

Mississippi Development Authority
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For Immediate Release:

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Date: March 11, 2003

GOVERNOR'S CUP AWARDS TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING BUSINESSES

JACKSON, Miss., - The Mississippi Development Authority, in partnership with the Mississippi Economic Development Council, announced today a new program designed to recognize outstanding businesses across the state. The Governor's Cup awards will recognize 16 outstanding businesses in 8 regions across the state. One small business and one large business will also be selected as outstanding businesses of the year and will be honored at the Annual Mississippi Economic Development Council's awards banquet, Thursday, July 10, 2003 in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The award, one of the highest honors presented by the Governor, recognizes private sector businesses that have had significant impact within their local community during calendar year 2002. The purpose of the Governor's Cup Awards Program is to honor these businesses and to raise general awareness about their successful efforts.

"Eligible nominating organizations should take this opportunity to consider the businesses in their community and examine how they have made a difference through their community involvement and economic impact on the community," said Governor Musgrove. "I encourage the members of our economic development organizations and area Chambers of Commerce to nominate businesses who deserve recognition."

"We're excited about the opportunity to recognize businesses who have made a significant impact on people's lives and Mississippi's communities," said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director, Mississippi Development Authority.

The Governor's Cup awards will be given in two categories: a) Small Business – firms with 50 employees or less, b) Large Business – firms with 51 or more employees. One winner in each category will be recognized in each of eight districts. From these 16 District Winners, 2 Statewide Winners will be chosen, one from each category. The program follows the district lines of the Mississippi Development Authority and the Mississippi Economic Development Council.

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Nominations may be submitted by Economic Development organizations or by Chambers of Commerce. In addition, the local nominating entity of each of the district winners will receive a \$1,000 Planning Grant to support their existing industry and business program. The local nominating entity for each statewide winner will receive a \$15,000 Planning Grant for their existing industry and business program.

For additional information about the Governor's Cup Awards or the nomination process, please contact the MDA Existing Industry & Business Division at 601-359-3593.