

The Nissan Project continues to move ahead sending a strong signal to business and industry that Mississippi is a great place to do business. The start of construction ceremonies held, Friday, April 6 is one more significant step toward a future filled with opportunities for all Mississippians, a future filled with success and prosperity.

The application for the charter for the Mississippi World Trade Center (MWTC) has been submitted to the World Trade Center Association (WTCA). The WTCA will consider the application for approval at its annual meeting in Seoul, Korea on April 23. The MWTC will serve as the state's umbrella organization for international business, education and cultural initiatives, and serve as a one-stop resource for services for international businesses. Through association with the World Trade Center worldwide network, the MWTC will establish an effective and efficient connection between the state and the rest of the world.

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) allotment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, has been increased as a result of a new and innovative method proposed by the Mississippi Development Authority. Funds from the U.S. Department of Labor have increased from this year's total of 37.4 million to 62.8 million, the largest increase in the nation. This substantial increase is a result of our staff working with the Labor Market Information staff at the Employment Service to compile data on unemployment in a different manner.

Tourism Development recently launched a new advertising campaign targeting the Southeast. Also, the division began their first round of Level I Frontline Hospitality training, and the Mississippi Arts Commission has partnered with the division to develop a blues tourism product that will result in the creation of a new travel offering.

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