



Message from  
the Director of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government  
at Mississippi State University

Dear SCUPSO Colleagues,

In gaming parlance, few public service institutes have been dealt a good hand over the past few years. We're fortunate then, that we have the Southern Consortium of University Public Service Organizations (SCUPSO) as our "ace in the hole." I hope you'll join me at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi, April 2 – 4, 2012 as the Stennis Institute of Government hosts this year's SCUPSO conference. I can assure you that the conference will be a winning combination of networking, learning, sharing of ideas and challenges, and fun. Among the program highlights will be an opportunity to learn from community planning and recovery efforts related to Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Please visit the SCUPSO registration page at [http://www.southerngrowth.com/forms/SCUPSOconf\\_rsvp.html](http://www.southerngrowth.com/forms/SCUPSOconf_rsvp.html) to learn more about the program agenda and to register. To help us with conference planning, we encourage you to register as soon as possible, and no later than **March 23**.

Room reservations at the Beau Rivage may be made by calling 888-567-6667. The SCUPSO conference rate is \$99 per night (+12% tax) for Sunday through Tuesday. Be sure to ask for the special SCUPSO rate when making your reservations.

Come on down early to Mississippi on Monday, April 2 and take a Walk on your Art-Side at 2:30 pm. Tour the Walter Anderson Museum of Art and paint your own print to take home! The Museum is dedicated to the celebration of the works of Walter Inglis Anderson, American master, whose depictions of the plants, animals, and people of the Mississippi Gulf Coast have placed him in the forefront of American painters of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The \$20 event cost includes a museum tour as well as a painting class with hors d'oeuvres and drinks! This will be followed by a Dutch treat dinner in Historic Ocean Springs.

Please feel free to contact Linda Hoke at Southern Growth (919-941-5145 or [lhoke@southern.org](mailto:lhoke@southern.org)) for program or registration information. Dianne Dyar of my staff is also available to help with any questions you might have about travel logistics. She can be reached at 601-953-1290 or [Dianne@sig.msstate.edu](mailto:Dianne@sig.msstate.edu).

With 62 miles of scenic shoreline, combined with great restaurants and casino action, the Mississippi Gulf Coast is an exciting place to visit. We're looking forward to welcoming you!

Sincerely,

Marty Wiseman  
Director, John C. Stennis Institute of Government  
Mississippi State University