

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND NISSAN CONDUCT COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

*Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association
President Featured Presenter*

On Tuesday, August 20, 2002, the Minority Business Enterprise Division of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), in cooperation with Nissan North America, will host the third in a series of workshops in the MDA/Nissan Community and Development Training Series. The workshop begins with registration at 8:30 a.m. with programs continuing until 12:15 p.m. at the Nissan Training Center at 152 Watford Parkway, Canton, Mississippi.

“The state of Mississippi is committed to providing opportunities for Mississippi companies to take advantage of the economic prosperity that the Nissan plant and the automotive industry as a whole will offer,” said Governor Ronnie Musgrove. “The Community Development and Business Training Program will give businesses the tools they need to successfully compete in the automotive industry.”

The training program targets the state’s business community and their potential participation in the automotive industry. Each workshop is designed to promote a better understanding of the automotive industry and its benefits to the community, to increase business participation with the industry and enhance the skills of its participants.

“The workshop should prove to be educational and beneficial to our business community as they prepare themselves to conduct business with the Nissan Corporation,” Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director, Mississippi Development Authority.

The highlight of the workshop will be a presentation by Mississippi native and graduate of Jackson State University, Will Turner, President and CEO of Turner Improvement Group, Inc.

With over nineteen years experience in the automobile manufacturing industry, Turner will offer his insight into identifying the key elements of doing business with the automotive industry. Turner is an active member of The Society of Automotive Engineers and played a key role in the formation of the Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association and currently serves as President.

Other session topics include: “The In’s and Out’s of Joint Venturing in the Automotive Industry,” with Charles Doty, President Lextron Corporation and William Cooley, Chairman, Systems Consultants Associates, Inc. as co-presenters.

Representatives from Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Department of Transportation, and Jackson International Airport will discuss, “Certification Programs in the State of Mississippi,” and Jeff Dukes, Division Director, Existing Industry and Business will discuss the various programs of the Mississippi Development Authority. Established in collaboration with the Mississippi Minority Contractors Association, Jackson State University, Mississippi Economic Council and the Mississippi Minority Business Alliance, the workshop is open to the public.

The workshop is free to the public; however, registration is required. To register, contact MBED at (601) 359-3448 or dfloyd@mississippi.org.

For more information about the training program or Nissan in Mississippi, visit www.mississippiandnissan.com.

MISSISSIPPI RANKS IN TOP 10 IN SMALL BUSINESS INDEX SURVEY

The Seventh Annual Small Business Survival Index 2002 ranks Mississippi as 9th in the nation for creating a policy environment for entrepreneurship. The Small Business Survival Index provides a measure by which states can be compared according to how the state and local governments treat small business and entrepreneurs.

"I am very pleased with Mississippi's ranking in the Small Business Survival Index. Mississippi is prepared to meet the needs of our existing businesses, entrepreneurs and new companies looking to locate or expand their operation," said Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

Mississippi also ranked 9th in the nation in 2001 and has maintained its level of achievement. Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), through its Small Business Assistance Program, Small Business Administration Guaranteed Loans and the SBA Certified Development Program, have helped bring small businesses to Mississippi and encourage the businesses already located in the state to expand.

METROJACKSON CHAMBER HOLDING ACADEMIES

The MetroJackson Chamber of Commerce will host the second of three Workforce Academies from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., August 14, 2002, at the Clarion Hotel in Jackson.

Academy participants will learn about current local, national and global labor market trends, express concerns about their work force needs, hear about best personnel practices to help their business prosper, learn how to access training resources and participate in follow-up action groups to help develop solutions and policy recommendations on issues deemed of major importance to employers.

The MetroJackson Chamber is sponsoring this event with the Mississippi Economic Council, Hinds County Board of Supervisors (through the Hinds County Workforce Investment Network), the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (through Southcentral Mississippi Works) and the Mississippi Technology Alliance as participating partners.

The registration fee is \$75, which includes instruction, lunch, a notebook with presentation materials and a Resource Guide for Employers. Contact Lewis Slater for more information and/or a registration brochure at (601) 948-7575, or e-mail to lslater@metrochamber.com.