

State of the economy: “Proud to be a Mississippian”

- Mass layoffs in other states and budget cuts. Mississippi has weathered better than most.
- Mississippi was listed by “Site Selection” magazine last year as one of the top ten states for new and expanded facilities.
- In September 2001, the state was named one of the top ten states for small business survival.
- Under Governor Musgrove’s leadership and during a national recession, more than 2,000 new and expanded facilities have opened, creating more than 50,000 jobs and a total business investment of over \$14 billion.

MESC Employees involvement:

- Thank them for the job well done. MESC employees are providing valuable services at our WIN Job Centers and are processing applications for Nissan employment. Nissan, upon completion, will hire a total of 5,300 employees. That’s not counting suppliers across the state.
- In addition, MESC is an integral part of the Rapid Response Team when companies close.

Legislation:

- Voted for and Governor has signed the donated leave bill, SB 2317, that allows state employees to donate personal leave to other state employees dealing with a catastrophic illness or injury. The bill also revises the definition of the term “catastrophic injury or illness” and applies to an employee or a member of an employee’s immediate family.
- The Rural Economic Impact Authority, HB, 1335, which the Governor called for in his State of the State address in January, as another potential tool for spurring further growth in rural areas of Mississippi. The initiative, which focuses on job skill training at community colleges and support of local economic development efforts, was passed by the Legislature this week.
- State employees health insurance is very important to me.