



# 2016 LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET

## ABOUT MPIC

Established in 1990 by the Mississippi Legislature, Mississippi Prison Industries Corporation (MPIC) was created to give inmates on the job training and realistic work experiences that positions released inmate workers to gain employment. This direct impact reduces the recidivism rate in Mississippi. MPIC is a nonprofit corporation and receives no direct appropriations from the state. MPIC solely operates on the monies generated by the sale of the products it creates, and monies are then reinvested into the corporation (upgrading machinery, tools, equipment, buildings, creating classrooms, supplying teaching materials, etc.). MPIC is able to offer on the job training and work experience to the inmate workers because of its independence in generating its own profits. MPIC is governed by a 13-member board appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

## NEW LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS

New leadership is paving the way with innovative ideas that will help MPIC better meet its mission:

- MPIC has committed to improve its programs by providing higher level training that will result in certifications and standards for the inmate workers that are recognized throughout the world.
- MPIC and the Department of Corrections (MDOC) work together to make sure that inmates wanting certifications and "on the job" training will be placed within an MPIC program. This partnership will help both institutions realize their mutual goals of aiding in the reduction of the state's recidivism rate, thereby lowering the high cost of incarceration paid for by Mississippi taxpayers.
- MPIC is concentrating on expanding the current Prison Industries Enhancement (PIE) work in order to assist private businesses in bringing work from outside the state into Mississippi while not competing with local businesses.
- MPIC is currently expanding its metal fabrication/welding divisions to all of the three state correctional institutions (Parchman, Pearl, and Leakesville). MPIC will be offering welding certification classes to any MPIC inmate worker regardless if they are actually in the welding division or not. MDOC plays an active role in MPIC's success by providing inmate workers on a timely basis for all the MPIC programs.
- MPIC is working on expanding into other areas of the state by partnering with new businesses who are committed to coming to Mississippi. The training for these new programs will provide inmate workers experience in areas that are currently in demand by employers in Mississippi.

The main goal of MPIC is to provide inmates with realistic work environments, certifications and training, along with an opportunity to develop marketable skills that will increase their potential for rehabilitation and a career upon release.

