

Mississippi Development Authority Weekly Report

"Advantage Mississippi is Mississippi's vision for economic growth and prosperity."

J.C. Burns, executive director, Mississippi Development Authority

MISSISSIPPI INVENTOR CONFERENCE SLATED FOR NOVEMBER

"Inventing in the New Millennium" is the theme for the Mississippi Inventor Conference, scheduled for Saturday, November 18 at the Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center in Olive Branch, Mississippi.

The conference, hosted by the Mississippi Small Business Development Center will feature a number of national leaders in the field of inventing including Joanne Hayes-Rines, Editor of *Inventors' Digest*; Andy Gibbs, President and CEO, PatentCafe.com; and Adam Wolff, Excel Development Group, Inc. Representatives from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the U.S. Department of Energy and various state agencies are also participating with the workshop.

Advance registration is \$75 (before November 3) and \$85 at the door. To register or for more details, write, call or e-mail:

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TEAM DELTA CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR JANUARY

The Technology-based Economic Development Alliance (TEAM DELTA) is hosting a conference, "Accessing Technology in the Delta," Thursday, January 25 and Friday, January 26 in Vicksburg, Mississippi at the Vicksburg Convention Center.

The conference will present information on available local, state, regional and federal resources that could assist communities build upon existing successes or bridge gaps for technology-based economic development.

Through a variety of panel discussions, participants will learn about such topics as the new economy workforce skills imperative, bridging the digital divide, and helping to grow local existing businesses or start new business.

Registration is \$50.00 and reservations may be made by calling the Institute for Technology Development at 601.960.3600.

The TEAM Delta project is a multi-state endeavor seeking to improve the capacity for technology-based economic development within the Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi Delta region. The project is a cooperative alliance led by Mississippi's Institute for Technology Development, the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority, and the Louisiana Partnership for Technology and Innovation. Other allies include the Mississippi Development Authority, Entergy, Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, Regional Technology Strategies, and the Southern Technology Council. Team Delta is funded by a matching grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Technology Policy through the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT).

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI SETS NATIVE AMERICAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

An in-depth look at the Mississippi Band of Choctaws business ventures will be the highlight of the Economic Development for Native Communities conference in March.

The conference, sponsored by the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Community and Economic Development, is set for March 26-29 at the Silver Star Resort and Casino in Philadelphia.

At last year's inaugural conference, participants enjoyed a tour of Silver Star, which is one of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw enterprises. Other Choctaw interests include automotive harness and speaker manufacturing, and a printing company.

The Department of Continuing Education and Distance Learning at the University of Southern Mississippi has set up a web site for the conference at www.cice.usm.edu/ce/noncredit/native.html. Interested persons may register for the conference and receive up-to-date information online.

Early registration costs \$545, or \$525 when two or more register from the same community.

For more information, contact Annette Jones, manager of the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Community and Economic Development at (601) 266-6067. To register, call (601) 266-4186.

AMERICAN BUS ASSOCIATION NAMES MAJESTY OF SPAIN EXHIBIT NORTH AMERICA'S BEST EVENT FOR 2001

The American Bus Association (ABA) recently announced the winning designees for its 2001 list of the Top 100 Events in North America. Topping this year's list as the Top U.S. event is **The Majesty of Spain**, a rare and dazzling display of treasures from the Prado Museum and Spain's royal palaces, coming to Jackson, Mississippi from March 1 through September 3. The list is published as a supplement to the October issue of *Destinations* magazine, and can be found at www.buses.org.

The Majesty of Spain: Royal Collections from the Museo del Prado & Patrimonio Nacional is an exclusive assemblage of more than 600 treasures. It showcases a sumptuous collection of fine art, tapestries, religious objects and decorative arts amid five elaborate re-creations of banquet halls from Spain's regal residences. One room solely features fine porcelain, handcrafted by the masters of the Buen Retiro Workshop. On a larger scale, a rare surviving 55-foot carved and gilded baroque gondola from the reign of Felipe V and a gilded royal carriage belonging to Fernando VII are among the marvels of decorative art on display. Contact (601) 960-9950 for more information.

“The organizers of **The Majesty of Spain** should be quite proud to tell the world their event has earned a coveted place on professional tour itineraries for 2001,” said Michele Janis, ABA’s vice president of communications, marketing and membership. “It’s attractiveness as a don’t-miss entertainment value is only part of the story. The event should also be recognized as a potential magnet of tourism dollars in the economy.

ABA initiated the Top 100 program in 1982 to benefit its motorcoach and bus charter members, who constantly seek fresh and exciting tour itineraries. The 2001 Top Events Selection Committee selected **The Majesty of Spain** from among hundreds of events that were nominated by state tourism offices and visitor bureaus.

FORBES MAGAZINE NAMES KEY PRODUCTION AS ONE OF 200 BEST SMALL COMPANIES IN AMERICA

Forbes Magazine has named Key Production Company, Inc. to its list of the 200 Best Small Companies in America. Key’s overall rank was 90th.

The magazine’s annual 200 Best list, which ranks small companies (sales between \$5 and \$350 million) based on five-year and one-year measures of return on equity, sales growth and earnings-per-share (EPS) growth, is featured in the October 30, 2000, issue.

Key is an independent natural gas and crude oil exploration production company with operations in Mississippi.