

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.

June 30, 2009

Greetings:

Has your organization ever had a planning retreat that turned in just a discussion meeting? Or did you moderate a community forum that got out of hand? If so, it probably did not have a facilitator guiding the meeting. If you are interested in learning how to facilitate a strategic meeting I invite your registration for the Stennis Institute's upcoming "How to Facilitate a Strategic Planning Retreat" workshop. It will be hands-on and fast-paced. You will go away feeling better about your ability to moderate a forum or facilitate a planning session. It will be especially useful to those who guide community forums. Details as follows:

How to Facilitate a Strategic Planning Retreat:

Plans and strategies often did not get implemented because the people implementing the plans are not involved in its creation. Communities that are involved in the strategic planning processes are more likely to support the strategic plans and become involved in their success. This day-long workshop takes participants through the steps involved in how to serve as the facilitator at a strategic planning retreat.

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Time: 10am-3pm

Location: Hunter Henry Center Parker North Ballroom

Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

Cost: \$75

Facilitator: Phil Hardwick

Register: Web: <http://www.msgovt.org/classes/strategic.html>

Phone: Keshia Perry at 662-325-9196

Email: keshia@sig.msstate.edu.

LOOKING FOR RECOVERY ACT INFO? This Stennis Institute Web page contains links to federal agencies and their American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 information:

<http://www.sig.msstate.edu/stimulus.html>

THE SOUTHERN GROWTH POLICIES BOARD ANNUAL CONFERENCE was recently held in Mississippi. The subject was ENERGY, and the speakers presentation are now online at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ltyhzw>

STRUGGLING CITIES CANCEL FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS - Nearly 50 cash-strapped cities nationwide are forgoing fireworks festivities, choosing instead to retain jobs or, in the case of Montebello, Calif., give the money to food banks.

<http://tinyurl.com/mfbge8>

MOVING TO SUBURBIA - The US Bureau of the Census has just released an analysis of suburbanization showing that the nation continues to suburbanize, despite the consistent media "spin" that people are leaving the suburbs to move to core cities.

<http://tinyurl.com/m7g8ls>

RURAL AMERICANS ADOPT BROADBAND, BUT GAP REMAINS - The latest survey of broadband use finds that rural residents are adopting this technology quickly, but the gap between rural and urban remains.

<http://tinyurl.com/lmy3gb>

WHAT MAKES A GOOD RURAL SCHOOL? Three Alabamians went looking for the best of that state's rural schools. They drove more than 10,000 miles, conducted more than 300 interviews and tested hundreds of teachers.

<http://tinyurl.com/mausl3>

RHODE ISLAND MAY CHANGE ITS NAME - Voters will consider in 2010 a proposal to drop "Providence Plantations," the controversial phrase conjuring up for many images of Rhode Island's role in the slave trade, from the state name.

<http://newsblog.projo.com/2009/06/senate-approves-2.html>

ARTS & THE ECONOMY - Using Arts and Culture to Stimulate State Economic Development - This Best Practices Report from the National Governors Association has good examples and links to state studies.

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0901ARTSANDECONOMY.PDF>

THE 60 U.S. HOTSPOTS FOR YOUNG, TALENTED WORKERS report has just been released by Next Generation Consulting. It also contains "The Seven Indexes of a Next City."

<http://tinyurl.com/nq3ybm>

CALENDAR

July

13-16: Mississippi Municipal League Annual Conference, Biloxi

www.mmlonline.com/conferences.aspx

22-24: Miss. Economic Development Council Summer Conference, Biloxi

www.medic.ms

29: Stennis Institute Workshop, How to Facilitate a Strategic Planning Retreat. See above.

August

15 - 18: Southern Economic Development Council Annual Conference, Pointe Clear, Alabama

<http://sedc.org/content.asp?id=81291>

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money.

- Alexis de Toqueville

Phil Hardwick
Coordinator of Capacity Development
John C. Stennis Institute of Government
Mississippi State University
509 East Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39201
office: 601-354-6011
email: phil.hardwick@msstate.edu