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## **MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RECOGNIZES MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK**

Jackson, Miss. - In conjunction with National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week, the Mississippi Development Authority's Minority Business Enterprise Division (MBED) hosted a breakfast symposium Wednesday at the Clarion Hotel in Jackson.

Consistent with this year's theme, "Strategies for Growth in Mississippi, Part II: The Entrepreneurial Economy," participants had the opportunity to learn more about business opportunities available to minority and women-owned businesses and explore the services and programs at the state, local and federal level that target the needs of minority and women entrepreneurs.

Robert Henderson, Director of the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce was the guest speaker for the event. Governor Ronnie Musgrove and Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority, were present to share remarks. Representatives from MBED, Mississippi Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Commerce, City of Jackson and Jackson Airport Authority were also on hand to answer questions and offer their expertise.

"Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week offers minority and woman-owned businesses the opportunity to network with other entrepreneurs while exploring the range of resources available from state, local and federal entities," said Governor Musgrove. "This week's activities remind us that we must continue to support all businesses, big and small, in order to foster economic growth for the future of Mississippi."

"As we work to create new economic opportunities for all of our citizens, the Mississippi Development Authority is excited to be a part of programs, like MED Week, that support the growth and success of minority and women-owned businesses," said Rohrlack.

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National MED Week is coordinated nationally, regionally and locally each year to create a forum for the discussion of major issues impacting minority enterprises. MED Week activities also offer excellent networking and contracting opportunities for participants. This year's event commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official designation of MED Week by Presidential Proclamation in 1983.

Gennie Lacy Jones, Division Director of MBED, commented on the success of the event: "MED Week is about people coming together to exchange ideas and share resources. The participation today from our presenters as well as the symposium attendees demonstrate Mississippi's ongoing commitment to recognizing and supporting minority businesses."