

*Remarks for the
Mobile WIN Job Center
December 3, 2002*

(recognize Jim Lott)

Coming here, I was telling someone I've been proud to officially open many WIN Job Centers, but I have to tell you, this is the first time I've officially opened a WIN Job Center that can follow me around the state.

Now that I've had a chance to "kick-the-tires," so to speak, I want to turn over the keys to Mary Lee McNeil, President and CEO of the Gulf Coast Workforce Investment Area.

(NOTE: PHOTO OP)

Through the Workforce Investment Network in Mississippi, thousands of Mississippians and businesses located in our state have benefited from the many programs and services offered at local WIN Job Centers. In the recent program year of 2001, over 300,000 customers have been served in a WIN Job Center. That's a lot of folks getting a lot of help

This Mobile WIN Job Center is an innovative project and reflects how the state, local elected officials and businesses have joined together to design solutions that will benefit this region and its communities.

Through a regional collaborative effort involving local elected officials and businesses and, with funding from the Mississippi Development Authority, the Gulf Coast Workforce Investment Area has responded quickly and positively to its citizens' needs. Through the exchange of ideas and outreach solutions, the WIN in Mississippi program can reach into every corner of the area.

This Mobile WIN Job Center will enable the Gulf Coast Workforce Investment Area to take the programs and services offered through WIN in Mississippi into those communities where there is no brick and mortar presence.

This mobile unit will reach a broader range of customers at the point where service is needed most. It will allow us to bring to the job seeker, the laid-off worker, at-risk youth and businesses a broad menu of employment programs that have been designed to meet the needs of the local workforce area.

More and more people realize that the one-stop concept of the WIN Job Centers is part of how our state can offer a high quality workforce.

The Mobile WIN Job Center's Internet connected computers use the latest in satellite technology.

Customers of the Mobile WIN Job Center will find many of the same user friendly and convenient services that are available in a permanent WIN Job Center.

I think it's important to point out that the Gulf Coast Workforce Investment Area officials didn't have to go out of state to obtain this state-of-the-art vehicle. Through careful research and inquiry, they were able to locate a resource for manufacturing and outfitting this Mobile WIN Job Center in Mississippi at a facility in Clinton at Custom Coach Conversions. This is another example of the importance of building public and private partnerships.

This Mobile WIN Job Center is an extension of the Workforce Investment Network in Mississippi. It will help those communities as well as the entire state as we continue to promote our Advantage Mississippi Program designed to recruit more and more businesses and industries that will bring quality jobs for our citizens.

Workforce development is economic development, and Mississippi's finest resource is its people. The Workforce Investment Network gives our citizens the best tools to attract and maintain quality jobs. At the same time, it provides businesses with the qualified workers they need to succeed.

If you are a job seeker, a laid-off worker, a young person in need of guidance, or a businessperson, I encourage you to take advantage of this WIN Mobile Job Center. It is great example of how WIN in Mississippi and the network of WIN Job Centers responds to your needs. This one just happens to be on wheels!

Thank you.