

**For Immediate Release**

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## **GENNIE LACY JONES NAMED DIRECTOR OF MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DIVISION**

JACKSON, Miss.– Mississippi native, Gennie Lacy Jones has been appointed as Director of the Minority Business Enterprise Division of the Mississippi Development Authority.

“We must work diligently to find new ways to support small, rural and minority owned businesses across our state,” said Governor Musgrove. “Ms. Jones brings with her a great amount of experience working with minority and women owned businesses through her previous positions. We are looking forward to the positive effect she will have as we work together to grow existing Mississippi businesses and recruit new business to our state.”

The Minority Business Enterprise Division (MBED) promotes the growth and development of minority-owned businesses in Mississippi. MBED provides direct and indirect technical assistance to new and existing minority- and women-owned and operated businesses; creates diverse programs to help these businesses move into the mainstream of economic development in the state; and forms partnerships with public and private organizations to encourage maximum business initiatives.

Jones previously served as First Deputy, Department of Procurement Services, Office of Business Development for the City of Chicago, Illinois. As First Deputy, Jones managed the City of Chicago’s Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise Program. This office was established specifically to enhance the capabilities of Minority-owned Business Enterprises and Women-owned Business Enterprises to compete more successfully for contracts with the city of Chicago.

“We are fortunate to have someone with Gennie’s background and experience,” said J.C. Burns, Executive Director, Mississippi Development Authority. “Her knowledge of minority and women-owned business development will be invaluable to our agency and to Mississippi.”

Prior experience includes serving as Senior Program Manager with the General Services Administration, Senior Network Engineer / IT consultant with General Electric

Information Services and Project Officer with the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

A graduate of the Mississippi Valley State University, Jones, received her Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. Jones also holds a Masters of Science degree in Public Administration from Troy State University. She is also a graduate of the Intergovernmental Executive Development Program held at Harold Washington College.

“I am excited about the opportunity to serve the citizens and businesses of the State that nurtured me,” said Jones. “As my home, Mississippi has always enjoyed a favorite place in my heart. I am looking forward to working with Governor Musgrove and Mr. Burns. Together, we will seek to forge new ground by increasing procurement opportunities and by building financial capacity among the minority businesses in Mississippi.”

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