

CONNECTIONS is an e-newsletter published by the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University, Marty Wiseman, PhD., 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 or REPLY to this e-mail and type UNSUBSCRIBE CONNECTIONS in the subject line.

Greetings:

WERE YOU BORN IN MISSISSIPPI? The 2004 American Community Survey reports that Mississippi now ranks number 14, with 73.8 percent of its residents being native born. In 2000, the state ranked number 5, when 80 percent of its residents were born in Mississippi. Check out more data about states and their people at: www.factfinder.census.gov.

LIBRARIES were supposed to be made obsolete by the "information superhighway," according to some pundits. Instead, they are as prominent as ever. Libraries are taking on a larger civic role, redefining themselves as community centers for the 21st Century. See how you can turn your library into a great community destination at:

http://www.pps.org/info/newsletter/april2007/libraries_that_matter

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE YOU TO DRIVE TO WORK? Mississippians drove an average of 23.5 minutes to work, according to the 2005 American Community Survey. New Yorkers had the longest average commute time at 31.2 minutes, while North Dakotans had the lowest at 16.3 minutes. Source: 2005 American Community Survey

THE LONGEST COMMUTE AWARD was presented last year by Midas, the muffler company, to an engineer at Cisco Systems, in California, who travels three hundred and seventy-two miles—seven hours—a day. Read the article at

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/04/16/070416fa_fact_paumgarten

"GRASSROOTS" AND FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FUNDING - The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), announces the availability of \$3,000,000 in grant funds for eligible "grassroots" organizations with the ability to connect to the local One-Stop Delivery System. According to the announcement, there will be approximately 40 grants of about \$75,000 each. More info at

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=13393>

After reviewing the above announcement and determining that your organization is eligible, but needs grant writing assistance, you may wish to contact LaNell Kellum, Senior Research Associate, at the Stennis Institute for possible technical support. Ms. Kellum's e-mail address is lanell@sig.msstate.edu or she may be reach by phone at 662-325-0215.

PROMOTING TOURISM IN RURAL MISSISSIPPI - If your community is considering tourism as part of its economic development strategy and you would like to understand the basics of how to attract visitors to your area, these Web sites will help you get started:

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/tourism.html#INTRODUCTION>

http://www.visitmississippi.org/resources/tourism_partners.asp

Job Opportunities

Executive Director for Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center. Advanced degree in law, social work or relevant field & work experience preferred. Bachelors degree in relevant field acceptable combined with experience in housing, social justice and/or civil rights. Salary commensurate with experience. Log on to www.makeitfair.com for more info.

Evaluation/Public Policy Manager, Mid South Delta Initiative (MSDI). This position is a senior level position with responsibility for review and analysis of current issues, writing reports about MSDI strategies and issues that affect low-income and low-wealth families, making presentations and leading conversations about MSDI, and managing and coordinating the work of various contractors and grantees. More info at:

<http://www.msdi.org/employment>

CALENDAR:

May 2 - Mississippi Economic Council Annual Meeting/Luncheon, Marriott Hotel, Jackson - details at www.mec.ms

May 9-10 - Mississippi Business/Procurement Opportunities Conference and Trade Fair, Vicksburg Convention Center - details at www.mississippi.org/mptap

May 17-18 - Mississippi State University Economic Development Forum For more information go to <http://www.ios.msstate.edu/econdevforu/index.html>

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

"If I'd asked people what they wanted, they would have asked for a better horse. " - Henry Ford

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