

## Undercutting ‘Ms. Doty’

### *USM’s Economics Education Effort Rises to New Heights in CoST*

Former CoB dean Harold Doty may have established USM’s economics education initiative under the auspices of former USMer William Gunther’s old business research bureau, but the program once headed by Doty’s wife, Susan, is now garnering “national acclaim” under the leadership of the CoST’s Brent Hales, who is affiliated with the economic and workforce development unit there. Tara Burcham’s 23-Aug-2010 [presser](#) informs the Hattiesburg community that the Council for Economic Education in New York City has designated the Lamar County Schools’ economics education infusion effort as a national model of success in delivering economics education throughout the K-12 school structure.

This program supporting economics education throughout Lamar County schools was developed by Susan Doty, but has since been taken over by Hales. In lauding the K-12 effort in Lamar County, Lamar County Superintendent of Education Ben Burnett cited the hard work of Hales’ Center for Economics Education (CEE), USM, Lamar County Economics Education Initiative Coordinator Sue Stevens, and Pamela Smith of the Mississippi Council on Economic Education. Susan Doty was not mentioned by Burnett (or others) among this group of notables. Sources say that, given the success of the past year, former USM president Shelby Thames may have been vindicated in his insistence that USM’s economics education initiatives belonged with economic development, not the CoB. Now under Hales, there is a direct line between the CEE and economic development chairman, Ken Malone, who once joined Thames in the battle with Harold Doty over the CEE’s affiliation within USM. Achieving national acclaim under Hales and Malone, and not under Susan Doty and ousted EFIB chairman George Carter, is an ironic outcome to some.<sup>1</sup>

While likely vindicating Thames, this recent news also represents a blow to current CoB dean Lance Nail, who jettisoned the CEE (along with Gunther’s bureau) in the fall of 2009. These days, Nail is “hanging his hat” on the CoB’s Honors House, which benefits 25 to 30 CoB students. The CEE, on the other hand, has worked to the benefit of 38 Lamar County teachers, 10 of the 14 Lamar County schools, and an untold number of Lamar County public school students. Which of these would most deans want to hang a hat on?

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<sup>1</sup> Under Harold Doty’s guidance, former EFIB chairman Carter led a small coalition in hiring Susan Doty to head the CoB’s CEE. Throughout the “search” process, Carter referred to Susan as “Ms. Doty” in official correspondence with EFIB faculty. Contemporaneous reports suggest that doing so was Carter’s flimsy attempt to put lipstick on the obvious nepotism that he was facilitating. Susan Doty was ultimately hired, and paid \$50,000 per year in the process. This augmented her husband’s salary of about \$150,000 at the time.