

Mississippi Development Authority
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ROBERT J. ROHRLACK, JR., RECENTLY CONFIRMED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JACKSON, MS – Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., has recently received confirmation from the Mississippi Senate as Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). He was appointed by Governor Ronnie Musgrove in December, 2001.

“We are pleased with Bob Rohrlack’s confirmation,” said Governor Musgrove. “He is well-qualified to lead the Mississippi Development Authority in its efforts to bring jobs and prosperity to the people of Mississippi.”

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) is Mississippi’s leading economic development organization, with a clear mission to attract and expand business in Mississippi. MDA’s ten divisions provide services including: energy and infrastructure improvements to communities and individual businesses; employment hiring and training resources for both employers and job seekers; financial advice and assistance for both large and small businesses; promotion of the state through its communications and tourism efforts.

“My goal for MDA is for job creation and business retention, leading to increased prosperity for Mississippi’s citizens,” Rohrlack said. “My decision to come to Mississippi was based on the fact that the state is making new strides in economic development through the vision of Governor Musgrove, and the Advantage Mississippi Initiative.”

Rohrlack, 40, has nearly 16 years of professional economic development experience at statewide, regional and local levels. Before coming to Mississippi, he served as President and CEO of the Alliance for Economic Development in Gainesville, FL, a coordinated partnership of the local Chamber of Commerce, economic development council and technology incubator, which he helped forge. As Bureau Chief of the Florida Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry Development, he gained broad experience in statewide marketing, recruitment and existing industry development. In his position with the Department of Commerce, in cooperation with the Florida Chamber of Commerce and other economic development organizations, he successfully lobbied for the Enterprise Florida program, a public/private partnership approach for boosting economic development.

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Rohrlack earned a Certified Economic Developer designation by completing a three-year institute program offered by the University of Oklahoma, Norman, and the American Economic Development Council. He was the first CED in the nation to receive a Master's in Economic Development, which he earned at the University of Southern Mississippi. He completed his undergraduate work at Troy State University in Alabama, and has pursued other coursework sponsored by the American Economic Development Council at the University of North Carolina and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management at the University of Georgia.

He and his wife, Sue, have three sons.

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