CLTT RECEIVES U.S. DOT DESIGNATION

The University of Southern Mississippi Center for Logistics, Trade, and Transportation (CLTT) has been named and funded as a U.S. Department of Transportation Research and Innovative Technology Administration University Transportation Center (UTC). The CLTT is part of the Tier 1 National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE) consortium. A $3.5 million grant from the UTC to the consortium, including the CLTT, is directed toward research and education that will improve the nation’s freight transportation system in order to promote economic development and develop the next generation of transportation professionals. Of the 63 University Transportation Center applications received, 22 grants were awarded. Forty-six of the applicants competed to be one of the 10 Tier 1 Centers.

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SOUTHERN YELLOW PINE MISSION TO CHINA

The International Trade Bureau in Mississippi Development Authority’s Global Business Division, in partnership with the Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will host a trade mission to promote the export of Southern Yellow Pine products to China, a major importer of U.S. pine lumber, from May 27 - June 2, 2012. The event will involve participating Mississippi businesses with qualified potential buyers through pre-arranged business-to-business meetings. Participation in the mission also includes free admission in the Shanghai International City Garden & Landscape Design & Facilities Exhibition. Companies with operations in Mississippi may attend and/or schedule their own meetings.

Six small businesses may take advantage of the Mississippi State Trade Export Promotion (STEP) grant program to subsidize airfare, hotel and other costs on a first-come, first-served basis.

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HOW UPS, FEDEX GROW BY TAPPING ‘ADJACENT BUSINESS’

The shipping business is huge, but the sector isn’t necessarily experiencing huge growth. UPS and FedEx combine for about $90 billion in revenue, but to get that number above $100 billion, the two companies need to look beyond just shipping. In this era of efficiency and globalization, a viable growth engine has emerged: Adjacent business. Instead of just shipping products for companies, UPS and FedEx are also storing, maintaining and even customizing products - all with their own employees. They are revenue generators that are “adjacent” to the shipping business - both physically and philosophically.

Erik S. Lesser, AP File

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