

CONNECTIONS

CONNECTIONS is an e-newsletter published by the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University, Marty Wiseman, Ph.D., Executive Director. It is intended for public officials, economic developers, and community leaders, although anyone with an interest may subscribe to the list at no cost. Information is provided as a guide only, and is not guaranteed to be accurate. The mailing list is not sold or shared with anyone. To be removed from the list send an e-mail to Phil Hardwick at phil.hardwick@msstate.edu or REPLY to this e-mail and type UNSUBSCRIBE CONNECTIONS in the subject line.

August 18, 2009

Greetings:

REDESIGNED STENNIS INSTITUTE WEBSITE features daily blogs by Institute staff members, training opportunities, publications, research reports and even bi-weekly political commentary by Executive Director Dr. Marty Wiseman. Check it out at

www.sig.msstate.edu.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT STIMULUS FUNDS - Stimulus assistance funds are available for USDA Rural Development administered programs through the Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service. While program funding expires September 30, 2010, most applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are expended. Contact the USDA Rural Development State Office in the state where the project is located. A list of the USDA Rural Development State Offices addresses and telephone numbers is available in the notice at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-17512.htm>

BABY BOOMERS - The Economic Research Service (a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture) reported this week that some parts of rural America will see a steady and quite large influx of older Americans over the next decade or so. Read an article and see the map at

<http://www.dailyonder.com/boomers-migrating-rural-america/2009/08/13/2285>

RURAL BROADBAND – The federal stimulus law allocated \$7.2 billion to bring high-speed Internet to rural and other underserved areas that still live in the dial-up world. An interesting article at Governing.com reports on a Louisiana community wanted to build its own high-speed network to attract business, but was soon stuck in court.

<http://www.governing.com/article/bandwidth-bayou>

<http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=418595> (related article)

2009 KIDS COUNT Data Book - Counting What Counts: Taking Results Seriously for Vulnerable Children and Families. The 20th annual KIDS COUNT Data Book profiles the well-being of America's children on a state-by-state basis and ranks states on 10 key measures of child well-being.

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2009/Default.aspx>

FLORIDA STOPS GROWING – University of Florida demographers said Friday (Aug. 14) that the state lost about 50,000 residents between April 2008 and April 2009. It was the first decline in 63 years.

<http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=419137>

2009 STATE-BY-STATE LEGISLATURE REVIEW – from stateline.org. The national economy may have dominated the 2009 state legislative session, but history was also made both politically and on the social policy front.

<http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=419704>

CALENDAR

September

3 - How to Facilitate a Strategic Planning Retreat, one-day workshop offered by Stennis Institute at Mississippi Library Commission offices in Jackson.

http://www.sig.msstate.edu/index.php?mod=cms&pg=publications&act=training_display

20-25 New South Economic Development Course, Gulfport, MS

http://www.usm.edu/profdev_edoutreach/NEWSOUTH.html

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Principles aren't of much account, anyway, except at election time. After that you hang them up to let them season.

Mark Twain - "The Anti-doughnut Party" speech, 1901

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