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Harvey Johnson Touts International Experience During Candidate Forum Hosted by JSU

JACKSON, Miss. (April 1, 2009) – ". . . the fact of the matter is when you look at the four areas -- communications, transportation, trade, and banking -- Jackson is already the hub. We are at the center of all these activities in Mississippi, and we need to take advantage of it," Harvey Johnson told a crowd seeking answers at a mayoral candidate forum held at Jackson State University as a part of its annual International Week Celebration.

Students representing countries from four continents across the globe used the opportunity to ask questions relevant to the theme of Perspectives on Globalization of Metro Jackson Area. The forum was planned as a means to explore the relationship between the city of Jackson and the international community in communications, transportation, trade and banking, according to Ally Mack, dean of the Division of International Studies at JSU. International Week is being celebrated through April 3, 2009.

"We have a World Trade Center in downtown Jackson. Most of you may not know this, but there is actually a facility staffed by people to make sure that these networks are coming into existence and viewed on a national and international scale. We need to make sure we continue to do that. It is our jobs to make sure that you, the citizens, are aware of these opportunities," Jackson's First African American Mayor Harvey Johnson added.

The Johnson Administration attracted several international exhibits; most notably the *Splendors of Versailles* and *Majesties of Spain*. "As mayor, I traveled to Spain, Germany, France, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and many others. I have traveled to all these places to make sure that our culture is represented and our business opportunities are represented on a global scale. That's what the mayor of Jackson can do. I am willing to continue to do that; to be assertive, in making sure that Jackson is recognized not just in the United States, but in global market," Johnson said.

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Johnson told supporters, "Whether you are talking global markets, international relations or the leadership to hit the ground running. I am committed to making Jackson safe for all citizens; creating a more transparent and accountable city government; creating cleaner neighborhoods with new and better housing opportunities; enhancing local revenue without increasing the burden on taxpayers; creating jobs for Jacksonians; improving programs and services for senior citizens; and promoting youth development."

Johnson, who served as Jackson's Mayor for eight years, added, "Through my experience both in and out of office I have learned what works and what doesn't. I know what it takes to make visible change, meaningful change for all of Jackson. I am the only candidate who has the experience, the integrity and the knowledge to get Jackson back on track!"

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