

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY FACTS

Volume 5, Number 8

March 2,

STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20 - 21

"Balancing the Roles of Leadership" is the theme of this year's Statewide Leadership Conference sponsored by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), Mississippi Economic Development Council, and Building Organizations for Leadership Development (BOLD). The event will be held at the Hilton on County Line Road in Jackson on Tuesday, March 20 and Wednesday, March 21, 2001.

The conference is designed to promote and recognize outstanding leadership in Mississippi. Community leaders can network and share ideas while learning valuable skills in strategic planning and success building. Workshop titles include "Understanding Generational Differences," "Balancing Roles," "Leadership for Dummies," and many more.

Attendees will enjoy a luncheon each day featuring a noted Mississippi leader. Dr. Frances Lucas-Tauchar, President of Millsaps College, is the keynote speaker and will kick off the opening session. Tuesday night will be highlighted with a reception at the Governor's Mansion.

The top ten "Projects of Excellence" will also be recognized during the luncheon on Wednesday. The leadership program sponsoring each of the top three projects will receive \$500; the other seven will each receive a \$100 award.

"Strong leadership is the key to building a better, brighter Mississippi," commented J.C. Burns, Executive Director of MDA. "By recognizing and encouraging that leadership, we provide communities and organizations motivation for continued growth."

Conference registration is \$85 per person, including both luncheons. For more information or to register, contact Peggy Howard at 601.969.0022.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

Mississippi's trade potential will be discussed at the Governor's Conference on International Trade March 14 at the Crowne Plaza in Jackson.

The conference is a partnership between Governor Ronnie Musgrove's office and the Mississippi Economic Council with assistance from the Mississippi Development Authority.

The conference will have panel discussions on business perspectives on international trade and international trade in Mississippi's future.

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and discussions will begin at 9:00 a.m. A luncheon will be held at noon and the event will adjourn at 1:15 p.m.

For sponsorship or ticket information, call (800) 748-7626 or (601) 969-0022.

"I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty."

-- John D. Rockefeller,



DIVISION OF TOURISM PUBLISHES ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) Division of Tourism Development has published the latest edition of its economic impact report – “Fiscal Year 2000 Economic Impact for Tourism and Recreation in Mississippi.” The report compares Tourism/ Recreation economic impact data at the state and county level for Fiscal Year 1999 and Fiscal Year 2000.

Tourism/Recreation is big business in Mississippi. It is the second largest service sector employer in the state. In 1999, 32 million people visited the state; daily overnight visitor expenditures averaged \$92 – \$3 higher than the national average of \$89.

“The Tourism and Recreation industry is vital to Mississippi. This report demonstrates its significance to the lives of Mississippians in dollars and cents,” said Darienne Wilson, Director of the Division of Tourism Development.

Report highlights include:

- Tourism/Recreation accounted for 94,100 jobs in FY 2000 and 89,600 jobs in FY 1999.
- Tourism/Recreation statewide income was \$6.1 billion in FY 2000 and \$5.6 billion in FY 1999.
- Tourism/Recreation General Fund (state) tax revenue totaled \$482.3 million for FY 2000 and \$444.8 million in FY 1999.
- City/County tax revenues based on room/restaurant, gaming, and seawall tax collections were \$140.9 million in FY 2000 and \$122.7 million in FY 1999.
- The 35,206 gaming jobs based on FY 2000 quarterly averages were 37.4% of all FY 2000 Tourism/Recreation direct jobs. FY 2000 Gross Gaming revenues of \$2.6 billion accounted for 42.9 percent of the statewide Tourism/Recreation income while \$209.5 million in FY 2000

gaming-related general fund tax revenues comprised 43.4 percent of all Tourism/ Recreation general fund tax revenues.

MISSISSIPPI HAS NATION’S LOWEST EMPLOYMENT COSTS REPORTS EXPANSION MANAGEMENT MAGAZINE

In the March 2001 edition of *Expansion Management Magazine*, Mississippi ranked number one in the United States on the Fourth Annual Employment Cost Index. The study averages and compares wage and salary, unemployment insurance, and workers’ compensation costs by state. Mississippi tied for eighth place with Kansas and Tennessee last year.

The study is based on the personnel costs of operating a hypothetical 150-person manufacturing facility in each of the fifty states. This year’s Employment Cost Index evaluated three specific industries: SIC 20 – Food and Kindred Products; SIC 30 – Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastic Products; and SIC 36 – Electrical Equipment and Components (less computers).

As corporations scan the globe for possible expansion and/or relocation sites, this information will be valuable in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of sites in Mississippi. Coupled with current incentives, like Advantage Mississippi and other programs through the Mississippi Development Authority, the results of the study could increase the state’s attractiveness to business and industry worldwide.

Expansion Management is an international business-to-business magazine published monthly with a circulation of more than 44,000 subscribers. It targets corporate decision-makers seeking comparison information on cities, states, regions, and countries for business expansion and relocation. The publication provides national and global economic and political information impacting the economy.

The Mississippi Development Authority *Friday Facts* is distributed to MDA staff, economic and community development professionals, legislators and other interested parties. Inquiries regarding this publication or information should be submitted to Stephen Martin, Communications Office, telephone 601.359.3555; fax 601.359.3596; email smartin@mississippi.org. Visit us on the World Wide Web at www.mississippi.org.

MISSISSIPPI MAJOR ECONOMIC IMPACT AUTHORITY ANNOUNCE COMPLETION OF PRELIMINARY WATER QUANTITY REPORT

Officials with the Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority announced Wednesday that a preliminary evaluation of potential sources of water supplies for the Nissan project has been completed. The evaluation, engaged by Canton Municipal Utilities and conducted by R.W. Harden & Associates, based in Austin, Texas, indicates that the needed water supply is likely available from aquifers or surface water. The study now advances to the next phase of evaluation to determine information where new wells should be located based on water quality and impact.

It is anticipated a final report will be released in the next few weeks.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SOUGHT FOR SUNFLOWER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Director sought to supervise all foundation activities, including staff, respective to the mission of the organization and represent the Sunflower County EDF's Board of Directors to the general public and the media regarding economic development activities. Send resume, cover letter and salary requirements by March 9, 2001 to: Barbara Travis/MarketLynx Consulting, PO Box 5976, Brandon, MS 39047-5976 (mktlynx@bellsouth.net).

NATCHEZ ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

The Natchez-Adams County Economic Development Authority seeks an experienced, aggressive, results-oriented professional to plan, direct and implement the community's economic development strategies. Natchez/Adams County is a community of 35,000 residents in Southwest Mississippi. Requirements include: a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited four-year college or university; an economic development certificate from a credentialing agency or equivalent work experience; at least five years experience managing a staff and office operations; demonstrated grant-writing skills; a willingness to travel at least 25% of the time. Competitive salary and benefits package. Application deadline is March 20, 2001. Interested and qualified candidates send resumes to: EDA Search Committee, Natchez-Adams County Economic Development Authority, PO Box 700, Natchez, MS 39121. No telephone calls please.