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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GOVERNOR MUSGROVE ANNOUNCES \$7 MILLION IN WINNOVATION GRANTS FOR STATE'S SIX WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA**

Jackson, Miss., - Governor Ronnie Musgrove has awarded the state's six local Workforce Investment Areas grants totaling \$7 million through the Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA) Employment Training Division. The grants will be utilized to enhance employment training, literacy and vocational rehabilitation programs.

"This year MDA's, Workforce Investment Network, commonly know as WIN identified funds to be awarded as grants to the various local Workforce Investment Areas. The purpose of these additional monies was to encourage each area to develop new innovative community projects and programs, thus we titled the funds, WINnovation grants," said James Lott, director, MDA, Employment Training Division.

"Having an abundant and well trained, qualified workforce is essential in our efforts to promote our Advantage Mississippi program to recruit more business and industry to our state," said Governor Musgrove.

The grants are made possible by the Workforce Investment Act, a federally funded program that provides for a unique workforce development and employment system designed to meet the needs of business job seekers and people who want to further their careers.

"The mission of workforce development initiatives is to connect job seekers with job providers; and to connect job seekers and job providers with education and training providers in order to continuously update the skill levels of employees," said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director, MDA.

For information on local programs through the state's network of WIN Job Centers call: 1-800-US2-JOBS.

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