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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES NAME OF MISSISSIPPI'S NEW ONE-STOP SYSTEM

JACKSON, Miss., November 27 - The *Workforce Investment Network—WIN in Mississippi*, is the name of the State's new one-stop system designed to streamline access to information on employment and training opportunities, Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced today. The hallmark of the WIN in Mississippi system is the creation of WIN Job Centers. In one convenient location, both job seekers and employers can get information about, and access to, a wide array of job training, education, and employment services. Employers, students, individuals with disabilities, veterans, welfare recipients, the unemployed and the underemployed all have equal access to information and services, at little or no cost.

In a statewide competition held earlier this year, more than 100 entries were submitted for consideration to name the new system. Governor Musgrove selected WIN in Mississippi as the winning entry, which was submitted by Ms. Anita C. Randle of Sardis, Mississippi. Randle is a project coordinator for NASA at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

"Through the WIN in Mississippi system, the way Mississippi workers find good jobs and employers find good workers will change forever. The WIN Job Centers will give Mississippians access to the tools they need to manage their careers through information and high quality services and will help Mississippi businesses find skilled workers," said Governor Musgrove.

WIN in Mississippi is a locally driven program, overseen by the Board of Supervisors of each county. Partners in the WIN in Mississippi system include the local workforce investment area boards, planning and development districts, community colleges, community action agencies, community based organizations and other local employment and training service providers. The State agency partners include the Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, State Department of Education, and Federal housing, employment and veterans programs. The partners work together to coordinate services and provide customer referral, case management, and actual delivery of services at the WIN Job Centers.

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The system is currently in a transition process. When complete, the Mississippi Development Authority will undertake a major marketing campaign to promote the use of the WIN Job Centers. J.C. Burns, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority said, "We are serious about creating economic prosperity for the citizens of Mississippi. The WIN Job Centers will streamline services and help people get information on available jobs or the training needed to improve their quality of life. Employers also benefit from the program by being able to locate job-ready skilled workers."

At the WIN Job Centers, individuals may: Receive a preliminary assessment of their skills, aptitudes, abilities, and support services needs; Obtain information on a full array of employment related services, including information about local education and training service providers; Receive help filing claims for unemployment insurance and evaluating eligibility for job training and education programs or student financial aide; Obtain job search and placement assistance and receive job counseling; Have access to up-to-date labor market information which identifies job vacancies, skills necessary for in-demand jobs, and provides information about local regional, and national trends; and Locate available child care, transportation and other needed support services.