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**TRIBE SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF MISSISSIPPI**

CHOCTAW, Miss. – The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at the Choctaw Central High School Library. In attendance were Tribal Miko Beasley Denson, Tribal Education Services Officer Dalton Henry, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi Executive Director Joel Waters, Tribal Member Services Division Director Henderson Williams, Family and Community Services Department Director Maurice Calistro, MBCI Boys and Girls Club Director Glen Billie, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi Program Specialist Jill Byars, and 36 Choctaw Central High School students who will serve as mentors.

Mr. Henry served as master of ceremonies and welcomed everyone and introduced Mr. Williams, who led the invocation. Mr. Henry then introduced Miko Denson. Miko Denson spoke to the students about his early years in the Tribal government, business, and private sectors. He said that mentors such as Maxine Dixon, Frank Steve, Jasper Henry, and former Tribal Chief Phillip Martin inspired him to always strive for efficiency and to fight for the things the Tribe needed.

Mr. Waters also addressed the students and encouraged them to think about their roles as mentors and to be good leaders. Following Mr. Waters' remarks, he and Miko Denson signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

The ceremony concluded with Miko Denson presenting a Choctaw basket to Mr. Waters.

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The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the esteemed leadership of Miko Beasley Denson, has an enrolled membership of over 10,000 and is the only federally recognized tribe in the State of Mississippi. Headquartered in the Pearl River community, near Philadelphia, Mississippi, the Tribe has emerged as a leader in economic development. The Tribe provides a range of governmental services for its members including schools, a hospital, medical clinics, police and fire protection, courts, an elderly center, among many others.