

Meridian Star

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Area businesses earn Governor's Cup honors

staff reports

Two East Mississippi businesses, including a Meridian glass company, are district winners in the the prestigious Governor's Cup competition, state officials announced Tuesday.

Glass Inc. of Meridian was the Central District winner in the category for businesses with 50 or fewer employees. Glass Inc. was nominated by East Mississippi Business Development Corp.

The Yates Cos. of Philadelphia was the Central District winner for companies with 51 or more employees. Yates was nominated by the Philadelphia-Neshoba County Community Development Partnership.

"The businesses recognized by the Governor's Cup represent the leaders across our state making a difference through their community involvement and economic impact," said Gov. Haley Barbour in announcing the winners. "Their commitment to excellence is improving the quality of life for citizens across our state."

Glass Inc., owned by Robert Smith, specializes in commercial and residential glass sales. In addition to its business-related successes, the company was hailed for its community involvement and fund-raising efforts on behalf of charities such as LOVE'S Kitchen.

"We're just pleased that the Governor's Cup has recognized Meridian's Glass Inc.," said Skip Scaggs, business development manager for the EMBDC.

The Mississippi Development Authority and Mississippi Economic Development Council, sponsors of the Governor's Cup, recognize outstanding businesses across the state. From the six district winners, one small business and one large business will be selected as statewide winners and will be honored July 19 in Tunica County.

The district winners in each category will be recognized and receive a Governor's Cup award, and \$1,000 will be given to each of the nominating entities.

The statewide winner in each category will be recognized and presented a Governor's Cup trophy along with a \$20,000 planning grant for the local nominating entity.