

MDA E-News August 3, 2009

Webinar Tuesday, August 4, MDA Awards \$745,000, Three Continuums of Care Awarded Contracts, Hybrid Plastics, National Governors Association Annual Meeting, 2nd Annual SEUS-CP Conference and 33rd Annual SEUS-Japan Joint Meeting

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MDA to Host "Tapping into the Programs of the U.S. Economic Development Administration" Webinar Tuesday, August 4

MDA will host "Tapping into the Programs of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)," a Webinar featuring Tonia Williams, CECD, EDA's Representative for Mississippi. The event will be held tomorrow, August 4, at 10:30 a.m.

During the Webinar, Williams will provide participants with an overview of EDA's programs, including the federal funding opportunities currently available to help Mississippi's communities thrive. She will also discuss program eligibility requirements and EDA's evaluation criteria. EDA targets investment assistance to attract private capital investments and create higher-skill, higher-wage jobs in communities and regions suffering from economic distress. Throughout her career with EDA, Williams has successfully assisted numerous communities in securing assistance from EDA. Webinar participants will be able to ask questions at the conclusion of the presentation.

MDA encourages anyone interested in learning about the programs and funds available through EDA to take part in this exciting opportunity. The event is expected to last approximately 45 minutes, and registration is free. To register online, please visit www.mississippi.org and select the "Webinars and Programs" button located near the bottom right side of the page.

Mississippi's Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program Plan Approved by HUD; Three Continuums of Care Awarded Contracts

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently approved the State of Mississippi's plan to administer its Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). Approximately \$13.3 million in grant funds have been allocated to Mississippi to implement the HPRP, which is being administered by MDA. According to MDA executive director Gray Swoope, the program will provide real assistance to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. HPRP is funded through HUD's \$1.5 billion Homelessness Prevention Fund, which was established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Additionally, three Mississippi Continuums of Care have been awarded HPRP grant funds to implement the program. These include: Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Inc. - \$2,961,348; Partners to End Homelessness, Inc. - \$2,200,489; and Mississippi United to End Homelessness - \$7,919,621.

For more information about the HPRP, please visit stimulus.mississippi.org. The Web site will be updated regularly as more information about the program and the implementation process becomes available.

Hybrid Plastics Chosen as Recipient of R&D Magazine's 2009 R&D 100 Award

Hybrid Plastics of Hattiesburg was recently honored by R&D Magazine as a winner of the *2009 R&D 100 Award* for its POSS® Flow Aids. The magazine presents the award for the 100 most technologically-significant products introduced into the global marketplace each year. POSS® Nanostructured® Chemical technology, when used as a processing flow aid, effectively increases the melt flow of virtually any thermoplastic resin and is thermally stable enough for even the highest temperature plastics. This year marks Hybrid Plastics' second time to receive the award; in 2000, the company was chosen for its Molecular Silicas® products.

In 2004, MDA assisted Hybrid Plastics with its move to the Hattiesburg/Forrest County Industrial Park. To learn more about Hybrid

Plastics, please visit its Web site at www.hybridplastics.com.

Governors Take in Mississippi Gulf Coast and State's Musical Heritage during National Governors Association Annual Meeting

Governor Haley Barbour recently welcomed governors from around the country to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the National Governors Association's 101st Annual Meeting. The four-day event featured discussions regarding issues that the states and the country are currently facing. These included such topics as the economy, health care, infrastructure, education, energy and the environment.

In addition to a full agenda of scheduled programs, the governors were given the opportunity to see the Gulf Coast, witness first-hand the resilience of its residents following Katrina and take in many of the local attractions. MDA's Tourism Division helped plan several events designed to showcase Mississippi's cultural and musical heritage. The governors were treated to an event that highlighted the state's tremendous musical influence on the world with performances by several GRAMMY® nominees and winners. The division was also involved in planning and hosting a Sunday gospel brunch that featured award-winning country music artist Marty Stuart.

Mississippi was slated to host the organization's 2006 annual meeting, but the location was moved due to Hurricane Katrina. The last time the event was held in Mississippi was in 1935.

2nd Annual SEUS-CP Conference Takes Place in Canada, Mississippi to Host 3rd Annual Event; 33rd Annual SEUS-Japan Joint Meeting Slated for October 18-20 in Tokyo

The Southeast U.S. - Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) Alliance held its 2nd annual conference July 26-28 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. The goal of this year's event was to present clear opportunities for enhanced commercial exchanges, two-way trade and knowledge sharing between member provinces and member states. Industries that were highlighted at the conference were ocean technologies, advanced manufacturing and energy - all of which have a growing presence in Mississippi. MDA deputy director Whit Hughes stated that Canada is one of Mississippi's primary trade partners, and events such as the yearly conference provide a great medium for strengthening existing relationships and forming new ones. Mississippi will host the 3rd Annual SEUS-CP Conference April 11-13, 2010, in Biloxi. Mississippi businesses and research institutions interested in developing relationships with their Canadian counterparts are encouraged to mark their calendars and make plans to attend.

SEUS-CP was modeled after and shares the same premise as the

successful SEUS-Japan Alliance, which was founded in 1975 to promote trade, investment, understanding and friendship between Japan and the Southeast U.S. member states. The 33rd Annual SEUS-Japan Joint Meeting will be held October 18-20, 2009, in Tokyo. Again, businesses interested in growing relationships with Japanese businesses are invited to join the Mississippi delegation. For more information, please visit www.seusjapan.org or contact Liz Cleveland at (601) 359-3155 or by e-mail at lcleveland@mississippi.org.

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