

Breaking News

Economic Development Hits the CoB Where It Hurts

HATTIESBURG – Based on information contained in Jana Bryant’s latest press release, USM’s economic development group is starting to hit the CoB where it hurts. According to Bryant’s 11-March-2008 presser (inserted below) entitled “Former Hanes Companies CEO to Receive Trent Lott Center Award from Southern Miss,” USM’s economic development group has awarded R. Philip Hanes, former CEO of Hanes Companies in North Carolina, the *Trent Lott National Center of Excellence for Economic Development and Entrepreneurship Innovation Award*. Hanes is set to receive the Award from former Mississippi Senator, Trent Lott, at a noon luncheon on 20-March-2008 (at the Bottling Company in downtown Hattiesburg).

Ken Malone, Chair of Economic Development at USM, told Bryant “The Trent Lott Center’s mission is to foster innovation in our region and promote economic growth. Phil is the perfect example of how innovative methods can be used to improve depressed economic areas. I think Mr. Hanes will provide a spark to get us thinking outside of the box on some of the issues as Hattiesburg defines strategies for moving forward with downtown redevelopment.” Hanes’ receipt of the Award, and Malone’s comments, send a signal to the CoB and the rest of the USM community that nothing that the CoB is currently doing is sacred in any way. The stature of Hanes in the business world, and the place that Lott, the Award’s namesake and presenter, holds in Mississippi indicate that Economic Development is staking claim to the pool of successful business people and entrepreneurs usually targeted by CoB Deans for various awards and honors.

CoB administrators have been fighting what seems to be a losing battle in an attempt to prevent other non-CoB programs from offering what appear to be business courses. According to sources, that battle has largely been a futile one. On another front, former CoB Dean Harold Doty fought to prevent Economic Development and/or The Trent Lott Center from using the term “Entrepreneurship” in its activities and mission. As Bryant’s presser indicates, Doty was soundly defeated in that campaign. As one source indicated, “. . . the CoB is ripe for the raiding. This award . . . its name and fanfare indicates that, with the turnover and turmoil of late, the CoB is completely vulnerable now. Don’t expect Economic Development to stop here. With the grandiose new [Trent Lott] facility coming on line, the sky is the limit for them.”

Only time will tell how powerful Economic Development and other areas came become, and at the CoB’s expense. Reporters at USMNEWS.NET are on the job, covering these and other themes relating to life in USM’s CoB.

Former Hanes Companies CEO to Receive Trent Lott Center Award from Southern Miss

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

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HATTIESBURG, Miss. – Entrepreneur R. Philip Hanes, former CEO of Hanes Companies in Winston Salem, N.C., will be honored with the Trent Lott National Center of Excellence for Economic Development and Entrepreneurship Innovation Award by The University of Southern Mississippi on March 20.

Former Mississippi Sen. Trent Lott will be on hand to present the award during a noon luncheon and awards ceremony where Hanes will be the keynote speaker. The award celebrates Hanes' lifetime of innovation and highly successful contribution to the economic development of downtown Winston-Salem.

The luncheon and awards ceremony will be held at The Bottling Company, 126 Mobile St. in Hattiesburg. Cost is \$20 per person and reservations may be made by calling 601.583.4329.

"The Trent Lott Center's mission is to foster innovation in our region and promote economic growth. Phil is the perfect example of how innovative methods can be used to improve depressed economic areas," said Ken Malone, director of the Trent Lott Center.

In addition to his business expertise, Hanes has a remarkable record of activity in the arts and conservation communities, says Malone. "I think Mr. Hanes will provide a spark to get us thinking outside of the box on some of the issues as Hattiesburg defines strategies for moving forward with downtown redevelopment.

Hanes earned a reputation as a business leader through his achievements growing the Hanes Companies as president from 1965-77 and as the board chairman from 1978-90. His innovative leadership style is recounted in his book "How to Get Anyone to do Anything."

Hanes will sign copies of his book at 4 p.m. March 20 at Main Street Books in downtown Hattiesburg. In the book, Hanes shares his strategies for jump-starting seemingly impossible challenges and addresses specifics about networking, risk-taking, fund-raising and problem-solving.

As a founder of the American arts council movement, Hanes has served on the boards of more than 50 national, state and local arts agencies, most notably as a founder of the North Carolina School of the Arts, a founding member of the National Council on the Arts, and as founder and first chairman of the North Carolina Arts Council.

Throughout his lifetime, Hanes has positioned arts and culture at the forefront of economic revitalization in Winston-Salem, N.C. At 82, he is a champion of the importance of art, culture and entrepreneurship in downtown revitalization.

Today, Hanes is focused on the impact of locally-owned small-businesses and artists communities on downtown growth and vibrancy. Named Winston-Salem's commissioner of cultural affairs in 2000, he created the Meade Willis Downtown Redevelopment Fund and secured close to \$1 million to be used exclusively for low-interest loans to artist and entertainment venues, clubs and restaurants in the downtown.

While in Hattiesburg, he also will meet with city officials, shop, restaurant and property owners, members of the Historic Downtown Hattiesburg Association and the Area Development Partnership.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our community to hear the importance of downtown revitalization efforts from someone who has devoted his life and resources to using the arts to revitalize economically distressed areas," said Betsy Rowell, director of the Hattiesburg Downtown Association. "Mr. Hanes' commitment is consistent with what we are trying to create in Hattiesburg; downtown as a center for arts, entertainment, specialty retailers and wonderful restaurants full of night life."