



ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Delta Studies Center

"A MESSAGE FROM THE CENTER" PEGGY R. WRIGHT

Thank you! Through the years, ASU-Delta Studies Center has built a very strong constituency in the Delta, the State of Arkansas, and throughout the Nation. In large part, due to your calls, e-mails and letters, the ASU-Delta Studies Center will continue for at least another two years.

During this two year period, in addition to strengthening the Center's current funding base, two primary goals continue:

[1] to retain and build partnerships and collaborations with community-based and faith-based nonprofits, government and private-sector entities, and elected officials in order to create sustainable community economic development opportunities in the Delta;

[2] to create opportunities for ASU students to help local residents to document and tell their stories.

Please continue your interest and support of the Delta Studies Center and its unique role and mission in the Lower Mississippi Valley "Delta" Region. Christine and I will continue to keep you posted through our newsletter and web-site at, <http://www.clt.astate.edu/dsc>, as our plans and strategies evolve for the next two-years. Again, thank you!

WRIGHT ATTENDS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE (COPC)

For the past ten months, ASU-DSC has sponsored an eight member planning committee of representatives from various departments to establish a Community Outreach Partnership Center at Arkansas State University. In continuation of this program development initiative, on April 21-23, ASU-DSC Director, Peggy R. Wright joined over 400 participants for HUD's 2005 Community Outreach Partnership Center Conference in Chicago.

According to Wright, "this conference provided useful information and insights regarding current research, project models and fundraising suggestions." The agenda covered a broad array of topics pertinent to universities like Arkansas State University including: working with community development corporations, immigrant populations and faith-based entities, neighborhood revitalization, regional growth and equity issues.

Although Community Outreach Partnership Centers can receive funding from a wide range of sources, the focal point of ASU-DSC's current planning effort, the Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC) program of HUD's Office of University partnerships, provides a 3-year grant to enable institutions of higher education to partner with their respective constituencies and communities.

With the planning efforts to date and the experience gained from attendance at the HUD 2005 COPC conference, ASU-DSC Director, Peggy R. Wright, anticipates preparation and submission of a COPC funding proposal to HUD during this academic year. More information on the COPC program at ASU will be forthcoming on the ASU-DSC web site.

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MISSISSIPPI DELTA GRASSROOTS CAUCUS INITIATIVE HELD IN WASHINGTON DC



L/R Lee Powell, Consultant/Manager, MS Delta Grassroots Caucus Initiative and Retired General Wesley Clark. Photo by Peggy R. Wright

“The Delta wants to be a full partner in America’s future.”



L/R Congressman Marion Berry, AR, Steve Southard, Nucor Yamato Steel - Blytheville, AR, and President Ken Dobbins, Southeast Missouri State University. Photo by Peggy R. Wright

“Poverty and hopelessness have no place in 21st – century America, and all sectors of society have a role to play in turning things around.”

William Jefferson Clinton
May 3, 2005

(Excerpts from a letter of greeting to participants at the MS Delta Grassroots Caucus read by Peggy R. Wright.)

As I read President Clinton’s letter in welcoming more than 200 community leaders from the eight state Lower Mississippi River Valley “Delta” Region at the Lower Mississippi Delta Grassroots Caucus’ legislative conference convened in Washington, DC, May 17-19 of this

year, I could not help but reflect back, ten.... fifteen years ago to October 16, 1989, when one of the first twentieth century reports about the problems and challenges facing the “Delta” was published.

This report, Body of the Nation: The Interim Report of the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, drew the following conclusion: “The Delta wants to be a full partner in America’s future.” This was a fitting call then and this is a fitting call for today – now.

In 1989 and 1990, roughly fifteen years ago, despite the dramatic national advances of the civil rights movement, the realities of race and poverty were twin barriers to delta development and revitalization. At that time, many were of the opinion that race was the region’s paramount challenge. Now, however, although vestiges of race as a barrier to development remain a challenge in today’s Delta society and culture, poverty, not race, is the paramount challenge confronting the Delta.

Yet in order to confront delta poverty today, the same conclusions set forth fifteen years ago in the Body of the Nation represent viable conclusions to shape the work of the “Caucus” as gathered here today. Briefly, these six conclusions follow:

- Human resource development must be the foundation of any attempt to secure sustainable economic development for the Lower Mississippi Delta region;
- Wise and effective use of the Delta’s abundant natural resources must be an integral aspect of the region;
- A sound system of infrastructure is essential for economic development and the enhancement of the quality of life in the delta. Inadequate housing,

transportation, power, water supply and sewerage treatment facilities, and outdated telecommunications systems impeded business growth and community development effort;

- A vibrant commercial and business sector is essential to the economic development of the delta;
- Government resources must be creatively and judiciously utilized to promote economic development in the delta;
- The special role of nonprofits and colleges/universities must be strengthened and expanded if the delta is to progress.

The Lower Mississippi Delta Caucus, with Arkansas State University-Delta Studies Center as a member, is made up of colleges/universities, community-based and faith-based nonprofits, Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Agencies, private sector lenders, manufacturers, small-business and civic leaders, local, state and federal elected and appointed officials.

Over the three-day period, caucus members persuasively urged Congress to support and increase funding for the Delta Regional Authority, the I-69 Interstate Highway Corridor and other community and economic development initiatives to address the region’s healthcare, education, economic, infrastructure and housing needs.

Follow-up activities to this grassroots initiative continue. Planning for a regional caucus meeting in Little Rock this fall is currently underway. More information on the Lower Mississippi Delta Grassroots Caucus can be found on the ASU-Delta Studies Center’s web site and its link with Delta Consulting and Communications.

THE HOXIE 21: STORIES, NEW VOICES, NEW PERSPECTIVES – IMAGINING RACE IN THE ARKANSAS DELTA

The Delta Blues Symposium XI: Imagining the Delta featured a presentation on the “Hoxie 21” Desegregation story on April 8, 2005.

The presentation, “The Hoxie 21: Stories, New Voices, New Perspectives - Imaging Race in the Arkansas Delta” was moderated by ASU-Delta Studies Center Director, Peggy R. Wright and featured the following speakers:

- Dr. Cherisse Jones, History Professor, ASU, presented on the “Desegregation of Hoxie Public Schools and the Life Magazine coverage of the desegregation event;
- Ethel Tompkins, Hoxie 21 graduate, discussed her experiences in trying to locate and retain the documentary heritage, files, archival records and pictures on the Hoxie Desegregation event;
- Fayth Hill-Washington, Hoxie 21 student, shared her family history on the topic: “Hill Family: Black Life in the Northeast Arkansas Delta.”

Moderator Peggy R. Wright set the tone for the program by giving the audience a brief overview of the geographical makeup of Hoxie, Lawrence County, Arkansas at the time of desegregation. She explained that “Lawrence County is a trans-boundary county with part in the Ozark and part in the Delta Regions.” She further stated that in 1955, according to the U.S. Census, “blacks totaled 275 or 1.3% of the total population of 21,303.”

The first speaker to present, Dr. Cherisse Jones, focused on the desegregation of the Hoxie School District. She explained to the audience that “the desegregation of Hoxie Public Schools in 1955 is a little known story in civil rights and Arkansas history that has been overshadowed by the violence and the consequential military presence

of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.”

The studies that have been done on the Hoxie desegregation tend to characterize the event as relatively peaceful compared to the Little Rock Crisis. These studies focus on the all-white school board. According to Dr. Jones, “most of these studies fail to unearth an important part of civil rights and Arkansas history, all of them have been negligent in thoroughly considering the impact of school desegregation on the African American children and their families.”

She ended her presentation by asking the audience “to listen with open minds and hearts” and to look at “the larger implications of school integration and race relations in Hoxie and throughout the South.”

The next speaker, Ethel Tompkins, a Hoxie 21 graduate, librarian, and current Lawrence County resident discussed the difficulties in finding information on the Hoxie School District desegregation.

Ms. Tompkins explained that her curiosity was peaked when she wasn’t able to find anything on the Hoxie 21 Desegregation at the Lawrence County Library. She soon discovered “from reading the articles she did find that a lot of the battles, if you will, were conducted in court and even though there was some dissention there, it was nothing like the Little Rock crisis. Therefore there was not a lot of coverage.”

Due to the lack of coverage from the media in 1955, Tompkins hopes that in these times the story can get preserved through the use of oral histories and pictures.

Fayth Hill-Washington, the final presenter, was in the 4th grade at the time of the desegregation. She shared stories about her families’ lives in



L/R Dr. Cherisse Jones, ASU History Professor, Ethel Tompkins, Hoxie 21 Student, and Fayth Hill-Washington, Hoxie 21 Student
Photo by: Christine Perry



Participants at the Hoxie 21 Presentation during the Delta Blues Symposium XI.
Photo by: Christine Perry

Hoxie before and after school desegregation.

In reflection on the good and the bad, she told the audience that although “it wasn’t published...there were unwelcome visitors to homes, horns blowing, rock throwing, a shooting incident, and strange men standing near the school.”

Hill-Washington closed her presentation by reminding the audience of the importance of remembering that “everybody didn’t worship at the same church. Everybody didn’t work at the same place. Everybody was not affected the same way.”

“This is why” she said, “that “it is important to record the differences and to learn that not everyone acts, reacts and lives in the same way. We need to know how this event affected the lives of the African Americans families as well as their supporters.”

“MAYOR’S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE”



Newly Elected Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas Mayor Doug Forman

Photo by: Christine Perry



Participants at the Mayor's Conference on Economic Development (Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas)

Photo by: Christine Perry

“...community leaders have to engage those who have passion for their neighborhood, school, family, politics or church in order to bring about positive change within the community.”

Jonesboro continues the city’s efforts to develop metropolitan planning and community development capacity. On May 10, 2005, over 190 participants attended the first “Mayor’s Conference on Community Development: Building for the Future” held at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center.

Sponsored by the Mayor’s office, the day-long conference called upon representatives from churches, nonprofit organizations, public assistance agencies, government, education, and local businesses, to discuss the impact of current community services in three areas: economic development, housing and transportation, and social services.

Keynote speaker, Jon Chadwell, Director of the Newport Department of Economic Development, spoke about “Putting the ‘U’ in Community.” He stressed that “community leaders have to engage those who have passion for their neighborhood, school, family, politics or church in order to bring about positive change within the community.”

After lunch, the conferees broke into three groups to focus,

respectively, on needs in economic development, housing and transportation and social services. After which, participants in each session were asked to identify specific existing services and programs in place to meet those needs, after which the groups were given the task of discussing and describing overlaps or gaps within these sectors and to come up with solutions to solve these problems.

There were many problems, too many to address in the allotted time. Thus, the consensus of the groups was to continue the dialogue in later gatherings. Concluding with summary group reports, participants will receive updates on actions taken as a result of their deliberations. For more information, concerning this conference please contact the:

Community and Economic Development Department
PO Box 1845
Jonesboro, AR 72403-1845
Phone: (870) 933-4635
Fax: (870) 933-4626

<http://www.jonesboroisgreat.com>



Participants discuss Home Ownership and Transportation needs during a breakout session at the Mayor’s Conference

Photo by: Christine Perry



Arkansas Highway Department - Transit Administration Program representatives

Photo by: Christine Perry



Jon Chadwell, Director of the Newport Department of Economic Development.

Photo by: Christine Perry

THE JUDD HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE HELD IT'S THIRD ANNUAL REUNION DURING MEMORIAL WEEKEND

The Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Committee, Inc., hosted over 200 former Judd Hill Plantation tenants and their families from the surrounding area and, as far away as, California, Ohio, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Washington and Tennessee for the "Third Annual Memorial Weekend Reunion."

Unlike previous years, due to the construction of local lodging and meeting facilities, all of the reunion activities were based in the Judd Hill/Tulot/Trumann, Arkansas area. This ideal arrangement allowed many reunion visitors the opportunity and time to explore the area and to reconnect to their Judd Hill Plantation heritage and landscape.

Some of the highlights of the reunion included baseball games, afternoon barbeques, a banquet and dance, a "parade of hats" and Judd Hill and Tulot cemetery dedications. Enlisting the help of Trumann Junior and Senior High School art classes, taught by Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Tims, students were asked to create artistic renderings of beautiful African American hats from the book, Portraits of African American Women in Church Hats,

by Michael Cunningham and Craig Mayberry. Many of the student's works were displayed during the reunion. These pictures set the tone for the "parade of hats" contest at the Saturday night banquet, won by Mrs. Magnolia Mitchell.

On Sunday, former residents visited the Judd Hill and Tulot Cemeteries, some for the first time since relocating. As their documentary research continues under the auspices of the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Arkansas Archeological Survey, the Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship Committee members hopes to get the Judd Hill Cemetery placed on the National Register.

For more information on this and future events of the Judd Hill Memorial Scholarship, Inc. go to <http://www.clt.astate.edu/dsc/juddhill.htm> or contact:

Mattie Wortham
PO Box 652
Trumann, Arkansas 72472-0652
scoobyw@centurytel.net



A beautiful portrait of the Judd Hill School painted by Christine Gramling of Jonesboro.
Photo by Christine Perry



Judd Hill former residents sport their fabulous hats during the "Parade of Hats" contest held during the Saturday Night Banquet.
Photo by Christine Perry

"...highlights of the reunion included baseball games, afternoon barbeques, a banquet and dance, a "parade of hats" and Judd Hill and Tulot cemetery dedications.."



Judd Hill Plantation families listen to the program at the Saturday Night banquet.
Photo by Christine Perry



Pictures by students in Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Tims art classes featured at the Judd Hill Reunion.
Photo by Christine Perry



L/R Peggy R. Wright, Director ASU-DSC, Elaine Williams, and Mattie Wortham.
Photo by Christine Perry

DRA, USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT, & MBDA MINORITY BUSINESS EXPO AND LISTENING SESSION



L/R Ronald Langston, MBDA National Director, and Pete Johnson - DRA Co-Chair
Photo by: Christine Perry

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA), in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office (USDA-RD) and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Small Business Administration (MBDA-SBA) of the Department of Commerce, hosted a regional listening forum on May 25, 2005.

sponsoring agencies for improving accessibility and the level of service to minority businesses.

High ranking officials in attendance included: Gilbert Gonzales, acting under secretary for Rural Development at USDA, Bill Hagy, USDA-Rural Development deputy administrator for business programs, Ronald Langston, national director of the MBDA, Robert M. Henderson, MBDA Regional Director, and local lead sponsor, Pete Johnson, Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority.

For more information, go to the Delta Regional Authority web site at <http://www.dra.gov>.



L/R Nick Walters, Mississippi USDA-RD State Director, James Smith, and Gilbert Gonzalez, USDA Acting Undersecretary.
Photo by: Christine Perry

Among over 360 minority business owners, government and business leaders, Charles King, ASU Alumnus and Strong-Turner Alumni Chapter member, served as a keynote panelist in his capacity as Executive Director of the Arkansas Regional Minority Supplier Development Council.

Convened in Clarksdale, Mississippi, this forum, the first of three nationwide, sought to increase awareness of USDA's capital programs for business development, to increase the number of rural minority businesses, while allowing entrepreneurs an opportunity to share their experiences and recommendations with the



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L/R Peggy R. Wright, Director, ASU-DSC and Charles King, Executive Director, Arkansas Regional Minority Supplier Development Council.
Photo by: Christine Perry



Participants at the Listening Session held in Clarksdale, MS.
Photo by: Christine Perry

“HOXIE 21” DIVERSITY TOPIC OF NRCS EVENT

On Thursday, May 12, 2005, the theme of the panel “Geography Influences Human Diversity: Why the Hoxie 21 Story is significant,” framed the discussion at the National Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) state and agency-wide outreach event in Little Rock.

After a welcome and introduction of the panel by Anderson Neal, Jr., Assistant State Conservationist for operations, ASU alumnus and Strong-Turner Alumni Chapter member, Peggy R. Wright, Director of the Delta Studies Center set the stage for the panel with several points:

1. NRCS was a good operational and funding partner for the “Hoxie 21” Project and;
2. the “Hoxie 21” story demonstrates how Arkansans through their identification and closeness to the land and subsequently the land as shaped by the different geographical/topographical regions of Arkansas, have shaped the political and social economy of the state’s respective sub regions.

Wright also stressed how the “Hoxie 21” story of diversity reflects Arkansas’ sub-regional geographic and landscape context. In Lawrence County, she said “there aren’t a lot of blacks today, nor have there ever been, but when

given a chance, whites and blacks stood together,” “to do what’s right.” In this respect, before Little Rock Central, the “Hoxie 21” story transpired.

Dr. Cherisse Jones, ASU History Professor expanded on this point by highlighting Life magazine’s 1955 coverage. According to Dr. Jones, although subsequently evoking a segregationist reaction, Life magazine publicized nationally one of the first diversity themes in school desegregation.

The following speaker, Fayth Hill-Washington, a Hoxie 21 student and Hill Foundation Executive Director summarized how the “spirit of collaboration and diversity...of community...was reflected in the first Hoxie 21 reunion celebration in 2004.”

The NRCS attendees readily agreed with the need to capture this story.

Thus, ASU-Delta Studies Center will continue to explore the potential for a “Hoxie 21” Project in continuation of the ASU-DSC “Arkansas Agriculture in Transition, 1920 to 1980: An Oral History Project. Additional information on ASU-DSC’s current oral history project activities can be found at the ASU-DSC web site at <http://www.clt.astate.edu/dsc/oralhistory.html>.



L/R Anderson Neal, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations , and Dr. Cherisse Jones, ASU History Professor.
Photo by: Peggy R. Wright

“In Lawrence County...there aren’t a lot of blacks today, nor have there ever been, but when given a chance,” “whites and blacks stood together to do what’s right.”



Kalven L. Trice, State Conservationist and other USDA employees braved the warm weather and listened to the Hoxie 21 story.
Photo by: Peggy R. Wright

Newsletter Layout: Christine Perry
Newsletter Editor: Peggy R. Wright

ANGELA AUSTIN JOINS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER STAFF



Angela Austin

Angela Austin, Strong-Turner Alumni Chapter member and Arkansas State University Graduate has joined the Southern Good Faith Fund's Business Development Center as a program manager. The duties for her new job will include helping clients in the Pine Bluff area by providing one-on-one business counseling and business planning. She will also coordinate training and workshops for the Center.

Prior to joining Southern's Good Faith Fund, Austin was a

teacher with SUCCESS (Schools United in Craighead County Educating and Serving Students). She has also worked with the United Way of Greater Jonesboro, Delta Center for Economic Development, Beacons and Bridges, and the office of Senator Blanche Lincoln.

If you are an aspiring or existing business owner, who needs assistance in the Pine Bluff area, please contact Mrs. Austin at (870) 535-6233, ext. 13 or email her at austin@southerngoodfaith-fund.org.

FREE RURAL GATEWAY TRAINING CONFERENCE HELD IN FORREST CITY, ARKANSAS

Through the strategic leadership of fourteen-year board member and ASU-Delta Studies Center Director, Peggy R. Wright, the Housing Assistance Council convened a Delta Region Rural Housing Gateway Conference in July.

Other co-sponsors included the Department of Housing & Urban Development, the Rural Community Assistance Program and the National Congress for Community Economic Development. Consistent with ASU-Delta Studies Center's mission and primary program goals, participants in the following schedule of workshops served as a potential network for future collaborative and service-learning opportunities for ASU students. The workshop and conference schedule offered the following:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Registration/Information

8:30 am - 9:00 am
Welcome, Introductions, Conference Overview

9:00 am - 10:00 am
Finding the Resources

10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Getting Started: Site Selection, Land Development and Infrastructure

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Financial Management Part I
(2 1/2 day training)

THURSDAY, JULY 21

7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Registration/Information
Financial Management Part II

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Lunch, Peer Forum

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Multifamily Housing Dev. I

FRIDAY, JULY 22

7:30 am - 12:30 pm
Registration/Information

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Multifamily Housing Development II

Further information on this and future training opportunities under the auspices of the Housing Assistance Council can be accessed through the Housing Assistance Council's web site at <http://www.ruralhome.org/gateway/> or through ASU-Delta Studies Center's web site link at <http://www.clt.astate.edu/dsc/Links.htm>.

NEWLY RELEASED REPORTS

“REASONS FOR ADULTS’ PARTICIPATION IN WORK-RELATED COURSES, 2002-03”

This report published by the National Center for Education Statistics found that women and minorities are more likely to take courses to learn new skills.

For more information go to <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/2005088.pdf>

“CRAFTING A COMPETITIVE FUTURE”

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Iowa reports on options for revitalizing rural America. Some options include: focusing on opportunities not problems, look internally and connect regionally, and identify and replicate success stories.

To view the report visit http://www.fhlbdm.com/Docs/About_Us/PF/SRIReport_FINAL.pdf

“THE NEW LATINO SOUTH AND THE CHALLENGE TO PUBLIC EDUCATION”

Is the most recent report from the University of Southern California’s Tomas Rivera Policy Institute which compares the South’s Hispanic graduation rate to the nation.

To learn more about this go to <http://www.trpi.org/PDFs/nls.pdf>

“THE STATE OF BLACK AMERICA: PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CHANGE”

National Urban Leagues reports that gaps are worsening in unemployment, building, wealth, and savings. The data shows that currently unemployment rates for blacks are twice that of whites, homeownership is 50% compared to 75% with the median income being ten times less than that of their white peers.

For further information, see <http://www.nul.org/publications/SOBA/2005SOBAEXCSUMMARY.pdf>

“RURAL CHILDREN AT A GLANCE”

U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service released a report on child poverty in the US. The report notes that poverty within the US for children is higher than in most other industrialized countries and is heavily concentrated in the South.

To review this visit <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/EIB1/EIB1.pdf>

“PUTTING THE WORLD INTO OUR CLASSROOMS: A NEW VISION FOR 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION”

The Asia Society and the National Geographic Society conducted a survey focusing on students knowledge of global information. The paper detailing the surveys findings has been released by The Progressive Policy Institute.

For more information see http://www.ppionline.org/documents/intledu_0413.pdf

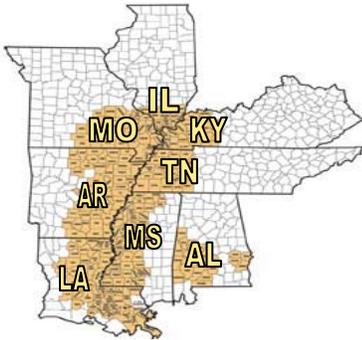
“ THE ART OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR CREATIVE ECONOMIES”

The Regional Technology Strategies presents highlights from it’s November 2004 conference which brought together an international audience. The conference focused on community colleges and creative economies.

For more information read the report at <http://www.rtsinc.org/publications/rtsshville.pdf>.

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Lower Mississippi Delta Region



We're on the web
<http://www.clt.astate.edu/dsc>

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

OLD STATE HOUSE MUSEUM PRESENTS ARKANSAS AND THE US-MEXICAN WAR SYMPOSIUM LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS * AUGUST 20, 2005

Guest speakers for the symposium include Curator William Frazier, Dr. Elliot West, and Dr. Donald Shaw Frazier. The event will be held at the Old State House Museum, 300 W. Markham, Little Rock from 9:30 - 5:00. Reservations for this symposium is required. Registration fee is \$20.00. The deadline to reserve your space is August 15th. To register please call (501) 324-8641.

"ADVANCING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP" * SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2005 KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Sponsored by the Technology Transfer Society. For more information regarding the meeting, including hotel and registration information please go to their website at <http://www.t2society.org>.

GLOBALIZATION OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH CONFERENCE CALL FOR PRESENTATION UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL * SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is calling for presentations that focus on contemporary issues facing the global American South. The deadline for proposals is September 30, 2005. For more information, contact Dr. Niklaus Steiner, Executive Director, UCIS via email nsteiner@unc.com or visit their website at <http://www.ucis.unc.edu/globalsouthrfp06.htm>.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE * OCTOBER 18-20, 2005 PEABODY HOTEL * LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

The two day conference will focus on the following topics: Early Childhood Development, Internet Technology, and Rural Health. For more updates about this conference in the coming months and for on-line reservations, please check out their website at <http://www.dra.gov>.