

MDA E-News June 15, 2009 -- \$1.1 Million for Improvement Projects, Corporate Visitation Program, Mississippi Energy Policy Institute, SEUS-CP Alliance Conference, 2009 Mississippi Market Increase

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MDA Awards Nearly \$1.1 Million for Improvement Projects throughout the State

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded CDBG Economic Development (ED) and CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding for five improvement projects throughout the state. CDBG ED funds are designed to help local units of government ensure basic community services, environmental quality and economic opportunities for their residents. In order to receive CDBG Emergency Public Facilities funding, a project must prove a particular urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. The five awards, which total nearly \$1.1 million, include:

- **CDBG ED**
 - Attala County (Kosciusko/Attala County Training and Education Center) - \$450,736 for renovations and improvements to a county-owned building
 - Tishomingo County (Meridian Furniture) - \$387,723 for building improvements to a county-owned building
- **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities**
 - City of Greenville - \$100,000 for emergency water improvements
 - Simpson County - \$100,000 for emergency repairs to six roads that were washed out during the F3 tornado that touched down on March 26, 2009
 - Town of Gloster - \$59,000 for emergency water improvements

To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community

Services Division, please visit www.mississippi.org, and select the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

MDA Existing Industry and Business Division Creates Corporate Visitation Program to Help Ensure Companies' Success in Mississippi

MDA's Existing Industry and Business (EIB) Division recently established the Corporate Visitation Program, in which EIB team members visit parent companies that have locations in Mississippi. The goals of the program are to address the needs of the companies and to develop customized plans to help ensure the companies' continued success in Mississippi. EIB Director Chandler Russ, along with EIB staff members Mickey Milligan, Harry Gibbs and Christine Lusteck, recently visited nearly 20 corporations' headquarters in the Chicago, Ill., area that represent more than 30 facilities around the state and employ over 7,000 Mississippians. During the visits, the team met with company executives to discuss future plans for their Mississippi locations.

According to Russ, it is important to make the visits and develop long-term relationships in order to sustain business and industry in the state over time, particularly given the current economy. The EIB team has planned two more trips to different locations, both of which will take place during the next fiscal year. To learn more, please contact Chandler Russ at (601) 359-2079, or e-mail cruss@mississippi.org.

Governor Barbour Announces Creation of Mississippi Energy Policy Institute

Governor Haley Barbour recently announced the creation of the Mississippi Energy Policy Institute, which is designed to promote policies that support long-term economic growth for Mississippi through reliable and affordable energy. The institute, a Momentum Mississippi initiative, will promote a long-term strategy to develop energy resources within the state.

According to Governor Barbour, Mississippi is not only a state with an outstanding workforce, but it is a state with affordable and reliable energy that can benefit companies looking to grow their businesses. The institute will also provide a platform to position the state's research universities to excel in this area of study.

Second Annual SEUS-CP Alliance Conference to be Held July 26-28 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

The Second Annual Southeast U.S. - Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) Alliance Conference will be held July 26-28 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Established in 2007, the Alliance promotes continued trade and investment between member states of the Southeast U.S. and member provinces from Canada by presenting opportunities for businesses to enhance commercial exchanges, promoting two-way investment and encouraging technological and scientific exchanges. Member states include Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Member provinces include Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

This year's conference will focus on industry topics with links between the Southeast U.S. and Canada, including: Advanced Manufacturing, Energy, Ocean

Technology and Economic Development. MDA, which will lead the Mississippi delegation, encourages its partners to register for this exciting event. For more information about the conference, please contact Liz Cleveland, Vickie Watters or Marsha Hamilton at (601) 359-3155. To learn more about SEUS-CP, please visit www.seuscp.org.

2009 Mississippi Market Preliminary Figures Indicate Increase in Attendance, Sales from 2008 Market

The 2009 Mississippi Market Wholesale Show, an event held each year by MDA's Existing Industry and Business (EIB) Division, saw an increase in the number of pre-registered buyers as compared to the 2008 show, despite the current economy. This year, nearly 1,050 buyers, representing 417 stores in 10 states, registered for the event. The show also attracted 113 exhibitors from Mississippi with 139 booths. While the final figures from the show are currently being calculated, preliminary figures and comments from exhibitors following the first day of the two-day show indicate that buyers were purchasing more Mississippi-made items than years past. Also, exhibitors who are Mississippi Market "regulars" stated they sold more at this year's show than at any other show they had attended.



The Mississippi Market Wholesale Show features an eclectic mix of items from many of Mississippi's artists, artisans and businesses.

Mississippi Market, which was created by the EIB Division in 1996, serves as a means for Mississippi manufacturers, artisans and wholesalers to exhibit their products at a business-to-business event. Mississippi-made gifts, jewelry, home accents, personal accessories and gourmet foods account for many of the products exhibited at the show. The 2010 Mississippi Market Wholesale Show has been scheduled for June 3-4, and it will once again be held at the Mississippi Trade Mart in Jackson. To learn more about this exciting opportunity for businesses around the state, please visit www.mississippimarket.org.

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