



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –  
March 20, 2009**

For more information:  
Claire Dugger, Director of Marketing and Communications  
Harrison County Development Commission  
228-896-5020  
www.MSCoast.org

**Tag: HARRISON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR LARRY BARNETT CHOSEN AS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER**

Gulfport, Miss. --- Larry Barnett, executive director of the Harrison County Development Commission (HCDC), was recently recognized as one of “South Mississippi’s Outstanding Community Leaders, Class of 2008” by the Sun Herald and The Journal of South Mississippi Business. He will be entered into the Roland Weeks Leadership Hall of Fame with this year’s nine other winners.

Barnett has been with HCDC since 2005, where he has worked closely with local elected officials and HCDC commissioners to reinforce a strong, business-friendly environment in Harrison County. He has maintained an ongoing and active recruitment strategy for manufacturing, distribution, technology, commercial/tourism and other industries. Since 2005, Harrison County has seen the addition of several new operations and expansions, including Trinity Yachts, U.S. Marine, Inc., Gulf Ship, LLC, Seemann Composites, Northrop Grumman and Soprema, Inc., totaling several million dollars in capital investment and several hundred new jobs.

Barnett has also worked closely with surrounding South Mississippi counties to market the region as a whole. In 2001, he was instrumental in organizing the Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance for Economic Development, for which he now serves as president.

Barnett is president-elect for MEDC, secretary and executive committee member for the Mississippi Coast Foreign Trade Zone, a member of the Council of Governments and the Gulf Coast Business Council, and the Harrison County representative for the Mississippi Military Communities Council.

Prior to becoming executive director of HCDC, Barnett worked for 20 years at Mississippi Power Company in marketing, management and economic development positions.

*Created in 1958, the Harrison County Development Commission (HCDC) is the lead economic development agency for Harrison County, including the cities of Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi and D’Iberville. HCDC, through its people and resources, is committed to promoting Harrison County as a positive place to live and do business, to developing quality jobs, to creating increased wealth for all stakeholders and to “Moving the Mississippi Gulf Coast Forward.” Contact information: Larry S. Barnett, executive director, 228-896-5020*

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