



Quarter 4 - News & Events - October 2021

From the Director

Excited About Accelerate Mississippi

The Mississippi Office of Workforce Development was created with the passage of Senate Bill 2564 during the 2020 legislative session. This new agency, now known as Accelerate Mississippi, will serve as the unifying banner and organizational platform designed to propel a unified workforce development strategy and delivery program for Mississippi, improve economic opportunity, and expand workforce training ecosystems to meet current and emerging employment needs. According to Ryan Miller, director of Accelerate, the focus is clear. "Accelerate MS will align our state's educational, training, and economic development initiatives to better position and prepare Mississippi and Mississippians with more diverse, productive, and well-paying employment. We will be active and visible, optimizing existing programs, identifying opportunities for innovation, and expanding workforce training ecosystems across the state as sustainable resources and pathways to skilled employment and support economic growth."

This one stop shop for workforce strategy deployment will be a huge benefit to communities and economic development organizations across the state. Accelerate has direct authority and/or influence over approximately 350 million dollars in workforce funds. One of the many challenges placed before Accelerate is to define strategies that will help improve our state's labor participation rate. Successfully addressing this issue will assist our employers with locating and getting individuals connected to quality jobs.

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Workforce is the Word

Your Industrial Board and Economic Development staff are committed to helping our local business establishments address current workforce challenges. Workforce is the overwhelming subject that we hear about from our local employers.

That theme was discussed in detail during the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) statewide tour stop in our community last month. According to MEC, employers from around the state reported that workforce and access to labor is a huge challenge. The majority of our time at the ED office is spent communicating directly with our employers and workforce partners to bring about solutions that will assist with meeting workforce needs.

The Greenwood-Leflore County area has hundreds of job openings. I am asking the community to please help us fill these positions by referring jobseekers to our local WIN Job Center or by calling our office at 662 453 5321. We can assist with helping connect individuals with jobs.

Also, we are on standby to deploy the workforce team to your company. If your business needs help with workforce training or needs an update on current programs and resources available to you, please don't hesitate to contact us. Often times there are workforce dollars that can help defray some of your labor costs

REFER JOBSEEKERS
TO OUR LOCAL WIN
JOB CENTER

AT (662) 459-4600 OR
WWW.MDES.MS.GOV

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