



4-29-13

For Immediate Release

Contact: Denton Gibbes  
601-214-2770

**PORT COMMISSION NAMES  
DANIELS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

GULFPORT, Miss. – Following a national search, the Board of Commissioners of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport has named Jonathan Daniels as the port's new executive director.

"We are very pleased to be successful in landing a person with the experience and credentials of Jonathan Daniels," said Jim Simpson, commission president. "Jonathan has port management, international trade, and economic development experience and that is the ideal combination of skill sets we need in a leader."

"I am honored to have been chosen as the executive director of the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport, and I truly appreciate the faith and support of the Board of Commissioners," said Daniels, "With the base of resources available, I look forward to working with Governor Phil Bryant and his team, Commissioners, dedicated staff, ILA, tenants and all state and community stakeholders to move the Port of Gulfport forward and establish the premier port facility on the Gulf Coast."

Daniels comes to the Port of Gulfport from the Port of Oswego in upstate New York where he has served as executive director since 2007. Prior to joining the Port of Oswego he served as the president and chief executive officer of Eastern Maine Development Corporation, where he oversaw the day-to-day operations and development efforts of the six-county economic development district. He also was the director of the office of economic and business development for the City of Bangor, Maine and previously served as managing director of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge.

"I am looking forward to working with Jonathan toward our common goal of completing the Port of Gulfport Restoration Project and growing the port's capacity beyond anything we have seen before," said Brent Christensen, executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority. "Given his background in economic development, I know he will provide great leadership in our efforts to bring more jobs and economic activity to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and our state as a whole."

The selection process concluded today (Monday) with the Commission holding a special called meeting to name their new executive director. The process began in December when commissioners solicited proposals from firms to handle the search. In January Boyden Global Executive Search was selected from a total of eight firms to find a new director for the Port of Gulfport.

Boyden, who has conducted previous executive searches for the port and specializes in maritime executives, brought the Commission some half dozen candidates from across the country for their consideration. Daniels emerged as the consensus candidate.

Daniels is scheduled to begin the job as port and executive director in mid-June. He and his wife are the parents of four children. The Daniels family will be relocating to the Mississippi Gulf Coast at the conclusion of the school year.