

## CONNECTIONS

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September 9, 2010

### Greetings:

Yesterday I had the opportunity to accompany a group of high school juniors on a tour of the Nissan auto plant in Canton as part of the Mississippi Higher Education Initiative (MSHEI), a Stennis Institute project funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission. The goal of the project is to increase the college-going rate in several counties in Northeast Mississippi. Research and experience has shown that students who have personally visited a college are more likely to attend a college. It seems that the more involved I get in economic development the more I get involved in education. Indeed, most every expert agrees that the best thing for economic development in a community is a good education system.

Speaking of education, if you are in Jackson this coming Monday I invite you to attend the monthly Stennis-Capitol Press Luncheon. The speaker will be Steve Suitts, VP of the Southern Education Foundation, and his subject will be Pre-K Education. The registration details are at [stenniscapitolpress.wordpress.com](http://stenniscapitolpress.wordpress.com).

Phil

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*MANUFACTURING: The Misunderstood Industry* by Scott Doron, Director, Southern Technology Council points out that Americans believe that manufacturing is the most important industry for a strong national economy. Yet only 17 percent said their schools encourage manufacturing careers, and only 13 percent said their own parents encouraged them to pursue a career in manufacturing.

<http://www.southerngrowth.com/communityresources/downloads/manufacturing.pdf>

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BROADBAND SLOWDOWN in 2010 - After several consecutive years of modest but consistent growth, broadband adoption slowed dramatically in 2010. Two-thirds of American adults (66%) currently use a high-speed internet connection at home, a figure that is not statistically different from what the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project found at a similar point in 2009, when 63% of Americans were broadband adopters.

<http://tinyurl.com/3xtoge4>

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WHO'S RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE? There are four Congressional seats from Mississippi, and 26 people who have qualified to run for them. And then there are dozens running for judicial positions. Here's a link to Secretary of State Delbert Hoseman's list of those candidates:

[http://www.sos.ms.gov/links/elections/voter\\_information\\_center/tab1/QualifyingCandidates.pdf](http://www.sos.ms.gov/links/elections/voter_information_center/tab1/QualifyingCandidates.pdf)

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THE 2009 ANNUAL MUNICIPAL SALARY SURVEY is available online from the Stennis Institute.

<http://tinyurl.com/365mrvq>

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COMMUNITY FORUMS ON ECONOMIC SECURITY – The Institute is currently scheduling several community forums on the subject “Economic Security: How Should We Take Charge of Our Future?” These forums are facilitated discussions about what citizens think about how we should approach our economic future. For more details and to have a forum scheduled in your community contact Phil Hardwick at 601-354-6011 or [phil.hardwick@msstate.edu](mailto:phil.hardwick@msstate.edu). This series of forums is in association with the National Issues Forums.

See <http://nifi.org>.

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## CALENDAR

### September

14, Member-to-Member Seminar, “HOW THE TRENT LOTT CENTER FITS INTO THE THIRD WAVE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,” Jackson, MS – [www.medc.ms](http://www.medc.ms)

### October

14-15, Biomass South 2010, Memphis, TN - <http://biomasssouth2010.wordpress.com>

28, Mississippi Economic Council HOBNOB, Jackson, MS – [www.mec.ms](http://www.mec.ms)

### November

3-4, Mississippi Municipal League Small Towns Conference, Philadelphia, MS - <http://www.mmlonline.com/news.aspx>

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## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

I used to think that running an organization was equivalent to conducting a symphony orchestra. But I don't think that's quite it; it's more like jazz. There is more improvisation.

- Warren Bennis

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