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GOVERNOR PHIL BRYANT PRESENTS EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Jackson, Miss. (August 9, 2016) – Today, Governor Phil Bryant presented the Excellence in State Government Award to Laura Jackson and the Excellence in Local and District Government Award to the City of Horn Lake Fire Department in recognition of excellence and innovation in public service.

The Mississippi State Personnel Board was authorized by the Mississippi Legislature to establish the Excellence in Government Awards program, and the inaugural award was given in 2012 to encourage the development of innovative systems of public administration.

"Government works best when it effectively and efficiently serves taxpayers. I am grateful to Laura Jackson and the Horn Lake Fire Department for making that principle a reality and congratulate them on their well-deserved awards," said Governor Phil Bryant.

MSPB Executive Director Deanne Mosley said, "Laura Jackson and the City of Horn Lake Fire Department have demonstrated a commitment to public service through their innovative actions and their dedication to the citizens of Mississippi. MSPB is honored to join Governor Bryant in recognizing their outstanding efforts to serve our State with excellence."

The recipient of the Excellence in State Government Award is Laura Jackson. Prior to being appointed the Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration by Governor Bryant, Jackson served as Deputy State Treasurer where she increased efficiency by simplifying the depository bid process for financial institutions to hold public funds. Prior to the implementation of the new process, few financial institutions were bidding to serve as a location for school districts, municipalities, and counties to deposit public funds. The lack of interested institutions led to increased costs and security issues for remote communities transporting funds. Jackson developed a uniform depository bid form that streamlined the bid process to increase financial institution participation.

The recipient of the Excellence in Local and District Government Award is the City of Horn Lake Fire Department. Committed to protecting the lives of the citizens of Horn Lake, the 52-member fire department operates the Horn Lake Fire Safety Weather Simulation Trailer. This trailer is used to educate over 10,000 students and senior citizens each year about fire prevention and weather safety. Notably, in September 2014, the City of Horn Lake experienced severe flooding and many individuals were trapped in their vehicles. Horn Lake Fire Department's first responders were featured on the *Today Show* for their quick actions that prevented significant injuries and deaths.

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The Mississippi State Personnel Board serves nearly 30,000 public employees and 130 state agencies, boards, and commissions. MSPB also provides administrative support for the Personal Service Contract Review Board and Employee Appeals Board. For more information, please visit <http://www.mspb.ms.gov>.