

Mississippi Development Authority **FRIDAY FACTS**

“Mississippi is serious about business and we are serious about economic development.”

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

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES NAME OF MISSISSIPPI’S NEW ONE-STOP SYSTEM

The *Workforce Investment Network—WIN in Mississippi*, is the name of the State’s new one-stop system designed to streamline access to information on employment and training opportunities, Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced today. The WIN in Mississippi system also creates WIN Job Centers. In one convenient location, both job seekers and employers can get information about, and access to, a wide array of job training, education, and employment services. Employers, students, individuals with disabilities, veterans, welfare recipients, the unemployed and the underemployed all have equal access to information and services, at little or no cost.

In a statewide competition held earlier this year, more than 100 entries were submitted for consideration to name the new system. Governor Musgrove selected WIN in Mississippi as the winning entry, which was submitted by Ms. Anita C. Randle of Sardis, Mississippi. Randle is a project coordinator for NASA at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

“Through the WIN in Mississippi system, the way Mississippi workers find good jobs and employers find good workers will change forever. The WIN Job Centers will give Mississippians access to the tools they need to manage their careers through information and high quality services and will help Mississippi businesses find skilled workers,” said Governor Musgrove.

WIN in Mississippi is a locally driven program, overseen by the Board of Supervisors of each county. Partners in the WIN in Mississippi system include the local workforce investment area boards, planning and development districts, community colleges, community action agencies, community based organizations and other local employment and training service providers.

The State agency partners include the Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, State Department of Education, and Federal housing, employment and veterans programs. The partners work together to coordinate services and provide customer referral, case management, and actual delivery of services at the WIN Job Centers.

The system is currently in a transition process. When complete, the Mississippi Development Authority will promote the use of the WIN Job Centers.

J.C. Burns, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority said, "We are serious about creating economic prosperity for the citizens of Mississippi. The WIN Job Centers will streamline services and help people get information on available jobs or the training needed to improve their quality of life. Employers also benefit from the program by being able to locate job-ready skilled workers."

At the WIN Job Centers, individuals may: Receive a preliminary assessment of their skills, aptitudes, abilities, and support services needs; Obtain information on a full array of employment related services, including information about local education and training service providers; Receive help filing claims for unemployment insurance and evaluating eligibility for job training and education programs or student financial aide; Obtain job search and placement assistance and receive job counseling; Have access to up-to-date labor market information which identifies job vacancies, skills necessary for in-demand jobs, and provides information about local regional, and national trends; and Locate available child care, transportation and other needed support services.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION NAMES DELPHI PACKARD INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR

Delphi Packard Brookhaven Plant Invests \$73 million, adds 138 jobs

The Brookhaven-Lincoln County Industrial Development Foundation recently announced that it has selected Delphi Packard Electric Systems as the area's industry of the year. The industry is selected annually based on the overall commitments to the area in the way of job growth, investment and community involvement.

Delphi Packard Electric Systems Brookhaven facility is known worldwide for its technologic advances and team oriented workforce. The plant produces a variety of highly advanced automotive components, including: bussed electrical centers (BEC's) for GM full size trucks and sport utilities, electronic brake controls for GM and Isuzu, and precision molded parts for various OEM's (original equipment manufactures).

Within the last 18 months, the plant converted much of its production from a labor intensive, wire cutting, operation to a highly automated, technology-based assembly process. The three-shift operation employs approximately 600 people in a highly participative, team-oriented environment.

Over the past 18 months, Delphi Packard invested \$73 million in capital investments and facility improvements and added 138 new employees. Also, Delphi Packard contributes to the local economy over \$30 million in wages.

Delphi Packard employees are heavily involved in volunteer work and community functions.

"Delphi Packard is a great company with great employees whose investment of \$73 million and adding 138 jobs is unmatched by any in the Southwest Mississippi region. We are proud to honor them in this way and hope to continue to be of service to them in the future," said Chandler Russ, Ex. V.P. Chamber of Commerce.

"The IDF every year looks for the industry that has made a significant commitment in Brookhaven-Lincoln County and we are right on the mark this year in bestowing this recognition of Delphi Packard," said Phillip Price, Chairman of the Industrial Development Foundation.

"It's great to see a local industry upgrade and expand and move swiftly into technology and technology upgrades. We are honored that they have faith in our community and are willing to make wonderful investments for their future and our," said Chandler Russ.

"Delphi Packard is honored to receive this award and to reinvest and make a contribution to the community where we work...Delphi Packard's employees and their work ethic is the reason we are able to actively support community projects and invest in this area," said Ken Harlan, Plant Manager.

TUNICA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU WINS GOLD SERVICE AWARD – FIRST FOR THE BUREAU AND FIRST FOR THE STATE

The Tunica Convention & Visitors Bureau was honored as part of *Meetings & Conventions* Gold Awards gala ceremony held recently in New York City. At the ceremony the Tunica CVB received the 2000 Gold Service Award. Now in its 17th year, *Meetings and Conventions'* Gold Service Award is presented to industry Convention & Visitors Bureaus that have excelled in professionalism and dedication in their service to meeting professionals. "It is phenomenal for a bureau as young and as small as Tunica's to win this prestigious award," stated Liz Bremond, Sales Representative for Meetings & Conventions. "This is evidence of their hard work and dedication," she added.

The Tunica Convention & Visitors Bureau is the only CVB in the state of Mississippi to receive this honor. Webster Franklin, Executive Director of the Tunica Convention & Visitors Bureau stated, "This award is especially meaningful to the Tunica tourism industry. Bill Canter, Director of Sales & Marketing and Anne Coggins, Sales Manager for the Bureau should be commended for the first class service they provide meeting planners interested in the Tunica market. Their 'can do' attitude and generous Southern Hospitality bring planners back to Tunica time and again."

This year 72 domestic and international/offshore Convention & Visitors Bureaus were honored with the Gold Service distinction through voting by *Meetings & Convention's* readers. The publication's more than 76,000 corporate, incentive and association meeting professionals used the following criteria for voting: overall professionalism of staff, support on hotels and site inspections, assistance with ground transportation planning, guidance on local attractions and facilities and liaison with local vendors and services. "Service is the main quality that defines a superior bureau," states Bernard W. Schraer, *Meetings & Conventions* Group Publisher.

"These select CVBs know that creating a lasting positive impression is extremely important. The Gold Service Award winners have excelled in this area not only with their industry clients with the readers of M&C. " Schraer adds, "The staff at M&C join our readers in saluting these outstanding CVBs who strive to develop effective partnerships with meeting professionals."

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.