For Immediate Release March 6, 2003 <u>Contact</u>: John Sewell 601-359-2916 Frank Riley, Jr. 601-961-7454

GOVERNOR'S JOB FAIR NETWORK KICKS OFF 2003 WITH MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT EXPO

(Jackson, MS) – The Governor's Job Fair Network of Mississippi will present its first event of 2003 with the Mississippi Employment Expo. This job fair will take place Tuesday, March 18, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Mississippi Trademart Building at the Mississippi Fairgrounds, located at 1207 Mississippi Street. Admission is free to the public.

"This program serves to bring together those seeking employment with companies seeking good, qualified employees. While we continue efforts to attract new businesses, the Governor's Job Fair Network is an excellent 'tool in the toolbox' for showcasing what Mississippi has to offer," said Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

With over 100 employer booths and resources, this will be an excellent opportunity for job seekers. Participants will include Nissan and Nissan suppliers, state agencies, local hospitals, banks and hotels, police departments from Jackson, Clinton and Madison, the United States Department of State, Miskelly Furniture, the U. S. Postal Inspection Service, trucking companies, local colleges, universities and community colleges, Raytheon Aerospace, Bell South the Mississippi Gaming Commission and many other outstanding employers. Positions available include OTR drivers, production supervisors, engineers, nursing, medical tech, temporary, clerical, light industrial, accounting, IT, and professional.

"The Mississippi Employment Expo committee has worked hard, and we expect to reap the benefits in seeing many of our state's citizens find good jobs," said Joe Buckner, Executive Adviser for Military Transition and Event Director.

The Governor's Job Fair Network is a partnership under Governor Ronnie Musgrove, the Mississippi Development Authority, and the Mississippi Employment Security Commission. Community partners for the Mississippi Employment Expo include the Clarion Ledger, MACE, local senior and community colleges, and Metro area economic development agencies. Events are scheduled in various communities around the state throughout the year. For more information, please visit the website at www.jobfairs.ms.gov.

During the 2001-2002 year, the Governor's Job Fair Network presented 12 statewide events with over 525 employers and institutions and 15,000 job seekers. A total of 4,500 job offers were extended on the days of these events.