



Tribal Contact:

Wilma Simpson
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
PH (601) 650-1613
FAX (601) 650-3684
E-mail: Wilma.simpson@choctaw.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 8, 2009

**TRIBE SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY**

CHOCTAW, Miss. – On Friday, December 4, 2009, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held a signing ceremony at the Choctaw Central High School gymnasium. The Tribe signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mississippi State University. This agreement was signed to strengthen and promote the relationship between Mississippi State University and the Tribe, specifically, the Choctaw Tribal Schools, and to strengthen cooperation and exchange in the fields of student development, academic excellence, leadership programming, and civic engagement. Miko Beasley Denson represented the Tribe, and Dr. Mark E. Keenum, president of Mississippi State University, represented the college. Also in attendance were Roger Anderson, Conehatta Tribal Council representative and chairman of the Tribal Council Committee on Education; Dr. Greg Carlyle, principal of Choctaw Central High School; and the CCHS Student Council Executive Board. Joshua Thomas, president of the Student Council Executive Board, served as the master of ceremonies. Before the signing, Miko Denson and Dr. Keenum spoke to the audience of junior and senior students. They stressed the importance of getting a post-secondary education and told the students to take advantage of every opportunity to better themselves. After the signing, Miko Denson and Dr. Keenum took pictures with the juniors and seniors.

#####

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the esteemed leadership of Miko 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.