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Governor's Cup Awards District Winners Announced

Jackson, Miss. (May 6, 2010) – Governor Haley Barbour has announced this year's district winners of prestigious Governor's Cup Award, which recognizes private-sector businesses that have made a significant impact within their communities. The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) and the Mississippi Economic Development Council (MEDC), which sponsor the awards, will recognize the district winners for their accomplishments during the 2009 calendar year and announce the statewide winners in each category at the annual MEDC awards banquet on July 22, 2010, at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, Miss.

"The businesses receiving this year's Governor's Cup Award are being honored for their commitment to their communities, as well as their strong leadership. I applaud these companies for their ongoing contributions to Mississippi's economy and for improving the quality of life for the residents of their communities," Governor Barbour said. "In addition, these companies stand out as some of the state's best employers."

The district winners in each category are:

Big Business (51 or more employees)

- **North District:** Cooper Tire and Rubber Company, Tupelo; Nominated by the Community Development Foundation, Tupelo
- **Central District:** Structural Steel Services, Meridian; Nominated by the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation, Meridian
- **South District:** DuPont DeLisle, Pass Christian; Nominated by the Harrison County Development Commission, Gulfport

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Small Business (50 or less employees)

- **North District:** Tupelo Recycling, Tupelo; Nominated by the Community Development Foundation, Tupelo
- **Central District:** Thomasson Company, Philadelphia; Nominated by the Community Development Partnership, Philadelphia
- **South District:** Shaggy's Harbor Bar and Grill, Pass Christian; Nominated by the Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce

“These award recipients represent the many businesses in the state that are making a tremendous impact in their communities and on their local economies,” said Gray Swoope, MDA executive director. “Each one of these companies is dedicated to being a true corporate citizen in its community and throughout the state, and I commend these businesses for their commitment to Mississippi.”

The district winners in each category will receive a Governor's Cup Award. From these district winners, statewide winners in the two categories are selected and will be announced during the awards banquet. The statewide winners will be presented with a Governor's Cup trophy and a \$1,000 cash award for their nominating entities.

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About Mississippi Development Authority

Mississippi Development Authority is the State of Mississippi's lead economic and community development agency. Nearly 300 employees are engaged in providing services to businesses, communities and workers in the state. While the agency is best known for its efforts to recruit new businesses to Mississippi, the Authority provides services to promote tourism, help communities improve their quality of place, help existing employers identify and meet opportunities and challenges and help workers improve their skills – all with the goal of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of Mississippians. For more information, visit MDA's Web site at www.mississippi.org.