

3 Days in D.C.

By

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I spent three days this week in Washington, D.C. My traveling companions included Chad Newell, the new president of the Area Development Partnership. Although he has only been on a job a couple of months, Chad has hit the ground running. I accompanied him on a call with a prospect who is considering locating a significant business in the Hattiesburg area. If that evening is an indicator of things to come, the future of the ADP looks quite promising.

Cecil Burge, VP for Research, Julian Allen, Assistant VP for Research, Chad Driskell, External Affairs, and I called on members of our congressional delegation to answer any questions they may have about this year's congressional priorities. The \$91 million request from Southern Miss includes proposals for a variety of initiatives including Agriculture (shrimp farming), Commerce, Justice, Science, Defense, Energy & Water, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Health, Education and Transportation.

Dear Dr. Saunders, here are some questions about your trip:

1. Did you and your “traveling companions” fly to DC in your plane that is costing taxpayers and students \$16,662.98 per month for 59 months, with a \$907,053.85 balloon payment due on the 60th month?
2. Did the congressional delegation tell you whether USM is likely to see any of the \$91 million request, and if so, how much?
3. Did Joe go with you? And, if he did, who picked up the tab?