

## **CONNECTIONS**

CONNECTIONS is an e-newsletter published by the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University, Marty Wiseman, Ph.D., Executive Director. It is intended for public officials, economic developers, and community leaders, although anyone with an interest may subscribe to the list at no cost. Information is provided as a guide only, and is not guaranteed to be accurate. The mailing list is not sold or shared with anyone. To be removed from the list send an e-mail to Phil Hardwick at [phil.hardwick@msstate.edu](mailto:phil.hardwick@msstate.edu) or REPLY to this e-mail and type UNSUBSCRIBE CONNECTIONS in the subject line.

February 11, 2009

Greetings:

The State Executive Development Institute (SEDI) is an annual educational workshop offered by the John C. Stennis Institute of Government. The SEDI is designed to prepare mid- to upper-level state and local government executives to be more effective leaders. Although designed for managers and emerging leaders in state and local government, the course is beneficial to anyone involved in formulating and implementing public policy even though they may not be employed by a government agency. A broad range of topics are presented by government officials, researchers, and instructors in order to provide participants a well-rounded and applicable curriculum. The SEDI curriculum includes management theory, organizational development concepts and techniques, administrative and applied management techniques, and a variety of other related and timely topics.

Held on the campus of Mississippi State University, SEDI brings many of the unique resources found on the university campus to the program.

Mississippi State Personnel Board Certified Public Manager Program and participants may also receive three graduate-level hours in Public Policy Administration at Mississippi State University upon completion of the program.

More information about SEDI 2009 may be found at the Stennis Institute of Government's Web site:

<http://www.msgovt.org/SEDI>

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READ THE STIMULUS BILL: The so-called Stimulus Bill, officially enrolled as American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, is over 1,500 pages. To search for specific items in the bill, there are two Web sites of interest. The first is the official Congressional Web site, known as THOMAS, where you can search all or specific legislation. It's at:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/c111query.html>. Click on Browse by Bill Number and look for HR 1.

Another site of interest is [readthestimulus.org](http://readthestimulus.org). It is simple and easy to use, as well as providing news updates.

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UPDATE - MILES TO GO: MISSISSIPPI is now available online. This Southern Education Foundation report is an update on the central role of education in Mississippi's economy. The report reveals that Mississippi's gap in per capita income with the national average is a result of the education gap.

<http://www.southerneducation.org/showTeaser.asp?did=585>

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MDA January 29, 2009

### Marketing Match Grant Program

By now, most of you have seen the reports in the media that the state's revenue collections continue to be lower than projected. Governor Barbour has required each state agency to reduce its budget by a total of five percent. MDA's share of this round of reductions is just over \$1.1 million.

Due to necessary cuts to the state's budget, MDA's Marketing Match Grant Program will be discontinued until further notice.

Please know that once the economy stabilizes, it is our hope that MDA will once again be able to offer this program. If you should have any questions, please contact Joy Foy, director of MDA's Asset Development Division, at 601-359-2659 or email [jfoy@mississippi.org](mailto:jfoy@mississippi.org) .

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UNION MEMBERSHIP - In 2008, union members accounted for 12.4 percent of employed wage and salary workers, up from 12.1 percent a year earlier, according to a January report by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The report contains state-by-state data.  
[http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/union2\\_01282009.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/union2_01282009.pdf)

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A MAP OF RED/BLUE COUNTIES related to the 2008 Presidential election can be found at:

[http://images.newsmax.com/misc/2008\\_Election\\_Map.jpg](http://images.newsmax.com/misc/2008_Election_Map.jpg)

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S 200<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY is February 12, 2009. Check out all things Lincoln at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. It's on the Web at:

<http://www.alplm.org/home.html>

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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views.  
- Abraham Lincoln

Letter to Horace Greeley, Aug. 22, 1862

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