

The Governor's Education Achievement Award for Higher Education will be awarded to the *School of Polymers and High Performance Materials – The University of Southern Mississippi*- Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

The School of Polymers and High Performance Materials is located at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. It is comprised of the Department of Polymer Science, the Mississippi Polymer Institute, the International Coatings and Formulation Institute, the National Science Foundation Center for Coatings, and the Polymer Science Learning Center. All are located in the \$29 million, 86,000 square-foot, state-of-the art facility known as the Shelby F. Thames Polymer Science Research Center. As part of a four-year, comprehensive university, the School was the first in the United States to offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in polymer science and is one of only three institutions in the U.S. to currently offer B. S. and M. S. degrees in polymer science, and the Ph.D. in polymer science and engineering. It offers the largest and longest running technical symposium in the nation: the International Waterborne, High-Solids, and Powder Coatings Symposium. The Polymer Science Learning Center, a web-based educational program, is offered world-wide in seven languages. The School of Polymers and the Mississippi Polymer Institute attracted approximately \$9 million in external grants during 2001 and is expected to exceed \$11 million during 2002. The School's principal focus is to be known as the undisputed, number one Polymer Science and Engineering Program in the world.