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AIDB again receives excellent financial audit

By **BRANDON FINCHER**
Home staff writer

The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind received an excellent report from the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts when the department publicly announced the results of its audit of AIDB.

The examiners found no significant deficiencies or problems in the accounting practices of the institute.

AIDB President Dr. Terry Graham said; "With David Akins as our chief financial officer, this is our third no-findings audit. I believe this is the first time in our history that a chief financial officer has managed three no-findings audits. It sends a very strong message about his leadership and capability."

When reached for comment, Akins spread the credit around.

"We're extremely happy with the audit results," Akins

said. "This successful audit comes from the tone set by the Board of Trustees and Dr. Graham and from the work of the dedicated staff here at AIDB. You don't receive a perfect audit without people who don't care."

This is the third time in four years AIDB has received a no findings audit. Both Akins and Graham said the audits show AIDB's high level of accountability with state taxpayer funding.

"AIDB is very dedicated to being a good steward of the taxpayers' money," Graham said. "People trust us with tax dollars to do the best job possible."

Akins said the state examiners office conducts a financial audit, a compliance audit to ensure AIDB follows state laws and a federal audit to be sure AIDB complies with federal regulations.

The audit listed AIDB's total assets, which include cash and accounts as well as

investments and capital, such as land and buildings, at over \$61.6 million.

Akins admitted it can be a challenge to keep the books in order for an institution such as AIDB with sectors such as a manufacturing division – the Alabama Industries for the Blind, Regional Centers located throughout the state and the education division with the instructional facilities in Talladega.

"When I first got to AIDB, the account structure was very intimidating, but we've always tried to comply with the examiners and their recommendations. There's always room for improvement. Whatever they notify us about, we try to get that right in the future," Akins said.

For the full audit you can check the Examiners of Public Accounts Web site at www.examiners.state.al.us, clicking "Audit Reports" and clicking the date Friday, May 22, 2009.