



Kathy Gelston

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Kathy Gelston is associate vice president for corporate engagement and economic development at Mississippi State, where she leads initiatives that connect university researchers, startup companies and intellectual property with new and existing industries to create economic opportunities for our state.

Before joining the land-grant institution in August 2014, Gelston served as the chief financial officer for the Mississippi Development Authority. In this role, she oversaw the agency's Financial Resources and Accounting and Finance divisions. Additionally, she was responsible for coordinating state-funded incentive programs and developing incentive packages for industry in the state. She joined MDA in 2005.

Gelston previously worked at KPMG, where she served as a state and local tax manager for two years. She also served as deputy director of audit and compliance at the Mississippi State Tax Commission, where she worked for 12 years.

A Mississippi State alumna, Gelston holds a bachelor's degree in accounting, as well as an MBA from Mississippi College in Clinton.