



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

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February 5, 2009

Mr. Donald R. Allee
Executive Director and CEO
Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport
2510 14th St., Suite 1450, P.O. Box 40
Gulfport, MS 35901

Dear Mr. Allee:

The University of Southern Mississippi is excited by the Port Authority's plan for renovation and restoration of its Gulfport facility. We support this bold initiative of the State of Mississippi, and we look forward to a number of supportive and cooperative efforts that will result.

As you know, Southern Miss is developing a master's program in logistics on our Gulf Coast campuses that will focus on education, research and public service applications in inter-modal transportation systems. We are also developing a Center for Logistics, Trade and Transportation Research in order to expand our research and outreach efforts. For several years at our Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and our Gulf Coast Geospatial Center, we have conducted programs of research and technical assistance for a variety of marine and environmental projects. These initiatives and others at Southern Miss are a natural fit to complement the growth and restoration of our state port you are planning.

As you move forward, please feel free to contact us whenever there is a higher education need or opportunity arising from the port renovation. We look forward to working with you and other South Mississippi leaders to support this marvelous vision.

Sincerely yours,

Martha Saunders
President

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