MEMO

July 15, 2004

To: Lisa Lord
From: Brent Hales

I have enclosed a copy of the 2003-2004 Annual Report for the Center for Community and Economic Development. Please review and if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.
DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY – ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE 2003-2004 ACADEMIC YEAR
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Brent D. Hales, Ph.D., Director

Submitted to Dr. John M. Hilpert, President
Delta State University
July 15, 2004
DELT A STATE UNIVERSITY – ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE 2003-2004 ACADEMIC YEAR

I. UNIT TITLE: CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Unit Administrator: Brent D. Hales, Ph.D. Director

II. DATA AND INFORMATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT:

The Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University is a dynamic center of research and outreach for the Delta region. It is designed to work collaboratively with the communities and organizations of the 18-county Delta region that it serves. The Center works to engage the residents of the Delta in creating meaningful and sustainable opportunities for change. This is accomplished by creating programs and supporting existing programs that empower Deltans to identify needs and the resources to meet those needs.

The Center brings together governmental and non-governmental entities, community leaders, businesses, non-profits, DSU faculty, and students to create programs that create support structures that will ensure that the programs operating in the Center continue to build on the legacy started in 1994. This legacy is one of excellence in service. As the Center approaches its 10 year anniversary, it is necessary to examine where we have been and where we are going. To this end, it is necessary to systematically assess the programs of the Center to determine if they are meeting the needs of the Delta region and to determine if they are addressing the mission of the Center for Community and Economic Development.

The Mission of the Center for Community and Economic Development is

Building and Empowering Relationships that Strengthen Communities.

To accomplish this mission, the Center has created a network of partners that work in the service area and has focused on developing programs that attempt to meet this mission. The programs operating in the Center have a variety of focuses from youth development to regional leadership development. However, the Center is committed to promoting empowerment and self-sustenance. A general overview of the Center programs is provided below with accomplishments of the 2003-2004 academic year.
THE CENTER'S PROGRAMS

AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

The Center for Community Development houses four AmeriCorps programs, America Reads-Mississippi, Delta Reads Partnership, Mississippi Delta Service Corps, and Mississippi Delta Service Corps AmeriCorps * VISTA. The programs focus on literacy training for elementary school children, housing, community education, computer technology, parenting skills and life skills and professional training for the AmeriCorps volunteers.

Economic Impacts of the AmeriCorps Programs

During the 2003 – 2004 program year, 89 AmeriCorps members served in the AmeriCorps programs in the Center. AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance in the amount of $9,900. Of the $881,100 issued in living allowances this year, the majority will be reinvested in the Mississippi Delta communities in which these members live. Upon successful completion of a year of service, each member also receives an education award in the amount of $4,770. If all members complete their service year, $424,530 will be available to support education costs and institutions of higher learning in the citizens of the community possess to develop and maintain its own resources. AmeriCorps members volunteered in their service areas. The AmeriCorps programs encourage their members to become more community oriented. Economic growth is not only affected by funding, but also the knowledge that the citizens of the community possess to develop and maintain its own resources. The AmeriCorps programs encourage their members to become more community oriented.

AMERICA READS-MISSISSIPPI

The America Reads-Mississippi Program (ARM) is the largest AmeriCorps program in the state of Mississippi and addresses the AmeriCorps issue area of education. Our mission is to improve the reading skills of students, encourage public awareness and support of literacy, and help improve the number of certified teachers in Mississippi. America Reads-Mississippi is near completion of its sixth year of operation in partnership with four (4) universities: Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Jackson State University, and Mississippi State University. In addition, ARM has maintained strong partnering relationships with Barksdale Reading Institute, Early Childhood Institute, Head Start, Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Red Cross, and 52 schools across the state. The DSU region currently has members in five school district and eleven school sites.

ARM AmeriCorps teams at school sites tutor students full-time one-on-one and in small groups during the school day, before and after school, over school breaks, and in the summer. Additionally members assist schools in promoting communication with parents, recruit community volunteers for tutoring in schools and implement literacy related
community service activities, including a newly added component to the citizenship and civic engagement seminar, homeland security awareness. Members also implement projects around four statewide national service days: "Make A Difference" Day in October, Martin Luther King Day in January, "Read Across America" Day in March, and National Volunteer Week in April. ARM sponsors monthly member trainings at the university regional centers, statewide quarterly team leader trainings, and bi-annually Volunteer Conferences in Jackson, MS.

The Delta State University Region currently has 45 active members. These ARM members have spent the majority of their time tutoring approximately 4000 students during the regular school day, 1672 students in after school programs and 400 students in the extended year/summer school programs. The grand total of students tutored during the 2003-2004 program year averages to at least 6000 students.

Additionally, members recruited over 2000 volunteers who performed over 5000 hours of service directly benefiting at least 3,000 people in their local communities. Parental and community involvement increased significantly at each school site. Members planned and implemented four national service projects and over 65 local service projects within a four county radius. Members received media coverage highlighting many of their projects. Friars Point Elementary School will be named the School of the Year for outstanding service to the students, school, and community. This site received honorable mention recognition from Newsweek Magazine for their 2003 Make A Difference Day Project and the award maybe viewed at the regional office.

Many (65%) of the ARM members are second year members and have either earned degrees or are currently enrolled in school. Member development was enhanced by the attendance of six monthly trainings on personal and professional topics, such as citizenship and civic engagement, homeland security, personal finance management, accessing higher education, true colors personality seminar, public speaking and presentations. Members were required to attend an overnight stay in Jackson to attend the MCVS Volunteer Conference. One-third of the Corps returned in April for the MCVS Spring Conference. Eleven members were selected as team leaders and were required to attend three additional statewide trainings on leadership development. Using surveys, 90% of members have rated ARM trainings good to excellent and most beneficial to their personal and professional growth.

**Economic Impacts of the ARM Program**

The Economic impact of the America Reads-Mississippi Program in the Delta State University region is approximately $704,260.00. The DSU-ARM program spends $326,700.00 for living allowances paid to 33-stipend AmeriCorps member at $825.00 per month for 12 months or $9900.00 per year. Over 75% of these members are single parents and this living allowance serves as the only cash income within the household. Partnering schools benefit from the ARM members by having the additional tutors in classrooms tutoring the low functioning students who are most at-risk to increase their reading levels. Surveys completed by classroom teachers indicated that 95% of students
being tutored have shown an increase of one to two grade levels. Health insurance is provided to stipend members at no cost to the members. The DSU-ARM program spends $40,744.44 for health care insurance (33 members paid at $102.89 per member for 12 months). Liability insurance is included as a benefit for all AmeriCorps members at a cost of $8,136.00 per year, 33 stipend members at $18.25 per month and at $5.05 per month for 16 district teacher assistants.

Lack of adequate childcare and the inability to pay for services have hindered many people from maintaining employment. Stipend members are eligible (based on household income) for childcare voucher payments through the Corporation for National and Community Service. The DSU-ARM region currently has 10 stipend members enrolled providing childcare services to small children totaling at least $40,560.00 for the program year.

Upon completion of 1700 hours per year, all AmeriCorps members earn $4,725.00 in the form of an education award. The DSU Region estimates awarding 44 members education awards this program year totaling $207,900.00. The AmeriCorps tutors utilize their educational award to attend college and become certified teachers, helping to decrease Mississippi’s critical teacher shortage. Members may also use the educational award to re-pay any existing student loans. Members can earn up to two education awards or $9,450.00 maximum benefit. The ARM Program has been at Delta State University since 1998 and DSU has been the recipient of many of the education award vouchers. Many AmeriCorps members have completed AA Degrees or have accumulated transfer hours from local junior colleges and plan to continue their education here at DSU. The ARM program utilizes the Food Service Department and the Mill catering services on a monthly basis, as well as, transportation services on an as needed basis, generating additional revenue for the University.

Volunteer recruitment and community involvement is a vital part of the ARM program and is strongly encouraged. During this program year, ARM members in the DSU region alone, has recruited 1,142 volunteers to assist with literacy and school related activities serving 3,047 hours. Based on the value of service from the Economic Report of the President, at $14.62 per hour, these volunteers gave $44,547.14 of their time to local schools and their communities and benefiting over 9,500 people. In addition, members recruited 1,137 volunteers to assist with the four major National Service Day projects performing 2,440 hours and accruing $35,672.80 of valuable service, benefiting 8,650 people and involving 3,936 school students.

The America Reads-Mississippi Program has been awarded funding for the next three-year cycle beginning August 1, 2004. In the years past, we have exceeded our expectations and performance measures. The general purpose of all AmeriCorps members is to “Get Things Done” in communities, strengthen the ties that bind communities together, and develop the citizenship and professional skills of the AmeriCorps members. As a result of participating in the ARM Program, AmeriCorps members learn about themselves, their role in society, and their connection to their community. Through tutoring and other service projects ARM endeavors to enrich the
lives of elementary school students, parents, and community members and each community as a whole.

DELTA READS PARTNERSHIP

The Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University received a formula grant in the amount of $313,415 from the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Services for the 2003-2004 program year for the Delta Reads Partnership program (DRP).

The Delta Reads Partnership program is comprised of fifteen members who serve in four Delta schools districts: (1) Shaw School District; (2) Benoit School District; (3) Washington School District; and (4) Quitman County School District. With Corp members’ hard work and dedication, Delta Reads Partnership is well on its way of accomplishing our stated goal of improving the reading level of students grades K-6 by providing one-on-one tutoring to ensure student and school success. By using the Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT) as an evaluation tool, Delta Reads Partnership will also be assisting schools with meeting and exceeding state standards.

The Delta Reads Partnership Corps members are also involving community volunteers in effective reading tutorial programs and community improvement projects in educational and economically distressed communities in the Delta. As of today, the members have recruited, trained and managed a total of 974 non-AmeriCorps volunteers who have served a total of 1,704 hours of service. These volunteers have assisted AmeriCorps members in organizing and completing a total of 22 service projects. These projects are developed by Corps members with the goal of assisting communities in self-sustainability.

- This year alone DRP members have organized and conducted 16 service projects in the communities of Shaw, Benoit, Marks, and Greenville.
- 66% of students’ kindergartens thru first grade tutored by DRP members have shown improvement of at least one performance level based on the performance level set by their school.
- 100% of all remaining DRP members received tutor certification.
- The grant submitted by DRP has received level funding for the service year 2004-2005.
- DRP has provided tutoring service to 187 students in four Delta school during the 2003-2004 school term.

Economic Impacts of the DRP Program

Each Corps member receive a $9,900.00 living allowance and a $4,725.00 post-service education award which yields approximately $148,500.00 of expendable income and $70,875 in education benefits for this region.
The 15 Corps members have served a total of 21,320.50 hours; at an average market value per hour pay of $13.77 yields a fair market labor value of $292,343.98 during the period of September 5, 2003 until May 31, 2004.

The Delta Reads Partner program has also received a grant of $744,000.00 from the Mississippi Commission of Volunteer Services for the 2004-2005 service year. Sixty members will serve local school districts in tutoring programs. The 60 AmeriCorps members will receive a $10,197 living allowance and a post-educational award of $4725.00. The program is scheduled to start September 1, 2004.

The Delta Reads Partnership program is economically important to DSU because currently $148,500.00 of expendable income is being brought into the region along with $70,875.00 in educational benefits that members will use to attend institutions of higher learning. During the service year of 2004-2005 it is anticipated that there will be $611,820.00 of expendable income and $283,500.00 in educational benefits brought into the region.

MISSISSIPPI DELTA SERVICE CORPS

The Mississippi Delta Service Corps AmeriCorps (MDSC) is a program based at the Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS. Members of the program assist in making communities across the Mississippi Delta safer, healthier, better educated and more united. Due to a national funding crisis, the Mississippi Delta Service Corps was not funded for the 2003-2004 service year.

Due to cash match that was in reserve, two staff people were kept on board to maintain partnerships, offer technical assistance to prior sites, stay in contact with Alumni, and to recruit sites and members for the new service year.

Mississippi Delta Service Corps was awarded 233,000.00 in grant money from the Corporation for National and Community Service for 20 members for the 2004-2005 year.

Economic Impacts of the MDSC Program

Mississippi Delta Service Corps received a $5000.00 grant for a Martin Luther King Jr. Project in November 2003 from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The project consists of changing an old school bus into a reading resource center for Naylor Elementary School, the lowest resource school in Cleveland. The Center for Community and Economic Development, Cleveland School District, community volunteers and businesses have provided over $20,000.00 in-kind services toward this project. The open house is slated for October 2004.

As noted above, the program has also received $232,000.00 in funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service for the 2004-2005 service year. Twenty
members will serve in the areas of: tutoring, providing adequate and affordable housing, family services, youth enrichment and community education. The twenty members will each receive a $10,197.00 living allowance and a post-education award of $4725.00. The program is slated to begin September 2004.

Future plans are to expand the program over the next five years. The next two grant periods will be continuation grants where only a twenty percent increase in member enrollment may be requested each year. When application is made during the fourth year a substantial increase in the number of members will be requested.

The program is economically important to DSU because $203,940.00 of expendable income is being brought into the region as well as $94,500.00 of education award monies that members will use to attend institutions of higher learning. A large majority of our members attend Delta State University. The program also serves as one of the University’s strongest links to the community.

The 20 members serving 40 hours per week for 11 months at an average per hour pay of $13.77 yields fair market labor value of $528,768.00.

MISSISSIPPI DELTA SERVICE CORPS AMERICORPS * VISTA

The Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University received a grant in the amount of $433,553.00 from the Corporation for National & Community Service for the 2003 – 2004 program year for a Mississippi Delta Service Corps (MDSC)/AmeriCorps*VISTA Program.

The MDSC/AmeriCorps*VISTA Program is comprised of thirty VISTA members who serve with programs to create and expand opportunities for low-income individuals in the following areas: (1) financial asset development; (2) welfare to work; (3) public health; and (4) children and youth. Through their service in these four focus areas, low-income communities will achieve long-lasting antipoverty objectives, partnerships will be promoted between public and private sectors, volunteers will be recruited and trained, resources will be mobilized to support the project, and communities will have the capacity to be self-sustainable.

Each VISTA member receives a $9500.00 subsistence allowance and a $1200.00 year end stipend which yields approximately $321,000.00 of expendable income for this region. VISTA members are assigned to 11 partnering organizations.

The 30 members serving 40 hours per week for 12 months at an average market value per hour pay of $13.77 yields fair market labor value of $859,248.00 per year.

The Center’s VISTA program has been in existence since February 2004. The first quarterly report yielded the following information in regard to numbers of volunteers, the number of hours they served and the total amount of in-kind and monetary grants and donations:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Active Community Volunteers</th>
<th># of hours performed by community volunteers</th>
<th>Total Dollar Amount of in-kind donated goods and services</th>
<th>Total Dollar Amount of Monetary Grants, Donations, and Fundraising</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bolivar County Community Action</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>$531.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarksdale Habitat for Humanity</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$115.00</td>
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<td>Delta Area Health Education Center</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delta Foundation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Health Alliance</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.E.C.D.F.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>$2,100.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollandale School District</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indianola School District</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Delta Daycare</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>$736.25</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallahatchie County Ministerial Alliance</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Rivers CDC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 92 1234 $3698.14 $115.00

It is expected that over the next 5 years members serving in the MDSC project will assist these organizations in building capacity for the projects they serve with that will lead toward sustainability for these projects. Members’ responsibilities include proposal writing, recruiting volunteers, media and marketing relations, developing curriculums, mobilizing resources and establishing and maintaining partnerships. If grant guidelines allow the program will be expanded as needed.
MID-SOUTH DELTA LEADERS

The Mid-South Delta Leaders (MSDL) was funded in January 2003, through a five-year, $1.2 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation/Mid-South Delta Initiative. MSDL is a community leadership development program that serves as a means of improving the intellectual and social capital needed to drive the community and economic growth in the 55-county Delta region of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. MSDL is a partnership between Delta State University, serving as the lead partner; Grambling State University in Louisiana; and, Arkansas State University.

MSDL is based upon the Delta Emerging Leaders program, a successful Mississippi Delta community leadership program. MSDL is unique because of its tri-state focus and brings together a diverse group of citizens to enhance the quality of life through human resource development, community development and economic development.

Forty class members, 15 from Arkansas, 14 from Mississippi and 11 from Louisiana, are participating in a curriculum designed to improve the leadership, management and communication skills of its participants. This program enables these leaders to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Delta’s socioeconomic and cultural realities and offers techniques to bring about change in their communities. The program also helps participants gain a better understanding of national and global trends in terms of how these trends influence the quality of life and economic and community development in the tri-state Delta.

- **Class I Recruitment.** In the summer of 2003, recruitment efforts were underway for MSDL Class I members. Forty class members were recruited and are participating in the inaugural class. The participants represent a wide variety of sectors, including higher education, K-12 education, government, non-profit, for-profit businesses, faith-based organizations, self-employment and community volunteers. Participants are balanced by race, gender, employment sectors and geographical location.

- **Retreat I.** The first retreat, *I Am... You Are...* was held September 11-13, 2003, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. It enabled participants to enhance their self-awareness of talents and abilities and assess their communication skills, capabilities and life goals. The participants gained an increased understanding of themselves and their fellow class mates. “This retreat taught me to look at myself more critically and talk to others for input as to how I can better myself, commented a Mississippi class member.

- **Retreat II.** MSDL Retreat II, *Strengthening Community Through Leadership & Relationships*, was held November 6-8, 2003, in Vidalia, Louisiana, and focused on the dimensions of leadership that are essential in creating change. *The Building Blocks of Change* were presented to the class. “The Building Blocks are hands on, practical community development tools that I can put into use,” commented a Louisiana class member.
• **State Summits and Tri-State Summit.** To help participants develop a greater understanding of public policy at the state level, Class I of the Mid-South Delta Leaders participated in three regional state summits in March 2004, and a tri-state summit in April 2004, titled, *The Delta... What Vision? Who's Vision?* The state summits were organized around three systems: education, economic development and public policy, and the social, cultural and historical impacts on these systems. The tri-state summit enabled the class members to compare and contrast the education, economic development and public policy systems and the social, cultural and historical impacts on these systems in the three states. An Arkansas class member added, “At these summits, I learned how important it is that we all work together to make each and every one of our communities better places to live and work.”

• **Retreat III.** Retreat III, *Community and Economic Development Systems*, was held in May 2004. This retreat focused on the interdependence of the three systems, the education, public policy and economic systems. Participants studied various economic mechanisms from a global perspective and learned how community and economic development impacts the tri-state region.

• **Action Learning Teams.** Action learning teams began in May 2004. The teams provide class members with hands-on, team learning experiences in regional issues identification and an opportunity to participate, through a technical assistance approach, in a learning endeavor that is applied to a regional setting. Three teams were formed, 1) ‘All Things Delta’ website, a one-stop on-line Mid-South Delta resource; 2) ‘The Great Race Celebrating Our Heritage’, a cultural race modeled after the Race Across America; and, 3) ‘Delta Bridges’, a project focusing on the creation of opportunities to impact change through education and training.

Upon completion of MSDL, participants will be offered the opportunity to develop a living practicum that will enhance the region economically. Graduates will be eligible to apply for $2,000 to further develop their action learning projects or to provide seed money for a project in their local communities.

In order to create a viable program that will enhance the leadership development needs of the region, the following goals were established for the first year of the program:

• Empower participants to become actively engaged in community initiatives and to use the available resources and talents;

• Include both traditional and non-traditional leaders in creative learning environments;

• Build regional networks of resources through participants and graduates to help Delta communities improve their economic position;
• Equip leaders with better understandings of national and global trends and how these trends influence the quality of life and community development in the Mississippi Delta;

• Link leaders with other educational programs and action strategies; and,

• Help leaders develop life goal plans and community development projects.

Over the next five years, the MSDL program has developed the following goals to create a more sustainable region and to continue developing the leadership potential of MSDL participants even after their departure from the program.

• Help leaders build local and regional partnerships to create and manage change in their communities;

• Support leadership skill development and the creation of a network of leaders in the tri-state Mississippi Delta who will work together to promote positive change in the region; and,

• Influence policy and programmatic initiatives in cross-cultural and diverse socioeconomic settings.

The MSDL program is economically important to Delta and DSU. MSDL is unique because of its tri-state focus of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Many existing leadership development programs within the three states focus on a particular community or have a one-state emphasis. This program has a tri-state regional mission that brings together a diverse group of citizens to enhance the quality of life through human resource development, community development and economic development. This program is fundamentally based on shared learning, reciprocity and mutual respect.

Class members of MSDL were chosen because of their interest in creating positive change and because of their expressed commitment to the region. They represent a wide variety of employment sectors, including higher education, K-12 education, government, non-profit, for-profit businesses, self-employment, faith-based organizations and community volunteers. The participants in the program are balanced by race, gender, employment sectors and geographical location. This, in turn, increases the breadth and depth of networks, and ensures the inclusion of stakeholders; particularly those traditionally under-represented in community and economic development efforts.

**DELTA PARTNERS INITIATIVE YOUTH PROGRAM**

**Youth Engagement Strategy (Project YES!)**. In July 2002, the Center received a $120,100 grant for Youth Engagement Strategy (Project YES!) from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Project YES! is a demonstration program in youth leadership development with the goal of empowering youths to address racism and issues of cultural misunderstanding; and to enhance youth and adult relationships as they engage in
community problem solving. This project has enabled the Center to include another community, allowing youths in the Mississippi Delta to learn and develop leadership skills through experiential activities and civic engagement. This project also allowed the Center to recruit two part-time AmeriCorps members to serve as mentors to the youths as they coordinate community service projects and develop an oral history of the Mississippi Delta. The Cleveland team is comprised of two diverse teams of 20 youths from the 10th and 11th grades of East Side High School and Cleveland High School. The Cleveland youth team donated approximately 1,000 pounds of clothes, with an estimated value $45,000 to needy families in Cleveland and the surrounding areas.

July 2003

On behalf of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Program Coordinator, a Program Associate and a team of six youths from Cleveland and East Side High Schools attended the Capitalizing on Diversity Conference in Boston, MA. The conference established youth-led programs to bridge racial barriers.

The youths teamed with Habitat for Humanity to assist an elderly couple with renovating their home.

The youths participated in a focus group meeting at Stoneville. The purpose of the meeting was to gain input regarding ways to improve Mississippi’s education and economic performance, which will be recommended to the Legislature and other state leaders.

August

The youths hosted the first dance in history to bridge the gap between the youths from the two local public high schools and recruit new members. Twenty members joined the youth team.

November

The youths teamed with Jimmy Williams, Proprietor of Country Platter Restaurant to serve over 200 needy families in the community on Thanksgiving Day.

January 2004

The youths invited a team of two adults and two youths from VISIONS, Inc. to facilitate a two-day workshop. The workshop explored the impact of culture, race, gender, and other social conditions that impact youths. VISIONS, Inc., a nonprofit community organization, located in Arlington, MA, provides educational services and on-going consultation to groups on how to challenge racism and other forms of systemic oppression.

February

On behalf of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Program Coordinator, a team of four youths from Cleveland and East Side High Schools attended the Project YES! Training With Youth Teams, in Boston, MA. The training focused on the Multicultural Process of Change, Target/Non-Target Dynamics and Modern Oppression and Internalized Oppression.
April  The youths hosted a dance. The proceeds from the dance were used to make Easter baskets for the elderly at a local nursing home.

VISIONS, Inc. facilitated Part II workshop a two-day workshop exploring the impact of culture, race, gender, and other social conditions that impact youths. The first day participants included CCED staff and adults leaders in the community. The second day participant included youths from East Side and Cleveland High Schools.

May  The youth visit a local Mexican Restaurant to learn about Cinco de Mayo and the Mexican culture.

MS TRI-DELTA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE (BD&A) PROGRAM

The Center for Community and Economic Development began the implementation of the Tri-Delta Business Development and Assistance Program (BD&A) July 1, 2003. The BD&A Program received $255,500 in funding from Delta Regional Authority. The program is designed to help local Industrial Development Corporations and Chambers of Commerce implement strategies that will reduce the number of jobs that are being lost in the tri-county area (Bolivar, Coahoma and Washington), and to help create new jobs within existing private and public sector firms. In other words, the BD&A Program seeks to help local organizations and leaders develop proactive strategies that will reduce the number of jobs that were lost in the tri-county area. Also, a major goal is to help existing firms prosper by enabling business leaders and organizations in each county to respond more effectively to the needs of existing employers as they compete in today’s expanding global economy.

Key partners on the project include the chambers of commerce and industrial development corporations in each county, the Small Business Development Center at DSU, and the CCED.

The BD&A program efforts to improve economic development include mobilizing teams of local leaders to take proactive stance that promotes business retention and expansion efforts with existing manufacturing firms and other large employers in Bolivar, Coahoma and Washington counties. Using the Synchronist Program, volunteers from the three counties have interviewed the manufacturing firms in the region to determine their needs, how to best meet those needs, and strategies to build on the existing business structure in the region. The data taken from the interviews was analyzed in order to provide technical and support assistance to county leaders as strategies for process and technical assistance are formulated and put in place.

- Volunteer interview teams in each county successfully interviewed all manufacturing firms in the tri-county area. Assistance Teams have been
developed in each county to help firms resolve issues revealed during the interview process which may inhibit growth and retention.

- BD&A Graduate Assistants, Todd Holt and Sharon Caton attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock’s Business Retention and Expansion Course. The three-day course prepared individuals to coach communities on effective means of implementation a Business Retention and Expansion visitation program. Congratulations Sharon and Todd for becoming official BR&E consultants.

- Alicia Harper attended the 2004 Business Retention and Expansion International (BREI) Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. BREI is a non-profit professional association of economic development professionals who are working for the advancement of business retention and expansion as an economic development strategy for communities. Conference participants represented various private and public organizations, universities, private consulting businesses, utilities and economic development practitioners from local provincial and state governments.

Over the next five years, it is expected that the BD&A Program will help to reduce job leakage in the three-county region, to help existing firms grow and prosper by enabling local leaders, and organizations to take proactive approaches to business development and assistance with existing firms. The BD&A team will also work to promote the development of manufacturing purchasing, management, and marketing networks among manufacturing firms with similar interests. It is also hoped that we will be able to expand the BD&A program to other Mississippi Delta Counties.

The BD&A program important to DSU and to the region in that more than seventy percent of the new jobs that are created in rural America are in existing businesses. Often communities and state organizations will devote the majority of their time and financial resources toward recruiting new businesses and manufacturing firms. The BD&A program directs attention toward working with firms that are already in the Delta, firms that are attached to the region and that desire to stay here. Job growth in the three counties will be inherently beneficial to Delta State University and all units of municipal and county government.

DELTA RURAL POLL

The Delta Rural Poll was conducted in October and November, 2003. The Delta Rural Poll is a survey of residents of eleven counties in northwestern Mississippi: (Bolivar, Coahoma, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Washington). The poll is administered by the Center for Community and Economic Development at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS.

Questions were prepared for the Delta Rural Poll and the information was collected through telephone interviews with Delta residents, conducted by the Survey Research Unit in the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University. A total of
809 randomly selected individuals provided the responses to the poll. These responses provide a reliable means of assessing current conditions in the Delta and current attitudes of Delta residents, with a sampling error of no greater than ±3.4%.

The Delta Rural Poll will be repeated annually, providing an opportunity to track changes in Delta communities and opinions.

This year's Delta Rural Poll questioned residents about their individual and community well-being, their employment, their access to and use of health care, their opinions on schools in their communities, and their use of modern technologies. Some interesting findings from this year's poll are presented below.

**Community Stability and Change**

The 2003 Delta Rural Poll asked Delta residents about changes in their communities. The results suggest substantial stability in residential patterns, but some change in community well-being.

Many Deltans are life-long residents of Mississippi – over one-quarter of poll respondents have lived in Mississippi their whole lives, and one-fifth have lived in the state for more than fifty years (representing forty-four percent of the population over fifty years of age). Moreover, the number of recent arrivals to the Delta is relatively small. Fewer than fifteen percent of respondents have lived in Mississippi less than twenty years.

Not only have many Deltans spent their lives in-state, but many have lived in the same community for a long time. Sixteen percent have lived in their current community over fifty years, and forty percent have lived in their current community more than twenty-five years. However, some Deltans do move between communities – sixteen percent have lived in their current community less than five years, and over one-quarter have lived in their current community less than ten years. Furthermore, fifteen percent of respondents intend to move from their community in the next year, and twenty-seven percent say they definitely or probably will not be living in their present community in five years.

While Deltans tend to stay in their communities, many expressed doubts about the direction their community was going. Thirty-seven percent of respondents said their community had changed for the worse during the past year, while only nineteen percent believed their community had changed for the better. As for a sense of empowerment to change things, forty-nine percent agreed with the statement “Life has changed so much in our modern world that most people are powerless to control their own lives.” Thirty-nine percent disagreed with the same statement.

**Individual Well-Being**

The 2003 Delta Rural Poll surveyed Delta residents about their personal well-being. The results suggest that most Deltans believe their lives are improving and they are optimistic.
about the future. Sixty percent of the respondents believe they are better off than they were five years ago, while only nineteen percent believe they are worse off. Moreover, four-fifths of respondents believe they are better off than their parents were at the same age, while only eight percent say they are worse off than their parents. As for the future, sixty-four percent believe they will be better off in ten years time, while less than seven percent believe they will be worse off.

**Technology Use**

This year’s Delta Rural Poll asked respondents about their use of modern technologies. The results suggest Deltans are reasonably well-connected. Half of the respondents own a home computer, and thirty-six percent currently use the Internet at least once a week. Of those using the Internet, the most common uses are web browsing and e-mail. Twenty-two percent use the Internet for on-line shopping, and nine percent use the Internet to work at home.

**Health Care**

Regarding health care, a majority of Deltans reported a positive health status. Over two-thirds of respondents indicated that they were in good to excellent health. Deltans also have reasonably good access to primary health care. Eighty percent of survey respondents have seen a doctor in the past year, and seventy-two percent said that they live within fifteen miles of their primary health care provider. Only ten percent must travel over thirty miles for primary care.

Access to specialized tests and treatments is more difficult for many Deltans. Only thirty-five percent reported living within fifteen miles of specialized care facilities, while over thirty-five percent must travel more than thirty miles for specialized care.

Paying for health care is also a challenge for many Deltans. One-fifth of survey participants reported having no health insurance and paying for medical expenses out-of-pocket. Approximately one-fifth of respondents indicated that at least once during the past twelve months, they needed a doctor’s care but could not afford to go, and nearly sixteen percent reported a similar barrier to accessing health care for someone else in their household. Nearly one-third said they utilize government programs such as Medicaid, Medicare or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to cover health costs.

**MISSISSIPPI DELTA TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL**

Technology is the driving force for change in the world today. The Mississippi Delta is a region that is often characterized as one of the least technologically advanced regions of the country. This stereotype is not an accurate reflection of reality in the Delta. However, a single voice for promoting technology in the Delta, one that acts as a resonator for all of the technology being employed in the Delta is critical for this stereotype to be addressed. It is with this intent that a group of leaders throughout the
Delta have converged in a series of meetings and strategic planning sessions to establish this guiding force. Out of these efforts, the Mississippi Delta Technology Council was formally established on November 11, 2002 to let the rest of Mississippi, the country, and the world, know what is going on in the Delta with technology. This organization, represented by a broad range of disciplines, is charged with creating opportunities for networking, showcasing what technologies are presently in use in the Delta, and developing avenues for future growth in technology.

The service area of the Council is the traditional 19 Delta and part-Delta counties consisting of Desoto, Tunica, Tate, Panola, Quitman, Coahoma, Yalobusha, Tallahatchie, Bolivar, Sunflower, Leflore, Grenada, Washington, Sharkey, Humphreys, Holmes, Yazoo, Issaquena, and Warren Counties. If interested parties from other regions of the state are interested in participating in the Council, provisions will be made for them to do so.

The mission of The Mississippi Delta Technology Council is to enhance the strengths of the Delta by promoting, celebrating, and leveraging successful applications of technology.

This will be accomplished using the following strategies:

- Develop a web portal to act as a clearinghouse or forum for information
- Build coalitions within clusters and across sectors
- Inform policy decisions
- Assess infrastructure by mapping the resources of the Delta

In order to facilitate the development of the web portal, the following domain names have been secured by Delta State University for the purpose of hosting the web-site. The domain name mississippidelta.org has been secured for nine years and mississippidelta.org has been secured for one year.

Some of the Mississippi Delta Technology Council's partners include Bell South, Entergy, Coopwood Communications, Mississippi Technology Alliance, Delta Council, Delta Regional Authority, Delta State University and the Center for Community and Economic Development, Delta and Pine Land Company, WABG, Venture Technologies, Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Valley State University, Coahoma Community College, E-Partners, Mississippi World Trade Center, Mississippi Delta Community College, Delta Health Ventures, the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology, Mississippi Educational Broadcasting, Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone Alliance, Inc., and the Cleveland-Bolivar Chamber of Commerce.

Currently the main focuses and divisions of the MDTC are:

1. Health Care
2. Business and Industry
3. Agriculture
Three committees have been set up to address specific areas of need in the Council. These are a Business Committee, Web Page Committee (in addition to preparing recommendations for the web portal layout, design, and functionality, and a committee examining the feasibility of offering E-Readiness Certification to Delta communities.

In September 2003, the MDTC became registered with the State of Mississippi as a non-profit corporation. Through these efforts, the MDTC is well under way to becoming a force for change in the Mississippi Delta. Currently, additional partnerships are being sought and preparations made for several initiatives designed to promote the utilization and service delivery of technology in the Delta. In addition to those items listed above, Delta State University, in coordination with the MDTC is in the process of developing a small business incubator for technology businesses. The Delta Center for Technological Innovation will be housed at Delta State University and work in concert with the MDTC to develop companies that will utilize technology for economic development. Additional initiatives will emerge as the MDTC evolves in both scope and purpose.

In May, MDTC held the first annual Delta Business and Technology Expo in conjunction with Delta Council Day at Delta State University. Over 50 exhibitors were present at the event and an estimated 350-400 people attended the event. The purpose of the Expo was to celebrate and inform the leaders and citizens of Mississippi of the current uses of technology in the Delta region. In addition to commercial vendors, businesses that use technology in their operations were recruited to demonstrate existing uses of technology in the region. Educational institutions; national, state, and local government entities; and non-profits also demonstrated how they are using technology to better meet the needs of the constituents of the Delta. Exhibitors included the Mississippi State Auditor’s Office, the Small Business Administration, BellSouth, representatives from Delta area colleges and universities, and numerous for profit and not for profit entities that use technology in their efforts.

A grant of $247,369 was also received by the US Small Business Administration for MDTC. These monies will be used to develop the web-portal, conduct trainings and workshops, develop a marketing campaign, and a technology assessment of the Delta region. This project is expected to run from July 2004 to June 2007.

INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH

The Institute for Community-Based Research (ICBR) was created two years ago under the direction of Dr. John Green. The ICBR engages in projects aimed at informing social change from the grassroots level. Substantive areas of focus include: 1) underemployment and persistent poverty, 2) environment, health and food security, and 3) organizing cooperative alternatives. Housed within the CCED, the Institute is closely affiliated with the Division of Social Sciences. A central aim of this effort is to provide an avenue through which DSU students, especially those pursuing a Master of Science degree in Community Development, are able to collaborate with faculty and communities to engage in timely and meaningful research.
The primary mission of the Institute is to assist community groups in identifying and answering research questions significant to improving their livelihood security. The Institute seeks to achieve this mission through the establishment of mutually productive partnerships between community groups, faculty, graduate students and other interested parties through the use of a wide variety of research strategies.

The Institute works primarily with membership-based community groups (including nonprofit organizations and cooperatives) in Mississippi, but also other organizations in the region and country. Groups must demonstrate a commitment to active partnerships for seeking solutions to community problems, and be generally underserved by the research community and/or lacking the technical, human, or fiscal resources to answer significant questions on their own.

Activities of the Institute entail:

- Engaging with community groups in meeting their research needs, including training and technical assistance with question formulation, research design, methods of inquiry, data analysis, and reporting.
- Linking community groups, larger area nonprofit associations, government agencies, and educational/research institutions.
- Developing and strengthening the research, outreach, and educational skills of Delta State University students in working with community groups and their partners in directly addressing social problems.

During the past year, the ICBR has been involved in numerous projects in the Delta. Below is a table indicating those activities and the approximate dollar amount brought into the CCED as a result of these projects. Much of this money has been used to support graduate students in the MSCD program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount in Agreement</th>
<th>Project Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the Greater Delta Health and Human Services Network</td>
<td>G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>Summer 03 - Summer 05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project YESI Evaluation*</td>
<td>Center for Community and Economic Development (subcontract funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation)</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Spring 04 - Summer 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowerment Evaluation Workshop*</td>
<td>Parent's Place (Delta Center for Culture and Learning Place) (subcontract funded by Baxter Foundation and Delta Health Alliance)</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Fall 03 - Spring 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-Based Collaboration for Improvement of Social and Health Services Development and Utilization</td>
<td>Dreyfus Health Foundation</td>
<td>$3,200 (matching supplies to conduct research)</td>
<td>Winter 04 - Fall 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcontract with the Rural Coalition - Meeting the Risk Management Needs of Small, Limited Resource and Minority Farmers</td>
<td>Rural Coalition (subcontract of grant funded by Risk Management Agency (USDA))</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
<td>Fall 2003 - Fall 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcontract with the Rural Coalition - Reducing Risk Exposure and Increasing Health and Safety through Farmer-Farmworker Partnership Training</td>
<td>Rural Coalition (subcontract of grant funded by Risk Management Agency (USDA))</td>
<td>$9,567</td>
<td>Fall 2003 - Fall 2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Involved participation in project run through Delta State University - funds transferred from within the institution. In addition to wrapping-up several projects with funding that ended before fall 2003, this year of the Institute's work consisted of evaluation training and research focused on: 1) access to health care and 2) alternative financing strategies for community-based cooperative organizations.
SCHOOL-BASED DIABETES INTERVENTION STUDY PLANNING GRANT

The School-Based Diabetes Intervention Study Planning Grant was funded $3,500 from the Dreyfus Health Foundation in 2003. The purpose of the planning grant was to determine the best course of action for developing a truly school-based intervention for youth in Delta schools. The Mississippi Delta has one of the highest concentrations of early-onset diabetes in the nation. It was determined that an 18-month project that will provide a nutrition and exercise intervention with 600 children, K-3 in the Delta region was the best strategy for this project. This will be a family-based study that will attempt to directly intervene in the lives of Delta families to teach them good nutritional and exercise habits. It is hoped that the project will work directly with schools and community organizations that provide after-school care to decrease the likelihood that our children will become diabetic. Currently, funding is being sought to support the implementation of this program in the Delta region.

BOLIVAR COUNTY MINORITY ENTREPRENEURIAL DEV. PROGRAM

In cooperation with the Bolivar Community Action, Inc., the DSU College of Business, the DSU Small Business Development Center, and the Delta Regional Authority, the Center has been actively involved in the development, implementation, and eventual evaluation of the Bolivar County Minority Entrepreneurial Development Program. This program, funded by the Delta Regional Authority, works to bring a group of minority entrepreneurs together for an intensive 42-week course in business development and entrepreneurial training. Bolivar Community Action, Inc. was the recipient of the initial DRA grant and the Center was asked to work with BCA to implement the program. It was at this point that the DSU College of Business and the DSU Small Business Development Center were brought into the project to provide the technical training. The Center will continue to work with the parties to ensure sustainability in these efforts.

THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Center for Community and Economic Development has enjoyed a long and prosperous association with the Division of Social Sciences. Five faculty associates from the Division have been actively working on projects in the Center that benefit the Center greatly. Dr. Jerry W. Robinson, Jr., Dr. Myrtis Tabb, Dr. Albert Nylander, III, Dr. John Green, and Dr. Alan Barton bring both their collective and individual intellectual capital to the Center and have direct impacts on the sustainability of the Center. It is hoped that this dynamic partnership can continue to be fostered.

NEW PROGRAMS OR TRAININGS DEVELOPED

Mississippi Delta Service Corps AmeriCorps * VISTA
Delta Rural Poll
Mississippi Delta Technology Council
MS Tri-Delta Business Development and Assistance (BD&A) Program
School-Based Diabetes Intervention Study Planning Grant
NOTEWORTHY ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2003-2004

PAPERS PUBLISHED OR UNDER REVIEW:


BOOK REVIEWS PUBLISHED OR UNDER REVIEW:


**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**


Brent D. Hales and Charles Wagoner. “Sustainable or Suspect: An In-depth Examination of Sustainability in Three Delta Communities.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the Rural Sociological Society, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, July 2003.


INVITED AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS


John J. Green. 2003. “Research Ethics and the Institutional Review Board.” Presented to College of Arts and Sciences Faculty and Graduate Students at Delta State University. Cleveland, MS.


Jerry Robinson—In October of 2003, Dr. Robinson led a “train-the-trainer” workshop on “Process Skills in Community Organizations” for faculty from 12 Universities in the North Central Region of the U.S. This workshop was sponsored by the North Central Region for Rural Development.

Jerry Robinson—In October of 2003, Dr. Robinson led a two-day workshop on “Leadership Roles” for 30 participants in the University of Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program. This is the sixth time that he has taught in this program.

Jerry Robinson—Presentations on “An Educational Program on Traffic Safety Using Snappy, the Adult and Snappy the Baby Safety Turtle Toy” to: Mayor, City Council, Civic Leaders, and Police Chief in the City Cleveland, May, 2003: Mississippi Association of Highway Safety Leaders, May 16, 2003; and Mayor, City Council and Civic Leaders, Police Chief in the City of Greenville, November 2003. Planning to submit a formal proposal to the Mississippi Office of Highway Safety in June of 2004 for funds to support a demonstration program using Snappy, the Adult and Snappy, the Baby and Toy in Bolivar and Washington Counties.

MANUSCRIPT IN PROCESS


RESEARCH REPORTS


RESEARCH PROJECTS

Alan Barton—*Delta Rural Poll*: July 2003 – June 2004: Submitted proposal for IRB approval; Coordinated development of the annual survey questionnaire; Pilot tested survey questionnaire; Collaborated with MSU to complete survey; Developed and applied weighting procedures; Wrote and submitted annual report (“The Delta Rural Poll Research Report, 2003”; January 2004); Prepared and disseminated press releases, and provided interviews for television, newspaper and radio journalists; Developed policy on use of survey instruments and results (“The Delta Rural Poll Policies and Procedures”; February 2004); Coordinated with rural polls in other states.

Alan Barton—*Evaluation of the Delta Volunteers Environmental Stewardship Project*: July 2003 – May 2004: Designed evaluation study of DSU service learning courses, environmental education at Cypress Park Elementary School, and Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge; Submitted proposal for IRB approval; Developed and administered pre- and post-test survey questionnaires for elementary school teachers and DSU faculty, and post-test survey questionnaires for elementary school students and DSU students; Visited Dahomey NWR with participants and sponsors; Participated in “9/11 Week of Service” activities at Cypress Park Elementary School; Participated in environmental education activities during National Wildlife Refuge Week at Dahomey NWR; Analyzed questionnaire data; Prepared and submitted mid-term report; Visited Dahomey NWR for inauguration of interpretive kiosks; Visited Cypress Park Elementary School students at Earth Lab environmental education camp; Prepared and submitted final report.

Alan Barton—*Natural History and the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area* (with Luther Brown): February 2004 – June 2004: Designed exploratory study of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area; Submitted proposal for IRB approval; Surveyed current national heritage areas on the role of natural history in their management; Catalogued potential natural history partners in the Mississippi Delta; Developed a proposal to include natural history as an integral component of the proposed Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area.


Brent Hales—Co-Principal Investigator: 2003-present — Center for Community and Economic Development, Delta State University. Delta Rural Poll – focused on providing a reliable means of assessing current conditions in the Delta and current attitudes of Delta residents. Has or will issue reports on recent poll results pertaining to access to health care, the status of education, technology use, and projections on workforce in the Delta.
Brent Hales—Co-Principal Investigator: 2003-present — Center for Community and Economic Development, Delta State University. School-Based Diabetes Intervention Study will examine 600 children (K-3) over the next two years to assess risk of early onset diabetes and conduct physical, nutrition, and health education intervention for these children and their families.

Brent Hales—Organizer: 2002-present — Mississippi Delta Technology Council (MDTC). This organization was developed to bring together businesses, organizations, and communities from across the Delta region to promote the inclusion of technology into their development efforts. These entities represent a body of technology users that have the common interest in uniting the efforts, networks, and resources in technology.

Brent Hales—Co-Principal Investigator: 2002-present — Delta State University. 1-69 River Bridge Region Community Assessment. The purpose of this project is to examine the economic viability overall community sustainability of three towns in the Delta region. Primary duties include design, implementation, and analyses of survey instruments and data collection efforts.

Albert Nylander. Research on Leadership Structures. This current research, entitled “Stability of and Differences in Black and White Rural Community Leadership Structures over Time In a Mississippi Delta Community”, is a revisit of earlier work on leadership structures. We analyze the network structures of 30 black and white community leaders identified through key informants in a rural Mississippi Delta community, and compare it to the network structure of the top 30 identified leaders in 1996-1997.


Jerry Robinson—Principal Investigator for the $130,000 evaluation research project funded by the USDA “National Competitive Grants Research Initiative,” August 2000 – July 2004.

Jerry Robinson—Program Leader for a $255,000 grant/contract with the Delta Regional Authority to support a “Business Development and Assistance Program” in Bolivar, Coahoma, and Washington, Counties in partnership with Industrial Development Foundations in each county and DSU’s Small Business Development Center and the Center for Community and Economic Development.

Jerry Robinson—Serving as Faculty Advisor to the Program Leader for Project YES! in the Center for Community and Economic Development. I wrote the proposal for this youth program for 40 youth from Cleveland High School and East Side High School. I have been involved with it since 1999. Current funding ends in June 2004.
GRANTS FUNDED AND PROPOSALS THAT WERE DEVELOPED


John Green—Co-Investigator. Asset Mapping for Workforce Development in Coahoma and Quitman Counties, Mississippi. Tri-County Workforce Alliance. (Subcontract Funded by the Foundation for the Mid South - $6,500 for Phase One, $2,000 for Phase II for Student Support). October 2002 – May 2004.


Brent Hales—Mississippi Delta Technology Council – Funded by the Bell South Corporation - $10,000, 2004.


Brent Hales—School-based Diabetes Intervention Study Planning Grant – Funded by the Dreyfus Health Foundation - $3,500, 2003.

Brent Hales—Magic School Bus Grant – Funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service - $5,000, 2003.

Brent Hales—America Reads Mississippi – Funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service - $122,276, 2003.


Brent Hales—Mississippi Delta Technology Council – Funded by the Mississippi Technology Alliance - $3,000, 2003.


Jerry Robinson—Conceptualized the outreach design and helped write a proposal for an AmeriCorps VISTA* Program in DSU’s Center for Community and Economic Development. This program was funded by Corporation for National and Community Service in August 2003 for $433,553. It is the second largest AmeriCorps VISTA program at a university in the United States. This grant is for one year. Renewal is expected next fall.

Jerry Robinson—Presented an idea for an “Institute on Business Excellence” to a University Committee appointed by the University President in the spring of 2003. Conceptualized the idea for a comprehensive program in business excellence and wrote a proposal in collaboration with the Dean of the College of Business for the “Hearin Institute on Business Excellence” in the fall of 2003. This proposal was submitted to the Hearin Foundation in January of 2004 and it was not funded. The Dean and I plan to seek feedback on this proposal and resubmit, if possible.

Jerry Robinson—Helped the Director of the Center for Community and Economic Development design a proposal to the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for a grant of $200,000 that would help sustain programs and staff in the Center.
Jerry Robinson—Since the Tri-State Delta Service Corps program was not funded in August of 2003, Dr. Robinson conducted an “Organizational Intervention with Delta Service Corps Staff and Boards in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.” Outcomes from this intervention were used to strengthen Delta Service Corps. Policies were developed and put in place to enhance effectiveness and efficiency throughout the program. In January and February, Dr. Robinson prepared the proposal for the Lower Mississippi Delta Service, Inc. that was submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service. If approved, funding will begin in August of 2004 and run through July, 2007. Total funding will be $8,888,000 for three years.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE


Brent Hales—Chair, Community Interest Group, Rural Sociological Society, 2001-2003.

Brent Hales—Program Committee, Community Development Society, Member, 2001-2003.

Brent Hales—At-Large Board Member. Alabama/Mississippi Sociological Association, 2003-2006.

EVENTS ORGANIZED


SERVICE WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Brent Hales—President, Past President, and Director – Mississippi Delta Technology Council.
Dr. Hales served as President of the MDTC, saw it through the process of incorporation and gaining non-profit status, and recently became past-president and Director of the Council.

Brent Hales—Community Service – Ruleville and Drew, MS:
Dr. Hales worked with Ruleville and Drew in developing the North Sunflower Economic Development Council, a non-profit economic development corporation.

Brent Hales—Community Service – Humphreys County, MS:
Dr. Hales worked with Humphreys County MS in developing the Humphreys County Partners for Progress, a non-profit economic development corporation.

Brent Hales—Board of Directors – West Delta Chapter of the American Red Cross:
Dr. Hales coordinated disaster relief trainings and relief efforts for Bolivar County.

CENTER STRUCTURE

An organizational chart demonstrating the structure of the Center is attached.