

Mississippi Development Authority **FRIDAY FACTS**

“On behalf of the entire staff of the Mississippi Development Authority, Season’s Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.”

*-- J.C. Burns
Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority*

AVAILABILITY OF AMERICORPS FUNDS FOR 2001-2002

The Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service announces availability of funds through National Service Programs, established by the National and Community Service Act of 1993 and administered by the Corporation for National Service. AmeriCorps funds will be available competitively. The first step in this funding process is to submit a Concept Paper, due to MCVS no later than January 3, 2001. Grants average \$250,000.

AmeriCorps is the national service program that engages thousands of dedicated Americans in meeting the critical needs of communities in the areas of public safety, education, human needs, and the environment. In exchange for one or two years of service, AmeriCorps members receive educational awards to help finance their college education or pay back student loans.

Non-profit agencies and organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies (state and local) may apply for this source of funding.

ADVANTAGE MISSISSIPPI UP-DATE

The guidelines and applications for the Advantage Mississippi program can now be accessed on our web site. The address is www.mississippi.org.

UNEMPLOYMENT TAX RATE CUT ANNOUNCED

The Mississippi Employment Security Commission (MESC) announced that the unemployment insurance tax rate in Mississippi has been lowered for next year. This marks the second consecutive year that the tax rate has decreased.

The minimum tax rate will be lowered from the 2000 rate of 0.7% to 0.5% for 2001. Last year, the tax was cut by 0.1%.

“The strength of the unemployment insurance trust fund has enabled us to lower the tax rate for employers again this year,” said Curt Thompson, executive director of MESC.

Briefly –

Golden Manufacturing Company located Golden, Mississippi has secured a \$19 million contract with the Defense Supply Center to manufacture coats for the military.

Viking Range Corporation based in Greenwood has recently expanded in new West Coast markets through the acquisition of HomeChef, Inc. The company also plans to develop a research center near Mississippi State University.

Turner Construction, Inc. announced plans to build a fabrication plant in the George County Industrial Park in Lucedale. This operation will create 50 new jobs for Lucedale.

Haynes Enterprises of Cleveland plans to construct a new plant in the Rosedale Industrial Park.

Delphi Automotive Systems Corp. has been named the 2000 Industry of the Year by the Industrial Development Foundation of Lincoln County.

North American DataCom has been awarded a \$300,000 contract from the Mississippi Space Commerce Initiative to enhance the Mississippi Views data management system.

K&W, Inc. has signed an agreement with Fort James Corporation to provide pre-press service for their Dixie Paper Products line.

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.