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Tribe Receives Funding for the Department of Employment and Training

The Department of Employment and Training operates a training program funded through the Department of Labor Workforce Investment Act Section 166 Indian and Native American Program (WIA). The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) has operated a WIA Program since the transition from Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) to WIA in 2002. In August MBCI was awarded \$277,614.00 in Federal funds to provide comprehensive services to unemployed Tribal members ages 18 and older.

The purpose of the Workforce Investment Act grant is to provide Workforce Development services that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Tribe.

The Choctaw Department of Employment and Training has a mission to assist in the development of the talent of the Tribal members which will enable them to find productive employment on the reservation or in nearby off-reservation settings. It is the responsibility of the Department of Employment and Training to monitor the local job market and to counsel customers about the availability of jobs.

The Choctaw Department of Employment and Training shares the vision that each Tribal member should have the opportunity for employment in a job commensurate with his/her skills, interest and abilities.

In 2002, the Choctaw Department of Employment and Training was awarded the Indian and Native American Workforce Investment Act Outstanding Performance Award presented by the U.S. Department of Labor at the National grantee conference.

For information on program services call 601.650.7386.

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The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the esteemed leadership of Mjko Beasley Denson has an enrolled membership of almost 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.