



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Mississippi—Rural Business and Cooperative Services

# Community Building

## Leakesville Junior College Receives USDA Funding For New Training Center

### Outline Of Need:

Classes were once taught in sheds, trailers and borrowed classrooms. The building will fill the need for more space and more spots in classrooms; currently all three of the main vocations have growing wait lists. And the higher enrollment is not only good for the community as well as the college, it is also good for the economy - chipping away at Mississippi's stubborn unemployment rate certificate by certificate.

### How Rural Development Helped:

The Greene County Center is the first of JCJC's three off-campus Center's to be built from the ground up, but planning began almost five years ago when the idea was hatched by community partners and JCJC administrators. Community Bank and Singing River Electric Power Association secured zero-interest funding through the United States Department of Agriculture to help fund the educational and economic development project in 2009.

Rural Economic Loan and Grant funds were adminis-



Jones County Jr. College Educational Training Center

tered to Singing River Electric Power Association and subsequently loaned to Jones County Jr. College for the construction of the Jones County Jr. College Greene County Center and for the purchase of equipment.

The funds were used to construct a 17,868 square foot educational training center and to assist with purchasing furniture, fixtures and equipment necessary to the educational program areas that will be taught at this facility in Leakesville, MS.

### The Results:

The new facility will allow provides additional space needed to offer more classes. Prior to the new facility, some classes could only hold 20 students, but now the facilities can hold 53 students. Classes will be offered in the areas of welding, pipefitting, adult education and computer software. College credit courses will also be offered for individuals working toward a liberal arts degree.

## Fast Facts

**Program:** Rural Business and Cooperatives

**Investment:** \$740,000 USDA Rural Development Loan, \$300,000 USDA Rural Development Grant, \$389,600 Leveraged funds

**Partners:** Singing River Electric Power Association, Jones County Jr. College

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