

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 or REPLY to this e-mail and type UNSUBSCRIBE CONNECTIONS in the subject line.

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Greetings:

The Stennis Institute has been chosen as one of 10 public policy institutes in the nation to participate in a deliberative dialog on race relations in America as a part of the New Dartmouth project, which is organized and funded by the Kettering Foundation. While we are dialoging on race relations in America, Russians will be dialoging on race relations in Russia. The purpose of the New Dartmouth experiments is to learn whether the views of a deliberative public can enrich bilateral policy dialogues are underway in Russia and the United States.

The event will be held on March 17, 2008 in Jackson. We are seeking persons and representatives of organizations interested in sharing their views on this subject at the event. If you are so inclined, please e-mail phil.hardwick@msstate.edu for details or call Phil Hardwick at 601-354-6011.

THIRD DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE DEBATE to be held at MSU in Lee Hall on Monday evening, March 3. Details at: <http://www.msstate.edu/web/media/detail.php?id=4153>

LIVE LONGER, LIVE BETTER: futurologists pick top challenges of next 50 years. Read the article at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/feb/16/genetics.energy>

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: The General Mills Corporation, maker of Hamburger Helper, is offering My Hometown Helper grants for local groups interested in making a difference in their community. People looking to improve their hometown - from helping to fund a volunteer fire department, to restoring a town landmark, to supporting a local school - are encouraged to submit entries. Last year, the program gave away more than \$200,000 in total grants and helped communities purchase new band equipment, build a school playground, and fund a tornado warning system, among other projects. To learn more about the grant program, go to <http://www.myhometownhelper.com/LearnMore.aspx>

DEADLINE IS APRIL 3, 2008 FOR CDBG PUBLIC FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATIONS - details at

<http://www.mississippi.org/content.aspx?url=/page/3710&>

My vote for BEST STATE MARKETING WEB SITE goes to the state of Washington. Check it out at:

<http://www.choosewashington.com/poster>.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: BlaneCanada is taking a poll. To take the survey, go to:

http://www.blanecanada.com/Survey/ED_SpeakersPoll.htm

MSU RILEY CENTER in Meridian offers an outstanding performing arts season, meeting and conference space and a variety of educational workshops. Check it out at:

<http://www.msurileycenter.com>.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

"The unconscious democracy of America is a very fine thing. It is a true and deep and instinctive assumption of the equality of citizens, which even voting and elections have not destroyed." - G.K. Chesterton, *What I Saw In America*, 1922

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