

South Delta Wins NADO Innovation Award With Mobile Outreach Skills Training (MOST)

South Delta Planning and Development District received a 2012 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation for *Mobile Outreach Skills Training (MOST)*.

South Delta partnered with state, local and regional groups in the deployment of the mobile training unit to GE Aviation in Batesville, MS. GE requires highly skilled workers for manufacturing composite components for jet engines. The MOST Program rapidly responds to GE's hiring and training needs and the unique configuration of the Mobile Training Unit allows flexibility in class sizes as hiring needs change. "This program has been instrumental in providing trained employees to GE Aviation," said Mitzi Woods, WIA Director at South Delta. "We appreciate the support of our partners and GE in our efforts to provide a well trained workforce to a major employer in our workforce area." South Delta wrote the original grant and continues to partner with other funding sources such as the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Batesville WIN Job Center; Mississippi Development Authority; Panola Partnership, the Mississippi Partnership Workforce Area and Time Wise. More than 220 employees have been trained on the mobile unit to date in the Delta.

NADO is a Washington, DC based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. "For more than 25 years, NADO's Innovation Award has provided regional development organizations throughout the nation a unique opportunity to showcase their important work and their critical role in promoting economic development for rural and small metropolitan communities. The creativity and significant, long-term impact of regional programs and projects like Mobile Outreach Skills Training (MOST) are the key to advancing the economic growth and sustainability of our nation's regions and communities," said NADO President Russell Cowley, Executive Director of the Six County Association of Governments in Richfield, UT.