East are encouraged to attend. Attendees will learn why Israel is the United States' twentieth largest export market, find out how to take advantage of the free trade agreement with Israel, understand why Israel has more start-up companies than all European countries combined, hear about opportunities throughout the region for U.S. exporters, see why the Middle East was less affected by the current economic downturn and receive suggestions on establishing or increasing sales to this region.

To make reservations or for more information about the luncheon, please call or email Ann Atkins at (601) 353-0909 or [aatkins@mswtc.org](mailto:aatkins@mswtc.org).

### **MDA to Hold Stimulus Funding Opportunities Conference for Minority Contractors March 16**

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will host a conference to explain opportunities associated with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) programs for Mississippi-based certified minority contractors. The conference will be held **Tuesday, March 16**, at the River Room Conference Center (100 Ridge Drive) in Flowood, Miss., from **8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The conference will offer attendees an overview of MDA stimulus programs and requirements; an overview of MDA minority outreach programs, including the Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program; tips on doing business with the State of Mississippi; a panel discussion on residential housing opportunities; a panel discussion on energy opportunities and a vendor fair to give contractors an opportunity to network with other contractors, vendors and MDA grantees. The conference will conclude with an hour-long question and answer session.

The conference is free of charge, and interested persons should register

before the event. Details are available online at [www.msccpc.com](http://www.msccpc.com) ; select the "Events" link from the left menu, then select the stimulus funding opportunities conference from the March 16 box. A registration link is available at the bottom of the information page. For more information, please call MDA's Minority and Small Business Development Division at (601) 359-6678.

**For more information on any of these articles, contact us by clicking on the links below. If you have been forwarded this email and would like to subscribe, please contact [Melissa Medley](#) or [Anna Little](#).**