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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STATE BENEFITS FROM EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR SERIES
PRODUCED BY MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**Minority and Small Business Coordinators Hosted Series of Meetings to Discuss
Economic Opportunities with Nissan Project**

JACKSON, Miss., - Through a series of ten seminars held across the state over 450, disadvantaged and small businesses were able to gain insight in identifying methods and strategies to facilitate potential participation in the contracts for the state related work with Nissan and potentially additional Nissan contracts.

The Minority Business Enterprise division of the Mississippi Development Authority in cooperation with Systems' Consultants Associates, Inc. held the series of meetings to educate the community as they prepare themselves to conduct business with the Nissan corporation.

“It was a memorable experience to be a part of this opportunity to assist a number of Mississippians create a brighter future for them and their families. It was evident by the excitement and the interest displayed by the participants at each of the seminars they, too, were serious about economic development for Mississippi. The tremendous support we received from the Legislature and local representatives was evidence of how all of us working together can make a difference. The Nissan project has afforded a tremendous opportunity for a number of individuals, not only as a workforce but as business partners,” said Gennie Lacy Jones, director of the MDA Minority Business Enterprise Division.

In addition to discussing Nissan, MDA officials also discussed the agency's services for minority and women-owned businesses, including the loan program and business planning.

Participating with the program, Systems Consultants Associates, Inc. is tasked to work closely with prime contractors, minority contractors, and disadvantaged contractors to facilitate potential participation in the contracts awarded by the state.

The seminars were offered at no charge to participating companies to assist them in identifying methods and strategies for involving minority, disadvantaged, and small business participation in the execution of the work with the Nissan project. ###