



# HONORING ROBERT SMITH

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# FOUNDATION AWARD

## 2019-2020 IVY LEAGUE RECRUITERS

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# CONNECTIONS

MAGAZINE



## MCC ADMINISTRATION

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president

**Lauren Clay**  
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**Pam Harrison**  
chief financial officer

**Leia Hill**  
vice president of advancement  
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**Barbara Jones**  
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government and community affairs

**Joseph Knight**  
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solutions

**Michael Thompson**  
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## CONTRIBUTORS

**Inga Bass**  
web developer

**Tony Boutwell**  
director of visual media

**Brandon Deweese**  
director of student engagement

**Christopher Haralson**  
sports information director

**Leia Hill**  
vice president of institutional advancement,  
executive director of MCC Foundation

**Lauren Pratt**  
social media coordinator, events specialist

**Kay Thomas**  
director of public information

**Marmion Francis**  
lifetime quest coordinator

## WELCOME BACK EAGLES!

I can't believe it is already January! It seems like yesterday we were greeting returning students and colleagues as we kicked off a new academic year. From the grand opening of our Athletic Performance Center to the launch of our recruiting trailer, the energy at Meridian Community College this fall has been special. You may know, for example, that MCC was one of six community colleges in the nation to be chosen for the NASA Aerospace Community College Scholars program. In addition to our own students, we hosted groups from 11 states for a week, who were taught and mentored by personnel from Stennis, Marshall, and Johnson Space Centers. I spent a few hours with the group and could not have been more impressed. The best and brightest often choose to attend community colleges, and I was privileged to meet many that week.

It was no accident we were chosen to host the NASA-sponsored event. Two of our faculty members--Ms. Valerie Bishop and Dr. Angie Carraway--spent countless hours researching, writing, waiting, and working until the selections were made and the event was complete.

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**They are a great example of what I see every day at MCC--committed faculty and staff members who love what they do and pursue their work with passion, persistence, and an understanding that their investment in others matters.**

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We have MCC employees who spend hours "off the clock" tutoring students who are struggling academically while others invest personal time and resources in teaching students that alongside the opportunity of education comes the responsibility of service. I know you are familiar with My College Cares and the more than 1,200 students, faculty, and staff members who volunteered in a one-day service blitz designed to make a difference in our community, but you may not know about the hundreds of service hours completed by, for example, our Honors students in a given year. I often say that service is "in the water" at Meridian Community College.

My understanding, as they say, "got real" for me in the last few months. Many of you may know about my health scare toward the end of the fall semester. On November 21st I had a heart attack a few days later, I had quadruple bypass surgery. During my 12 days in the hospital I had the opportunity to talk to dozens of healthcare professionals. As is my normal habit, I asked as many as I could where they attended college, and I was so pleased to learn that many were graduates of MCC.



I heard countless stories about their experiences as students, and they used words like "tough," "challenging," "loved," and "wonderful." The stories were great, and they made me proud of the place I work. My care was truly outstanding; in fact, I would describe it as professional and compassionate.

My health crisis allowed me to experience what I see around me every day. My healthcare providers approached their work like they do because it is how they were taught! Whether the subject is literature or linear equations, cosmetology or construction, data or dental hygiene, an MCC education is unique and special. We open doors, prepare our students to be successful, and teach them the importance of service to others. I can't think of a more worthwhile higher education opportunity!

# FOUNDATION NEWS



Leia Hill stands in the newly renovated foundation office. Renovations were completed in late September.

## COMING HOME

To say it's been a whirlwind year for Leia Hill would be an understatement. But this motivated, energetic MCC leader is eager to help others find their wings.

"I believe in this college and in this community; it's my home," she said. "I also believe that education is the best investment you can make in growing our community."

Hill was named vice president of advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation in July 2019 - just a year after she returned to her alma mater in the role of associate vice president of College Communications where she was responsible for helping to build the College's presence in marketing, public relations and coordinating branding efforts.

In addition to the Foundation leadership role, Hill continues to oversee College Communications.

"To say MCC has increased its 'presence in the marketplace' under Leia's leadership would be an understatement," said MCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner. "Leia has done an outstanding job mobilizing a very talented team around a vision that moves us forward," he said.

"She carries that energy, enthusiasm and passion for MCC in her role," Dr. Huebner added.

Hill holds a master's degree from the University of Mississippi; a master's certificate from the University of Florida and a bachelor's degree from Mississippi University for Women.

Her MCC roots run deep. "MCC is a part of who I am. I graduated with my associate in arts degree from MCC in 1997. I was fortunate to be part of one of the first graduating classes to benefit from the Tuition Guarantee program," Hill explained. "In 2001, as part of my first job in advertising, I worked with the MCC Foundation on campaign appreciation gifts and marketing efforts".

Hill also worked at the College in the Foundation's office from 2006 to 2014 as program coordinator of the College's Arts & Letters Series and Lifetime Quest program. "It was a very special time in my life," Hill said, "I met so many wonderful people and formed strong relationships - that I still cherish today."

Through donations to the Foundation you can create scholarships focused on specific criteria in honor of individuals that influenced you, endowments that lead to years of support for the college, you can join the business leaders in this community who support Tuition Guarantee - a program that guarantees to cover the tuition cost of all Lauderdale County graduating seniors for up to four semesters - or invest funds that help in the mission of the Foundation, which is to contribute to the growth and betterment of the College and to Meridian.

The MCC Foundation is fortunate to have the support of so many individuals and business leaders who understand the importance and vitality of education to Meridian and the State of Mississippi.

Hill added, "I couldn't be more excited to be back as part of institutional advancement, the MCC Foundation, and be able to continue to share the story of the College's good work."

# NEW DIRECTOR... NEW DIRECTION

The MCC Foundation has been busy. Not only adding a fresh coat of paint and renovating our office space but we added a new face and shifted some responsibilities, as well. Amanda Bratu, who previously worked in College Communications joined us as our new Administrative Assistant. Theresa Hogan will continue to concentrate her energies on the ever-growing Foundation scholarship program and has agreed to be our point person in establishing an alumni relations program, which will be implemented later this year. Her new title is Scholarship and Alumni Relations Coordinator.

The MCC Foundation has grown to the point of seeing the need to add an experienced accounting person to assist our Foundation Accountant, Diane Delk. Charlotte Rasco has agreed to assume full-time accounting responsibilities. Diane Wells and Marmion Francis will each take on additional responsibilities with Lifetime Quest, keeping programs, events, and trips fun and interesting.



Staff members of the MCC Foundation are pictured here in the newly renovated offices. Seated front from left is Amanda Bratu, Diane Delk, Marmion Francis, back row from left, Theresa Hogan, Charlotte Rasco, Diane Wells, and Leia Hill.

## THE FOUNDATION STAFF

|                                                                                                                 |                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| » <b>LEIA AGNEW HILL</b> Vice President of Institutional Advancement   Executive Director of the MCC Foundation | <a href="mailto:lhill@meridiancc.edu">lhill@meridiancc.edu</a>       |
| » <b>AMANDA BRATU</b> Administrative Assistant                                                                  | <a href="mailto:abratu@meridiancc.edu">abratu@meridiancc.edu</a>     |
| » <b>DIANE DELK</b> Foundation Accountant                                                                       | <a href="mailto:ddelk@meridiancc.edu">ddelk@meridiancc.edu</a>       |
| » <b>MARMION FRANCIS</b> Lifetime Quest Coordinator                                                             | <a href="mailto:mfrancis@meridiancc.edu">mfrancis@meridiancc.edu</a> |
| » <b>THERESA HOGAN</b> Foundation Scholarship and Alumni Relations Coordinator                                  | <a href="mailto:thogan@meridiancc.edu">thogan@meridiancc.edu</a>     |
| » <b>CHARLOTTE RASCO</b> Assistant to the Foundation Accountant                                                 | <a href="mailto:crasco@meridiancc.edu">crasco@meridiancc.edu</a>     |
| » <b>DIANE WELLS</b> Lifetime Quest Coordinator                                                                 | <a href="mailto:swells5@meridiancc.edu">swells5@meridiancc.edu</a>   |

All of these changes are in response to growth in the Foundation. We are positioning ourselves for a prosperous future and with the above staff have no doubts that we will be successful.

We reported in April that \$1,052,708.00 was raised for the 2018 - 2019 Campaign. This year's campaign is called **2020... A Clear Vision for the Future**. The Faculty/Staff Campaign was completed in August. The totals from that effort equaled \$33,428 - which is up from last year, and our number of participants increased as well. That is something to be excited about.

We are starting this year up, and hope that trend continues. Thank you all for your support. It really means so much!



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

**PATRICK ALLEN**  
*Companies*



"As a native of Meridian, I take great pride in our community and love to see it prosper! I truly believe that MCC plays a major part in the future of Meridian and therefore, I am glad to support the MCC Foundation."

Patrick Allen started his company in 2001 and serves as a full-service commercial, industrial and residential contractor.

With over 125 years of combined experience, they offer products, installation, and service for garage doors, commercial doors, storefronts, windows, loading dock equipment, loading dock doors, Hi-speed doors, automatic gate operators, storm shelters, industrial maintenance, and many other products.



**MERIDIAN**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**FOUNDATION**

# FOUNDATION NEWS

## FOUNDATION HONORS ROBERT SMITH AT MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION

Applause and well wishes were the order of the evening when Meridian Community College Foundation hosted its Annual Membership Celebration at Northwood Country Club.

Patron and Meridian entrepreneur Robert Smith, president of Glass Inc., was applauded and spotlighted in a video presentation that featured long-time friends, business associates and family enumerating Smith's volunteer and philanthropic activities. "Wow! I am truly honored to receive this award, especially from Meridian Community College," Smith said after the video aired.

He shared with the audience his path to building his current business - now celebrating its second decade - admitting it hasn't always been an easy road. Still, community leaders steered him in the right direction. Smith said he also used the College's service that helped potential entrepreneurs develop a business.

MCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner described Smith, who serves as the president of the MCC Foundation Board of



Directors, as "a friend of the College and a friend of mine." Smith was chosen for this honor for his leadership in the community and his service on the MCC Board of Directors. More than \$25 million has been raised for the Foundation in Smith's 17-year tenure on the board.

Smith also applauded MCC Foundation members for the dedication and support of the College. "Without you, we wouldn't be able to do what we do," he said.

# FOUNDATION NEWS

## GRANTED



MCCers join Hugh Sims, account manager at Haas Corp., in the announcement of a \$20,000 grant from the Haas Foundation. The grant is earmarked for students who don't otherwise qualify for financial aid and to fund national standards (NIMS) credentialing fees for the students. From left are Diane Delk, Foundation accountant; Leia Hill, vice president of institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation; Dr. Thomas Huebner, MCC president; Sims; Brian Warren, Precision Machining Engineering Technology Program coordinator and instructor; Joseph Knight, vice president of Workforce Solutions; and Lori Smith, dean of workforce education.

## GIFTING TO OTHERS: ALLIE CAT RUN BENEFITS ADN PROGRAM



Meridian Community College officials Barbara Jones, left, assistant to the president for government and community affairs, Dr. Lara Collum, associate vice president for nursing and health care education, and Dr. Thomas Huebner, right, president, join Leslie Carruth, third from left. Carruth and her husband Bill,

an alumnus of the MCC Associate Degree Nursing Program, lost their daughter Allie in a tragic accident in the Spring of 2017. A portion of the proceeds of an event to honor the memory of their daughter, the Allie Cat Run and Festival, was earmarked for an ADN scholarship and equipment for the Simulation Lab.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

Thanks to LFW Ministries Inc., some single-parent students in Meridian Community College's Business and Office Technology Program, will get a financial helping hand for their textbooks and other needs thanks to a \$1,000 donation to its annual scholarship. From left are Kim Houston, Meridian City Councilwoman and public relations coordinator for LFW Ministries; Leia Hill, MCC Foundation executive director and vice president of advancement; Linda Willis, president of LFW Ministries; Martha Bailey, treasurer of LFW Ministries; Dr. Tom Huebner, MCC president; and Pastor John Willis.





# SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION



## JOIN TODAY

### Five Ways to Give to the MCC Foundation

01

#### PRESIDENT'S ROUNDTABLE

PRT is composed of businesses and individuals who have made a commitment to support MCC's Tuition Guarantee program.

02

#### ANNUAL GIVING FUND

The Annual Giving Fund consists of gifts from individuals who have an interest in supporting the College through scholarships, program support, or unrestricted funds.

03

#### MEMORIALS & HONORARIA

Donations are accepted as memorials and as living tributes. Acknowledgments are made using cards depicting a campus scene from the original Lilah Perry painting.

04

#### ENDOWMENTS

Long-term investment options for those who want to establish a legacy gift. Once endowment is complete it is never breached, creating a never-ending source for scholarships and awards.

05

#### PLANNED GIVING

Bequests, Insurance, Annuities and Trusts that list the MCC Foundation as the beneficiary.

## LEVELS

For online donations visit: [meridiancc.edu/give](http://meridiancc.edu/give)

|                         |                       |                             |                           |                                 |                                |                                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ASSOCIATE<br>\$50-\$124 | PATRON<br>\$125-\$299 | GRAND PATRON<br>\$300-\$499 | BENEFACTOR<br>\$500-\$699 | GRAND BENEFACTOR<br>\$700-\$999 | PARTNERSHIP<br>\$1,000-\$1,999 | SPONSOR'S CIRCLE<br>\$2000-\$2,999 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|

1<sup>st</sup>

The **MCC Foundation** established the first ever **Tuition Guarantee Program** in **Mississippi** and one of the first programs in the **nation**.

200

The **MCC Foundation** awards **over 200 named-scholarships**.

135

The **MCC Foundation** has established over **135 endowments**.

TOP

The **MCC Foundation** has raised the **most funds** among community colleges in Mississippi.

**6**  
MILLION

The **MCC Foundation** has been instrumental in supporting the **MCC Tuition Guarantee** program since **1996**. The program, which guarantees tuition to attend MCC for up to 4 semesters, is available to qualifying students who graduate from a high school located in Lauderdale County. Tuition Guarantee is funded by **private investment and institutional support** and has invested more than **6 million dollars** in **4,661 students** to ensure that life changing **higher education opportunities** are available to the citizens in the community we serve.

# AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

## NICHOLSON-TAYLOR RECEIVES HUMANITIES HONOR



Meridian Community College Art Instructor Terrell Nicholson-Taylor is the recipient of the 2019-2020 Mississippi Humanities Teacher of the Year from MCC.

The award recognizes the contribution of humanities faculty at each of the state's colleges and universities.

"I believe art is a sacred expression of what it means to be human. I am a humanist, so I try to share that point with my students, and anyone I come in contact with," Nicholson-Taylor said.

As a part of the award, each honoree is required to give a public lecture. Nicholson-Taylor will present her talk on Friday, Feb. 21, at 10:30 a.m. in the Casteel Gallery, located in the foyer of the L.O. Todd-Billy C. Beal Learning Resources Building. Her lecture, "Give me STEAM: Art Education as an Extraordinary Experience," is free and open to the public.

Nicholson-Taylor holds three master-level degrees; a master of fine arts, a master of art education, and a master of art in anthropology. Her bachelor of science is in anthropology. She has served as an MCC art instructor for 15 years. She has garnered accolades at the College, including the recipient of the Moody Institute Trust Fund Professional Development Grant and Holladay Family Professional Development Award. Internationally, she has also served as artist

presenter and artist-in-residence at the International Conference on Cast Iron Sculpture in Gdansk, Poland, and was a participant in Summer Artist in Residence: La Maciana di San Cresci, Greve en Chianti, Italy.

Her work has also been on display at Alabama Art Casting, Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Kentuck Arts and Crafts Fair and Meridian Museum of Art.

"I think everyone has the potential to be an artist. I believe in potential, and in the creative endeavor," Nicholson-Taylor said.



## ETHRIDGE RECEIVES CROOKS TEACHING CHAIR

MCC Graphic Design Technology Program Coordinator and Instructor, Daniel Ethridge, received the William B. Crooks Teaching Chair during the MCC Foundation Celebration.

The William B. Crooks Teaching Chair, funded through the Foundation, was created to provide a continuing celebration of Crooks' life and his dedication to education. The Crooks Teaching Chair was the first endowed chair in any community college in Mississippi.



Celebrating with Daniel Ethridge at the Foundation celebration are MCC administrators, Joseph Knight, Leia Hill, and Lori Smith.



As chair holder, Ethridge will have the opportunity to initiate or refine course or program development, purchase books, materials and or equipment to improve a course or program and/or time to travel and study to develop new programs, performances or events.

"This is overwhelming. There are so many things you want to do to help students meet their goals in life, and a lot of times, technology is the barrier. But this award will help bring new technology to the program," said Ethridge, adding, "This is such a game-changer for our program."

## MCCER OF THE MONTH PEER-NOMINATED AWARD RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES



**Janet Parrett**, Records Clerk: "We have so many people who sincerely care about the well-being of each other, our students and our community."



**Chris Williams**, Math Instructor, "I really enjoy the opportunity to invest in the lives of students that are transitioning into adulthood. I love knowing that the work I do each day is having an impact on the lives of others. I also enjoy the community atmosphere present at the college. It is great to be a part of a loving group of people, who support and care for one another."



**Bethany Files**, Practical Nursing Program Director: "I work with some really awesome people, and I consider MCC my family."



**Marlo Turner**, Payroll Manager, "I like the family type atmosphere that surrounds our campus. We pray for one another through our campus prayer chain, and we share in the joys and successes of our coworkers through distribution emails and the Monday Morning communication. Our office building celebrates birthdays monthly, where we congregate and share our life's moments and our exquisite culinary skills!"



**Nathan Gibson**, Telecommunications Specialist: "There are many unique and interesting people that work or go to school here."

# ARTS & LETTERS SPRING 2020

## MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ARTS & LETTERS SERIES

### SPRING SEASON OFFERS MORE ARTS & LETTERS ENTERTAINMENT

#### THE SPRING 2020 ARTS & LETTERS SEASON

#### RAY HOLT, ACCIDENTAL ENGINEER

The 50th anniversary of the first F-14 microprocessor

Tuesday, February 11 | 7 p.m. • McCain Theater | **FREE** ADMISSION

#### FROZEN JR.

Lauderdale County School Partnership performance

Saturday, February 15 | 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 16 | 2 p.m. • McCain Theater | **TICKETS \$10**

#### WE HAVE A PLOT

MEET TWO MISSISSIPPI AUTHORS

A *Penchant for Suspense: John Floyd and Laurie Parker*

Moderated by Lowell Martin

Thursday, March 5 | 7 p.m. • McCain Theater | **FREE** ADMISSION

6TH ANNUAL

#### HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FESTIVAL

A mass choir performance from local high schools

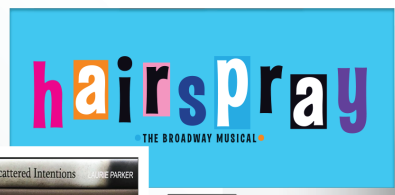
Thursday, April 16 | 7 p.m. • MSU Riley Center | **FREE** ADMISSION

#### HAIRSPRAY

Friday-Saturday, April 24-25 | 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 26 | 2 p.m. • McCain Theater | **TICKETS \$10**

**Tickets on sale for Frozen and Hairspray in Ivy Hall  
at the EAGLE'S NEST BOOKSTORE. 601.484.8650**



# JOHNSON JOINS MCC FAMILY AS ARTS & LETTERS DIRECTOR



With the combination of Meridian roots and passion for the arts, Susie Johnson is taking the reins of the College's Arts & Letters Series as director and is leading the signature entertainment program to new heights.

President Dr. Thomas Huebner said Johnson is the perfect addition to the MCC family. "She is a well-respected member of the arts community in Meridian and brings a strong sense of vision, energy and enthusiasm to everything she does," he said.

Johnson has served as executive director and education director of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra. She is the founding director of Stage 2, a local theater group geared to teens and the arts and was youth director for the Meridian Little Theatre. Also, Johnson was the recipient of the statewide Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education Exemplary Arts Service Award and serves on the board of directors for MAAE as well as serving on the Community Arts Team for the Any Given Child initiative.

She graduated from Asbury University in Wilmore, KY, and received her master's degree from Vanderbilt University. Johnson and her husband Joel are the parents of Jenna, Benjamin and K.K. The trio comprise the musical group Track 45.

## MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ARTS & LETTERS SERIES STAGE 2

Stage 2, the theatrical training group for youths 13-19, is now at home at MCC's McCain Theater stage, said Susie Johnson, MCC director of the Arts & Letters Series, and the founder of Stage 2.

"Coming home to MCC has been a blessing and relief ... we've been nomads for 10 years," said Johnson. Temporary home bases numbered at least five while practices were held in venues including church basements to parking lots.

## NOMADS NO MORE: STAGE 2 FINDS HOME AT MCC

The youth-centered troupe - those turning 13 years of age during the school year through age 19 - is much more than just putting on a show. Emphasis is on character development, teamwork and community service. "Working off stage is just as important for a show as being on stage," Johnson said. The youths are actively involved in committees, helping with costumes, set design, props, advertisement and fundraising.

## TAKE ONE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Now that Stage 2 has a permanent home, Johnson and her team are offering the same opportunity for learning and growth to interested elementary students through an after-school program, Take 1.

"We will start with a few pilot classes for fourth through sixth-graders," Johnson said.

Those interested can call 601.484.8678 or email [sjohns65@meridiancc.edu](mailto:sjohns65@meridiancc.edu)



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## HONORING POW/MIAS | SEPTEMBER 2019

Students, faculty and staff gathered with the community on a bright September morning as somber notes of *To the Color* played in the background. MCC accepted a challenge to all community colleges by the Eastern North Carolina

POW/MIA Recognition Day Awareness Committee to fly a specially created flag on Sept. 20. MCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner recited the number of those still missing in action (75,501) including those from World War II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Cold War, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. From Mississippi, 786 are missing. "Spouses, family members, friends, children and grandchildren wake up every day and wonder," he said.



Community resident and veteran Danny R. Smith salute during the ceremony.



MCC student Laquoria Young gives his son Zavion, 2, a better view of the POW-MIA flag-raising.

## STREET STRUT | OCTOBER 2019

Celebrating 10 Years, Queen City Race For Life & Street Strut was held October 2019 in downtown Meridian. Over 150 participants attended the event, which includes the 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run. Visitors also enjoyed the High Heel Dash and Street Strut. All proceeds benefit the Anderson Cancer Benevolence Fund.



With their heels hitting the pavement, participants scramble down the avenue in the High Heel Dash.



Community residents and College students and personnel turn out for Phi Theta Kappa's Queen City Race for Life and Street Strut.



PTK students lead the National Anthem to kick off the race.

## IT'S A PARTY . . . CARNIVAL PARTY! | OCTOBER 2019

Meridian Community College, along with NFusionX Crossover and Debs Social Service Club, hosted a Carnival Party for children and youth with special needs. There were plenty of snacks, games, candy and prizes for participants. The event was held at the Riley Workforce Development Center.



Crafts plus candy plus fun equal a good time for special needs youths during the multi-sponsored Carnival Party.

## MY COLLEGE CARES | OCTOBER 2019

Each October, nearly 1200 Meridian Community College faculty, staff, and students step out into the community to make a difference. Meridian Freedom Project, Wesley House, Meridian-Lauderdale County Public Library, Habitat for Humanity, and Hope Village are just a few of the places we go. From packing grocery bags to pulling weeds, nothing is off-limits.



Flower beds at the Meridian-Lauderdale County Library get a new look thanks to the efforts of student volunteers.



MCCers sort groceries at the College's food pantry during My College Cares Day.



## MCC HONORS VETERANS | NOVEMBER 2019

MCC held its Veterans Day Program with CDR John-Paul "JP" Falardeau, executive officer at Naval Air Station Meridian, as the guest speaker. MCC has over 250 student veterans and dependents of veterans using their Veteran's Administration education benefits.

Veterans from across campus and the community are saluted during the College's annual Veterans Day Program.

# FOCUS ON GOVERNMENT

## FUNDING MATTERS HIGHLIGHT ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE TALK

Stressing the economic impact of the community college system, Meridian Community College President Dr. Thomas Huebner encouraged an audience of community leaders, college personnel and state and local lawmakers that funding matters.

Dr. Huebner shared a multi-media presentation at a luncheon to a group of 50 that illustrated the College's vision, challenges and needs.

"To be able to quantify and look at how this institution is important to this community and to be able to share that with elected officials is particularly important," he said.



Local and regional community leaders listen as College needs are highlighted during the legislative talk.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

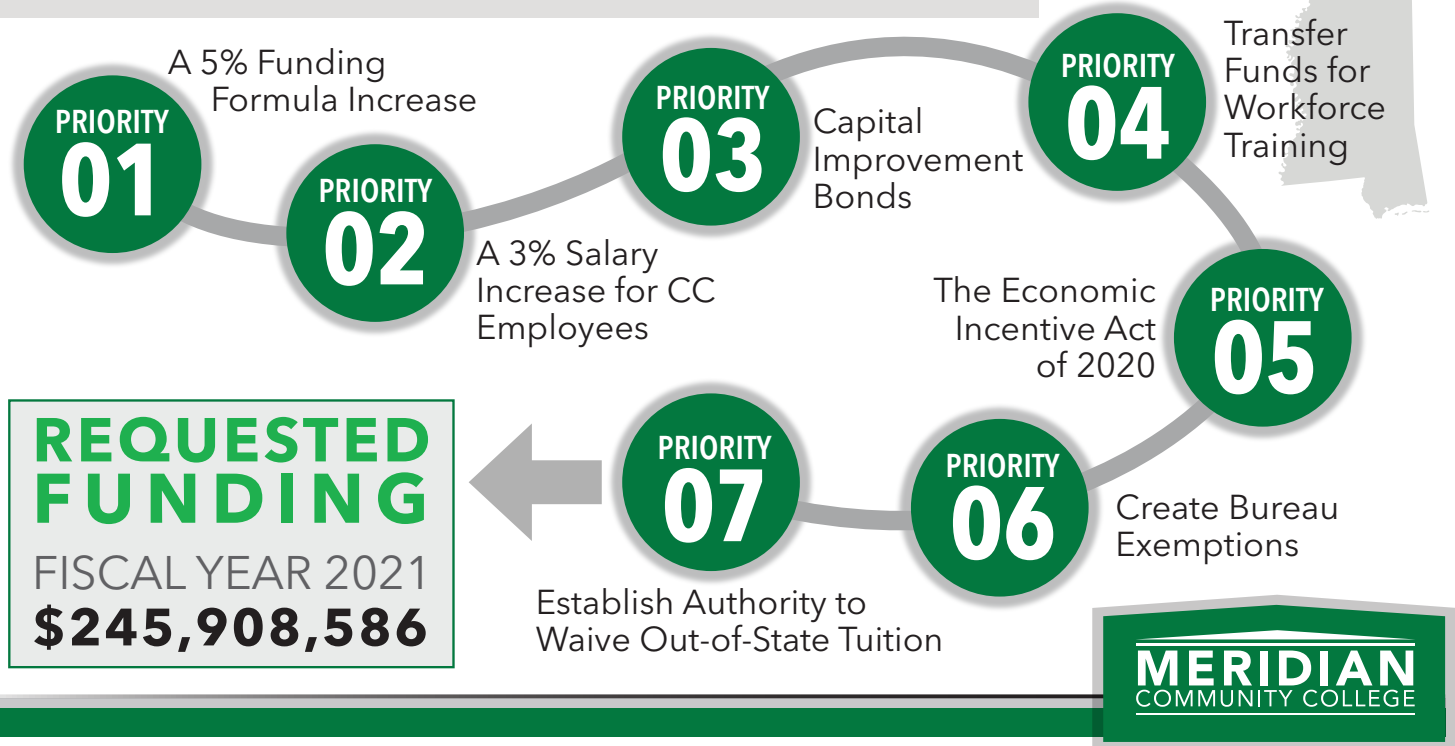
### What is Annual Value of Mississippi Community Colleges?

- ▶ **8,000** people employed.
- ▶ **\$980 million** in wages and salaries.
- ▶ **16,204 jobs** supported by expenditures of MS Community College operating budgets and students.
- ▶ **\$134 million** in state and local tax revenue.
- ▶ **\$1.9 billion** contributed to the states GDP.
- ▶ **1.5 times** more likely to graduate after transferring to a public university than their counterparts who enroll directly to the same university.
- ▶ **Within 5 years** of graduation, the average wage of students earning an AAS at a Mississippi Community College is on par with their counterparts completing a bachelor's degree at a Mississippi public university.

**MERIDIAN**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# ROAD MAP OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



MCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner talks to Dr. John-Mark Cain, Lauderdale County School District Superintendent, and Jonathan Wells, Lauderdale County Supervisor, after the conclusion of the annual legislative luncheon.

The economic value of community colleges illustrated his point. Some 16,000-plus jobs are supported by expenditures of Mississippi community college operating budgets and students. He also said there is a \$980 million direct and indirect labor impact while there is \$128 million in tax revenue.

More than 8,870 community college graduates entering the Mississippi workforce generate \$980 million in wages and salaries annually.

For every state tax dollar invested in community colleges, Mississippi gets back \$4.86 - a 386 percent net return on investment.

For every state tax dollar invested in community colleges, Mississippi gets back



**\$4.86, or  
a 386%  
net return!**



"It's part of the story we need to tell - we need to do a better job telling," Dr. Huebner said. He added, "we are thrilled to be a part of this community and to have a great relationship with elected officials, those in K-12 education and friends at Mississippi State University, as we think about moving forward together."

He said he's excited about moving forward as the next state legislative session gets underway. Dr. Huebner added, "I think we have big things ahead of us."

# NASA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AEROSPACE SCHOLARS

## ON A MISSION: MCC HOSTS NASA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AEROSPACE SCHOLARS



NCAS student assistants Myeshia Jenkins, and Anna Beth Loper help set guidelines for a team activity.

Stay engaged and stay involved. Those first words of encouragement served as a mantra for 24 participants in Meridian Community College's first NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program.

The students from 18 different community colleges in 11 different states came to learn, to network and to gain skills that will impact their future. Specifically, they completed a project that gave students who are focusing on STEM fields an authentic NASA experience.



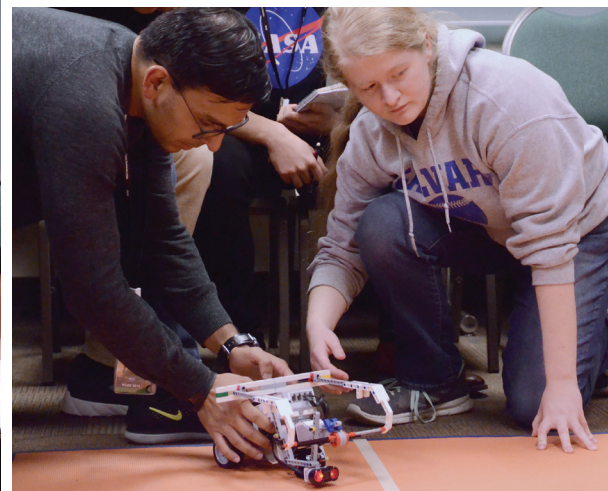
"I've always had the dream to work at NASA," said Ethan Wacker, a community college student from Charlotte, N.C., "and when I saw this opportunity, I jumped at it."

Teams and mock companies were created to build a Mars rover from an EV3 Lego kit. Their mission: to win an engineering design and robotics competition.

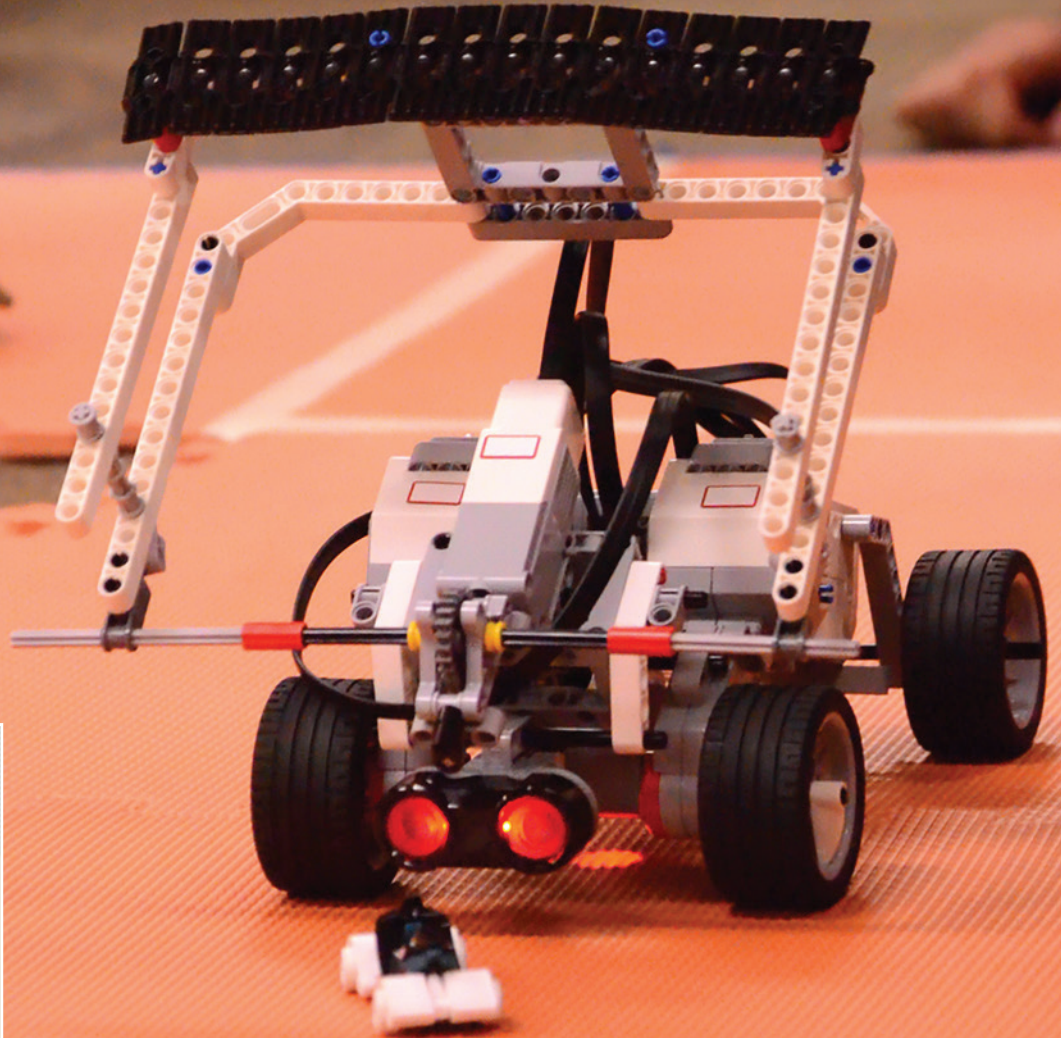
The best team members and overall best team garnered top awards.



Collaborating to get their Lego Mars Rover over the obstacles are members of one of the four teams.



Team members get up close to check their rover maneuvers.



NCAS participants learn that designing and building a working model Rover plan takes teamwork.



Team members work out the kinks to get their model over the top.

Another participant, Brandon Harkins, from MCC, said the program was “the real deal.” He added, “This is something that can get you to the next level.”

MCC was one of six community colleges in the nation tagged by the National Space Grant Consortia and NASA’s Minority University Research and Education Project to participate in the pilot program, NASA on Campus.



ABOVE: Trying to solve a puzzle during the first day of NCAS are three scholars.  
LEFT: Dr. Angie Carraway, MCC chemistry instructor, and Mississippi NASA Space Grant Campus coordinator, gives last-minute instruction before a Rover Competition round.

# RECRUITING ON THE GO

## MEET THE 2019-2020 IVY LEAGUE RECRUITERS



Each Spring the MCC Recruiting staff sets about the task of finding vibrant, outgoing students to join the Ivy League Recruiting team. Characterizing the very best and brightest that MCC has to offer these student recruiters represent MCC via personalized tours, spoken testimonials, event planning, school visits, college and job fairs, emails, phone calls, and yes, even texts!

|                                                           |                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tucker Atkinson</b>   Education                        | <b>Baleigh Miller</b>   Business & Office Management      |
| <b>Cainan Black</b>   Computer & Science Info.            | <b>Evy Morgan</b>   Health Professions                    |
| <b>Parisian Brown</b>   Associate Degree Nursing          | <b>Alejandra Myers</b>   Business, Management & Marketing |
| <b>Sara Brown</b>   Education                             | <b>Kaymen Russell</b>   Physical Therapy Assistant        |
| <b>Pedro Gonzalez</b>   Business, Management & Marketing  | <b>Daiquan Scott</b>   Engineering                        |
| <b>Jada Hiatt</b>   Associate Degree Nursing              | <b>Rhett Smith</b>   Liberal Arts                         |
| <b>Emily Huebner</b>   Music                              | <b>Ashleigh Wasson</b>   Liberal Arts                     |
| <b>Braylen Laine</b>   Respiratory Care                   | <b>Bailey Weddington</b>   Education                      |
| <b>Morgan Marlow</b>   Health Professions                 | <b>Hailey Wells</b>   Biological & Biomedical             |
| <b>Hallie Mayatt</b>   Health Professions                 | <b>Presley Williamson</b>   Health Professions            |
| <b>Matthew McNeill</b>   Business, Management & Marketing | <b>Myea Young</b>   Art                                   |



## WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

The MCC mobile recruiting tool is the very first of its kind in the state of Mississippi. Unveiled in August, the rolling recruiting venue has hosted nearly 1,000 visitors of all ages already, primarily at high school football games. Customized by students from the MCC Workforce Development Center, the mobile recruiting tool highlights craftsmanship including custom designed diamond plate paneling, cabinetry, countertops, accent lighting and multimedia production.



## THE EAGLE EXPERIENCE

Our series of college preview days, The Eagle Experience, hosted over 600 potential new students, from 10 schools in 2 states in fall of 2019. The 1/2 day event includes a walking tour, student testimonials and students battling onstage in exciting contests. It's designed to be really enjoyable, but also highly informative for potential students. For more details checkout [Meridiancc.edu/EagleExperience](https://Meridiancc.edu/EagleExperience)



## NEW FACES AND SPACES



From left: Kevin Roberts, Desi Ross, Ashley Tanksley, and Brandon Dewease

MCC welcomed new Recruiting Coordinator, Kevin Roberts in January of 2020. Kevin is a 2009 graduate of Meridian High School and member of the 2008 state championship wildcat football team. Kevin went on to play both football and baseball collegiately at Southeastern Louisiana University and brings a wealth of coaching and recruiting experience to our team of recruiters at MCC. Additionally, Ashley Tanksley and Desi Ross were both promoted within the Recruiting department.

Ashley has taken on the role of Lead Recruiting Coordinator, a position she plays well due to her strong organizational skills and dynamic and outgoing personality. Likewise, Desi is our newly-named Dual Credit Coordinator. Her strengths in communication and efficiency will serve well to lead the Dual Credit effort, which impacts hundreds of local students annually. Brandon Dewease oversees the recruiting, dual credit, and campus life departments as the director of student engagement.



## GOOD NEWS IS EASY TO SHARE

The team was busy during the Summer and Fall of 2019. They've hosted 32 events on campus and attended 29 events off campus. Combined, the effort of those 61 events put us in contact with over 3,700 potential Eagles. Additionally, we hosted over 700 students at 6 orientation events in the Summer of 2019.

▶ Do you know a potential MCC Eagle student? Call us at 601.481.1340 or email us at [recruiting@meridiancc.edu](mailto:recruiting@meridiancc.edu)

# ATHLETICS

## MEET OUR ATHLETIC STAFF



The MCC athletic department is directed by our Athletic Director **Sander Atkinson**. Sander is in his 6th year as AD. Sander also serves as Associate Dean of Students for the college. He has held that position for 12 years. Prior to stepping into the role as dean, Sander was MCC's athletic trainer for 11 years.



**Christopher Haralson** currently holds two positions in our athletic department. For the past 12 years he has worked as MCC's athletic trainer. He took on the role of Sports Information Director in October. As an athletic trainer Christopher is part of the Rush Sports Medicine team for Rush Hospital in Meridian.



### BASEBALL

Our baseball coaches are two former players here at MCC. Head Coach **Dillon Sudduth** played for MCC in 2004-2005 before playing at Southeastern Louisiana University and is entering his 8th year as head coach. **Jarrod Parks** played for the Eagles in 2006-2008 before playing for the Mississippi State Bulldogs and being drafted by the Anaheim Angels in 2011. This is Jarrod's first season coaching for the Eagles. The baseball team will open its season with home games on February 7, against John A Logan Community College.



### SOFTBALL

The softball team is also led by a MCC Alum. Head coach **Faith Robinson** played for the Lady Eagles in 2000-2001 and is entering her 8th season as head coach. She is assisted by **Londen Ladner** who played at Ole Miss from 2010-2014. This is Londen's 3rd season as the softball assistant coach. The Lady Eagles will open their season on the road in the Dothan Invitational on February 7, 2020.



MCC'S NEW

## ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE CENTER



- » 4,200 Square Feet
- » Designed Specifically for Student Athletes
- » Cost approximately \$1.2 Million
- » Offers free weights, TRX bands, battle ropes, bench press stations, dumbbells and a cardio room



@mceaglesathletics



@MCCeagleSports



@MCCisthe1

VIEW TEAM STATS:  
[MCCEAGLES.COM](http://MCCEAGLES.COM)



## TENNIS

Another coach who returned to MCC to coach once his playing days were over is the Men's and Women's tennis coach, **Simon Bardel**. Simon played for the Eagles in 2010-2012 before playing for the University of West Alabama. Simon assisted long-time head coach Wanda McPhail for 3 seasons before taking over in 2018. Simon is in his 2nd year leading the tennis teams. Tennis will open the spring portion of their schedule on January 31, at Holmes.



## SOCCER

Rounding out the coaches who returned home to lead the Eagles is **Mike Smith**. Mike leads the Lady Eagle soccer team. Mike played for and won a National Championship with the Eagles in 2000. Mike finished out his playing career at Delta State University. This is Coach Smith's 8th season leading the Lady Eagles.

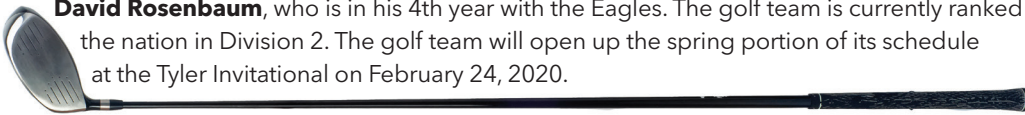


Leading the men's soccer team is first year head coach **Sam Wilson**. Sam was an assistant for 2 seasons before taking over the reins. Prior to joining MCC Sam was the head coach at Newton County High School for 5 years. Sam is a Meridian High graduate and played his college soccer at East Central Community College.



## GOLF

**Ronnie Key** is entering his 8th season as the head of the men's golf team. While Ronnie never played for the Eagles, his son Easton was a standout golfer for the Eagles in 2010-2012. Ronnie is assisted by **David Rosenbaum**, who is in his 4th year with the Eagles. The golf team is currently ranked 8th in the nation in Division 2. The golf team will open up the spring portion of its schedule at the Tyler Invitational on February 24, 2020.



**James Green** is in his fourth season as the men's basketball head coach. James came to MCC after head coaching stints at Jacksonville State University, Mississippi Valley State, and University of Southern Mississippi. James was a standout player for Ingomar High School before playing for the University of Mississippi. James is assisted by **Rodney Broughton** who is in his 2nd season with the Eagles. Rodney played at Northwestern State University.

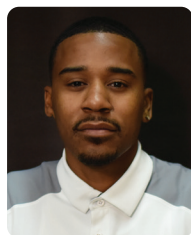
## BASKETBALL

**Jocelyn McGilberry** is in her 8th year as head coach of the women's basketball team. Jocelyn came to MCC after assistant coaching stints at Ole Miss and Mississippi State. Jocelyn played her college ball at Auburn University. Coach McGilberry is assisted by **Tiawanna Pringle** who is in her 4th season with the Lady Eagles. Tiawanna is a former local standout and state champion with the Southeast Lauderdale Lady Tigers. After high school Tiawanna played basketball at Louisiana Tech University.



## TRACK & FIELD

Leading the MCC Track and Field teams is Head Coach **Chip Gayden**. Chip has been the head coach since the program was re-instated in 2014. In just 5 seasons the Track and Field teams have had 5 individual national champions. Chip was an assistant coach for the University of Memphis and Ole Miss prior to joining Meridian. Chip is assisted by **Dameon Morgan** who focuses on the distance runners. This is Dameon's 2nd season with the Eagles. Dameon was an All SEC first team runner for Ole Miss.



# MCC GRADUATES

## MCC AWARDS DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES, CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE



More than 200 Meridian Community College students received their diplomas or certificates during Fall commencement ceremonies at the Temple Theater in downtown Meridian on Friday, December 13, 2019.

The highlight of the fall commencement came when 10 top graduates were selected for the Circle of Excellence. The honor is based on scholarship, leadership, spirit, and service. Recipients included Justin Adcock, Gwendolyn Fikes, Jordan Goodman, Bailey Hunter, Aeriunna Jones, Holly Reed, Kimberly Smith, Roderick Vaughn, Jerome Watkins, and Jade Willis.

Adcock is a native of Florence and is a graduate of the Associate Degree Nursing program; Fikes, a resident of Meridian, is a graduate of the Hotel/Restaurant Management program; Goodman, a resident of Meridian,

is a graduate of the Associate Degree Nursing Program; Hunter, a resident of Moselle, is a graduate of the Associate Degree Nursing program; Jones, a resident of Waynesboro, is a graduate of the Cosmetology program; Reed, a resident of Meridian, is a graduate of the University Transfer program; Smith, a resident of Union, is a graduate of the Associate Degree Nursing program; Vaughn, a resident of Choctaw, is a graduate of the Computer Network Technology Program; Watkins is from York, Alabama and is a graduate of the Culinary Arts Technology program; Willis, a resident from Philadelphia, is a graduate of the University Transfer program.

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER TECHNICAL GRADUATES

Bachelor of Applied Science is a degree program designed for those who graduate with a career technical AAS degree. The Career Technical hours transfer and are incorporated into a bachelor's degree. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between MSU and MCC is scheduled to be signed by Dr. Huebner and Dr. Keenum, president of MSU, at a press conference on February 26, 2020 at 1 p.m.

**MERIDIAN**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

+

**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
MERIDIAN

## BACHELOR APPLIED SCIENCE MCC AND MSU-MERIDIAN PATHWAY PROGRAM

that will provide wrap-around services to students throughout the AAS-BAS journey.



# MCC CEREMONY SALUTES EXCELLENCE



Twenty-three students walked across the McCain Theater stage in January 2020 and received their high school equivalency certificates. Two students, Ivan Barnard and Jaylen Vance, were recognized for their academic excellence in posting top scores on the GED tests. Jaylen received a Bronze medallion for scoring between 170-179, and Ivan received a Silver medallion for scoring between 180 - 189. The highest score you can achieve on the GED test is 200.

The highlight of the ceremony came when three graduates were recognized and rewarded for their academic performance yielding scholarships to continue their academic endeavors.

Rebecca York of Meridian was named the Willie Williams Memorial Scholarship recipient. York is enrolled in the Health Care Assistant Program and is scheduled to graduate in May 2020. The Willie Williams scholarship was established in honor of a former Adult Education Director who was dedicated and committed to assisting students in furthering their education. The Willie Williams scholarship is awarded to a student who has shown outstanding progress in the midst of adversity.

York survived a terminal illness but still managed to come to class to earn her High School Equivalency Diploma. York has completed two semesters of college since receiving her HSE and is still preserving through pain and trials.

Matthew LeBlanc of Meridian was named the Gloria Blackshear Brown Scholarship recipient. LeBlanc is currently enrolled in the Welding program at Meridian Community College and is scheduled

to graduate in May 2020. The Gloria Blackshear Brown High School Equivalency Scholarship was established in honor of a former HSE Recipient who happens to be the mother of one of our current Meridian Community College High School Equivalency Instructors, Jamila Brown Coleman. Jamila set up this scholarship in honor of her late mother because she knew how much her mother sacrificed in delaying her own educational goals to ensure that her three children would receive their college educations.

The Gloria Blackshear Brown scholarship is awarded to a deserving student who meets the following requirements: earned their HSE at Meridian Community College, demonstrates academic ambition and a financial need, enrolls at MCC as a full-time student after receiving their HSE, and maintains at least a 2.0 GPA or higher each semester.

Another graduate, Matthew Sanders, was selected as the recipient of the Rising Eagle Scholarship, a full-tuition, four-semester scholarship at MCC. Sanders is enrolled in MCC's Systems-Based Electronics Engineering Technology program and made all A's last semester. Sanders, a resident of Philadelphia, MS, is scheduled to graduate in Spring 2021.

The Rising Eagle Scholarship was established in 2014 by Meridian Community College to honor a deserving student from each graduating high school equivalency class to help continue his or her education. The selection of the scholarship is based on the following requirements. The recipient must be a Mississippi resident, must enroll in the fall or spring semester immediately following their HSE graduation, must register full-time and maintain full-time enrollment each semester, and must maintain a 2.0 GPA each semester.



Dr. Huebner presents Bethany Cole with her high school equivalency certificate.

# MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## Travel

### MCC FALL FOLIAGE TRIP

The MCC Foundation Travel program has been fortunate to have traveled all over the world. Travelers often talk about the beauty and the experiences long after they return from their adventure. The MCC Fall Foliage trip in early October was no exception to that rule.

Twenty-one travelers departed the heat of Mississippi to enjoy the cool, crisp New England air. In search of beautifully colored leaves and breath-taking views, we began our trip to Boston. Boston--home of the Red Sox, the Patriots, and Fenway Park, but, more importantly, the home of America. From the Boston Commons to Constitution Hall, we walked along the Freedom Trail and were reminded of how our liberty didn't come without a price. From Massachusetts to Connecticut, we traveled by bus and train through the majestic country-side, visiting five of our northeastern states.

The scenic train rides through Conway, up Mt. Washington, and to Cape Cod connected us with God's handiwork. The time also helped build relationships with

**"I love Foundation Travel because we always go to exciting places. Everything is planned out for you (airlines, hotels, luggage handling, and transportation). All you have to do is show up!" - Vicki Lockhart**

wonderful people who will be friends for a lifetime.

The northeast in the fall may be the best example of nature's artistry. The sights were truly beautiful, and we were able to experience it firsthand.

Our last stops were the coastal cities of Mystic and Newport, creating opportunities to witness a completely different way of life than we have in central Mississippi. Visiting those areas reminded me of change, and the fall can't help but make you aware of the passage of time.

Traveling makes me reflect on what's truly important and brings awareness of all the places left to see. I would like to invite you to travel with the MCC Foundation. Group travel is a great way to see more iconic destinations with a built-in group of friends. We would love to travel with you!

Interested in travel? Sign up to be the first to receive emails about upcoming trips at [meridiancc.edu/foundationtravel](http://meridiancc.edu/foundationtravel)



Diane Wells and Leia Hill, group leaders, in Brattleboro, Vermont.



The statue of Paul Revere during the famous Midnight Ride is one of the most photographed sculptures in Boston.



Cindy Lang and Vicki Lockhart at the summit of Mount Washington, the highest peak in the White Mountains.



Sonny and Paulette Hopkins enjoy the view beside a covered bridge in New Hampshire.



The entire group stops for a picture before boarding the Mt. Washington Cog Railway.



View from The Breakers, the grandest of the Vanderbilt's summer "cottages," located in Newport, RI.

# Travel with us to **CANADA**

NIAGARA FALLS - TORONTO - MONTREAL  
QUEBEC CITY - CANADIAN COUNTRYSIDE BY RAIL

## JULY 6 - 12, 2020

### \$4,385

per person

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601.484.8612.

**7**  
DAYS

#### TRIP INCLUDES:

- » Round Trip Airfare from Meridian
- » Airport and train station transfers
- » Day Trip to Niagara Falls with Hornblower Niagara Cruise and Lunch Included
- » 3 1/2 hour First Class Rail Service to Montreal with Meal Included

- » 3 1/2 hour First Class Rail Service to Quebec City with Meal Included
- » 6 Nights Deluxe Hotel Accommodations
- » Montreal & Quebec City Tours with Free Time to Explore.
- » Recommendations for Additional Excursions

Registration closes on or before February 15, 2020.  
**\$500 deposit required.**



For more information: 601.484.8612  
[meridiancc.edu/foundationtravel](http://meridiancc.edu/foundationtravel)



To sign up, visit  
[MERIDIANCC.EDU/FOUNDATIONTRAVEL/CANADA](http://MERIDIANCC.EDU/FOUNDATIONTRAVEL/CANADA)

# Travel with us

## OCTOBER 1-10, 2020

# CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

SANTA MONICA, LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO, MONTEREY, SAN DIEGO, AND ENSENADA, MEXICO

**10**  
DAYS

Registration closes  
on or before  
February 14, 2020.

**\$500 deposit required.**

#### TRIP INCLUDES:

- » Roundtrip Airfare from Meridian to Los Angeles
- » 2 Night Hotel Accommodations in Los Angeles
- » Tour of Los Angeles and day to explore the city
- » 7 Nights aboard the Royal Princess with stops in San Francisco, Monterey, San Diego, and Ensenada
- » Airport, hotel, and port transfers

**\$3000**  
Inside  
Cabin

**\$3300**  
Balcony  
Cabin

Priced for Double Occupancy  
For single rates contact 601.484.8612.



For more information: 601.484.8612  
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To sign up, visit  
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# FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



## FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2019



### DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

**NASH ACTON**

Leonard Corydon Barrell Family Scholarship

**JASON ALEXANDER**

Earl G. Kennedy Memorial Scholarship

**TYLER ALEXANDER**

Structural Steel Scholarship

**ANDRES ALONSO**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

**KAYLA ALSTON**

Dotty and Hardy Graham, Sr. Scholarship

**TIFFANY ANDREWS**

Thomas H. Greer, Jr. M.D. and Joycelyn D. Greer Scholarship for Nursing Education

**TUCKER ATKINSON**

Meridian Rotary Club Scholarship

**XAVIER BALL**

Upward Bound Scholarship

**MAKENZIE BARHAM**

I. A. Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship

**BRITTANY BARNHARDT**

Judie Bounds Rutledge Memorial Scholarship

**ZACH BATEMAN**

Radio People Scholarship

**BRAXTON BEECH**

Future Nurses Scholarship

**ERICA BALL**

Upward Bound Scholarship

**SYDNEY BENTON**

Ann and Ken Joyner Book Scholarship

**LACY BILLINGS**

Miriam Roberson Nursing Scholarship

**CAINAN BLACK**

L. J. Davis and Winifred Davis Memorial Scholarship

**THOMAS BLALOCK**

Sara and Sam Niemetz Math Scholarship

**KEISHA BOBBITT**

Norma Webb Scholarship

**TERRIOUN BOHANNON**

Alexander Ott/The Crossings Memorial Scholarship

**HALEY BONER**

Mae Carroll Thornton Scholarship

**BRITTANY BOONE**

Anderson Board of Directors Scholarship

**RANDALL BOYD**

William and Dorothy Lerner Business Scholarship

**ANDREW BRELAND**

Mitchell Companies Scholarship

**BRANDY BRIGGS**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

**MERRY BROADWAY**

Structural Steel Scholarship

**ZOE BROOKS**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

**BILLIE BROWN**

LFW Ministries Scholarship

**GRACE BROWN**

Charles James Winright, Jr. and Jean Ellen Winright Memorial Scholarship

**HANNAH BROWN**

Dixie Highway High School Scholarship

**PARISIAN BROWN**

Pioneer Classes Scholarship

**SARA BETH BROWN**

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship

**KAHIA BUCKLEY**

William H. Entrekin Family Music Scholarship

**JOSHUA BURCH**

Ida Mae James Alexander Memorial Scholarship

**TONDA BURKS**

Debbie Gunn Memorial Scholarship

**ALISHA BUTLER**

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

**LAURA CARBONNEAU**

Downtown Optimist Club Bill Herndon Memorial Scholarship

**ELIZABETH CARLSON**

Structural Steel Scholarship

**OREE CARMICHAEL**

Anderson Support and Development Foundation Scholarship

**MATTHEW CATES**

Gene Haas Precision Machining Scholarship

**ESTEFANY CHAVARRIA**

Sallie Mae Bell Memorial Scholarship



Devin Coleman | Dr. George W. and Ettamac Bounds, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

**BRIAN COCKRELL**

Margaret F. Butler  
Memorial Scholarship

**PAISLEY COLE**

Hotel Restaurant Supply  
Jerry Greene Scholarship

**SHARADEN COLE**

Leonard Corydon Barrell  
Family Scholarship

**DEVIN COLEMAN**

Dr. George W. and Ettamac  
Bounds, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

**LAQUIVA COLEMAN**

Dr. Lemann H. and  
Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

**DAKEIYA COOLEY**

Bob and Barbara Walker  
Scholarship

**CHRISTOPHER COTTON**

CEFCO C. E. Fikes Scholarship

**ALEXIS CRAWFORD**

Meridian Exchange Club  
Bo Russell Memorial Scholarship

**JALEY CULPEPPER**

Kenneth Harvey  
Memorial Scholarship

**JOLIE CULPEPPER**

Construction Services  
A.C. Terry Scholarship

**DESHUN DANIELS**

Glen Deweese Scholarship

**RANDY DASE**

Radio People Scholarship

**MAIYA DAVIS**

Kathleen Newby McDaniel  
Memorial Scholarship

**DEMETRIA DIXON**

Erika's Hope Scholarship

**KIMBERLY DOSS**

Earnest Workers King's  
Daughters and Sons Scholarship

**MALLORYE DOZIER**

Jackie Bates Slay  
Memorial Scholarship

**BRANDI DUBOSE**

Mae Carroll Thornton Scholarship

**REGINA EDMONDS**

Stennis "Judge" Little  
Memorial Scholarship

**HUNTER ELDRIDGE**

Kathleen Newby McDaniel  
Memorial Scholarship

**HEAVEN ETHERIDGE**

Jacob Toney  
Memorial Scholarship

**COREY EVANS**

Tommy Webb  
Business Scholarship

**REBECCA EZANWANEE**

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt  
Scholarship

**MONTANA FASON**

Jo and George Rea  
Memorial Scholarship

**JEYDE FITZGERALD**

Maude Smith Scholarship

**KAYLYNN FORTNER**

Alumni and Friends Scholarship

**LAWSON ALYSSE FREEMAN**

Beverly Barham  
Memorial Scholarship

**VANESSA GABLE**

Bebe Roberts Freeman  
Scholarship

**AXEL GALVAN**

Carney-Nelson Scholarship

**KACE GARNER**

Jack Malone  
Memorial Scholarship

**JOSHUA GARRETT**

Gene Haas Precision Machining  
Scholarship

**CHLOE GAVIN**

CEFCO C. E. Fikes Scholarship

**GABRIELLE GAY**

Dr. Lloyd Wilton and  
Dr. Sula Johnson Marsalis  
Memorial Scholarship

**FRED GEORGE**

Charles L. Young, Sr.  
Cosmetology Scholarship

**ERIN GIBSON**

Charles James Winright, Jr. and  
Jean Ellen Winright  
Memorial Scholarship

**PEDRO GONZALES**

Tommy Webb  
Business Scholarship

**DAPHNEL GRIFFIN**

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

**SHAKEDRIA GRIFFIN**

Mattie D. Hart  
Emma Donald  
Music Scholarship

**RODRIC GRIFFITH**

Eddie Holladay  
Broadcast Scholarship

**CHELSEA HALBERT**

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

**MARISA HANEY**

Charles James Winright, Jr. and  
Jean Ellen Winright  
Memorial Scholarship

**ALBRIE HARPER**

A. C. Johnson Civitan Scholarship

**ISAIAH HARRISON**

Linda and Billy Howard  
Computer Technology Scholarship

**JADE HARRISON**

Waters Family Scholarship

**JESSE HARRISON**

Dorothy McCauley Bates  
Memorial Scholarship

**SIRRAH HAYNES**

Stennis "Judge" Little  
Memorial Scholarship

**ELIZABETH HEWITT**

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

**JADA HIATT**

Structural Steel Scholarship

**ILEAH HIGGINBOTHAM**

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

**KRISHAUNA HILL**

William and Dorothy Lerner  
Business Scholarship

**CHELSEA HILLHOUSE**

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

**ANDREW HODGES**

Charles James Winright, Jr. and  
Jean Ellen Winright  
Memorial Scholarship

**KAYLA HODGES**

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

**ANNA HOLMES**

William Gunn, Esquire  
Memorial Scholarship

**TAYLOR HOSCH**

AT&T Scholarship

**KYRA HOWELL**

Mattie D. Hart  
Emma Donald  
Music Scholarship

**EMILY HUEBNER**

Mitchell Companies Scholarship

**ABBYE HUGHES**

MHS Class of 1978 Scholarship

**DREW HUGHES**

Thomas and Norma Bourdeaux  
Scholarship

**MORGAN INSHETSKI**

T. K. Dobbins, Jr.  
Memorial Scholarship

**ANNA IRBY**

Janet Billings ADN Scholarship

**JUSTIN IRWIN**

T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial  
Scholarship

**GABRIELLE JONES**

Charles Armstrong Scholarship

**JAMIE JOYNER**

Dr. George E. Howell  
Nursing Scholarship



Keith Robinson | Sara and Sam  
Niemetz Scholarship

**JOY KELLEY**

- MS Board of Nursing  
Scholarship
- State Farm Companies  
Scholarship

**JORDAN KIDD**

Ann and Ken Joyner Book  
Scholarship

**TYLER LACY**

Carolyn and Arthur H. "JR"  
Goldman Memorial Scholarship

**CANDICE LAPRADE**

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

**AUSTIN LAUDERDALE**

Billy L. Jones  
Memorial Scholarship

**LISHEKA LAWRENCE**

Joyce Morrison  
Memorial Scholarship

**MATTHEW LEBLANC**

Downtown Optimist Club  
Bill Herndon  
Memorial Scholarship

**KRISTEN LEWIS**

Carney-Nelson Scholarship

**SHYDAI LEWIS**

Dr. W. J. Anderson, III  
Memorial Scholarship

**DAIJONNE LONG**

Ralph Young Scholarship

**HOLLEIGH LOVORN**

Elizabeth Riley  
Memorial Scholarship

**LASHONDA LYLES**

Catherine Hovious  
Nursing Scholarship

# FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

## TEKEYLA LYLES

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

## ANTONIO MACK

Eva Mae Gilbert Edwards Memorial Scholarship

## TIA MALLEY

Charles James Winright, Jr. and Jean Ellen Winright Memorial Scholarship

## JORDAN MALONE

Cecil Adkins Memorial Scholarship

## MAURICE MANNING

C. B. "Dough" & Alice Rawlings Scholarship

## MORGAN MARLOW

T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial Scholarship

## JAQUITA MARTIN

Gondine Kittrell Memorial Scholarship

## BONNIE MAY

Rea, Shaw, Giffin & Stuart Scholarship

## DOUGLAS MAY

MCCF Miscellaneous Scholarship

## JOSEPH MAY

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

## HALLIE MAYATT

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

## BALEY MCCARY

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

## ASMINE MCCASKILL

Madeline Scott Callahan Memorial Scholarship

## KEDAISHA MCCONNELL

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

## SAGE MCKEE

Percy R. McLemore Scholarship

## MOLLY MCLEOD

Laurie M. Autry Memorial Scholarship

## WILLIAM MCMULLAN

Key Brothers Memorial Scholarship

## MATTHEW MCNEILL

Ruth Van Dyke Nelson Memorial Scholarship

## HANNAH MCPHERSON

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## BRIANNA MOODY

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

## JAZMINE MOSLEY

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

## KAITLYN MOWDY

Ralph Young Scholarship

## ALEJANDRA MYERS

William and Dorothy Lerner Business Scholarship

## ASHLEY NEWMAN

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

## RASHEDA NICHOLSON

Richard and Faye Hollingsworth Nursing Scholarship

## JOHN NULL

WTOK Broadcast Communication Scholarship

## MIRACLE OSBORNE

Meridian Area Dental Association Scholarship

## AL'LEXIS OTT

Charles Armstrong Scholarship

## CAMRYN PARTEN

Edwin Arlo and Bonnie Joiner Memorial Scholarship

## MICHAEL PETTEY

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

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Gerald Price Memorial Scholarship

## DARREL PHILLIPS

W. C. Winstead Scholarship

## WESLEY PHILLIPS

Walter and Cora Thompson Johnson Memorial Scholarship

## JALEN PORTIS

Ruth Van Dyke Nelson Memorial Scholarship

## MONICA POTTS

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

## SANDREAL POUNDS

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

## PAXTON POWELL

- John and Ann Johnson Scholarship
- Structural Steel Scholarship

## VICTORIA PRESTAGE

Harry and Vivian Boureau Music Scholarship

## ROSALBA QUINTANA

Meridian Area Dental Association Scholarship

## NICHOLAS RAY

Gene Haas Precision Machining Scholarship

## MURPHY REID

Kathleen Newby McDaniel Memorial Scholarship

## PARKER RIGBY

Dr. William Anderson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

## VICTORIA RIGDON

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

## CHLOE ROBBINS

Structural Steel Scholarship

## ALLIE ROBERSON

Dixie Highway High School Scholarship

## AMARRI ROBINSON

Dr. William R. Moore, II Memorial Scholarship

## KEITH ROBINSON

Sara and Sam Niemetz Math Scholarship

## ALYSSA ROSE

R. A. Emmons Family Educational Scholarship

## MONICA ROWELL

Elizabeth Riley Memorial Scholarship



Miracle Osborn | Meridian Area Dental Association Scholarship

## JORDAN SANDERS

William D. Mobley Dental Hygiene Scholarship

## XAVIER SATCHER

A. D. Burdette Math Scholarship

## CA'DARIUS SCOTT

Dr. Richard F. Riley, M.D. Scholarship

## APRIL SHEARS

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

## KARA SHEFFIELD

Alexander Ott The Crossings Memorial Scholarship

## WILLIAM SHIRLEY

T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial Scholarship

## LAUREN SHUSTER

Gloria Nuckolls Health Scholarship

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## MEAGAN SLACK

MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

## AISHA SLAUGHTER

Gerry Wayne Purvis Scholarship

## JAMIE SMITH

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**LACHE SPRAGGINS**

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Memorial Scholarship

**BRENITA THORNTON**

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt  
Scholarship

**LAROBERT TISDALE**

George Pugh Scholarship

**JEAN LUIS TORRES**

Thomas Y. Minniece  
Memorial Scholarship

**KEEGAN TUMBLIN**

Lee Anne Smith Memorial  
Scholarship

**ALEX TURNER**

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery  
Memorial Scholarship

**RACHEL VANHORN**

Courtyard of Scholars Scholarship

**LAUREN VAUGHN**

William D. Mobley  
Dental Hygiene Scholarship

**ZACHARY VINET**

Rodney Walker Technology  
Scholarship

**DALLAS WALK**

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**MADISON WARREN**

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MS Board of Nursing Scholarship

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Clifton "Buddy" Davis  
Memorial Scholarship

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Dorothy McCauley Bates  
Memorial Scholarship



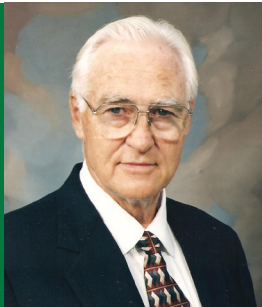
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## MCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHT

### Dr. William R. Moore, II Scholarship Endowment

With the goal of becoming a family nurse practitioner, MCC sophomore Amarri Robinson is on her way to fulfilling her dreams.

She's getting a financial helping hand, too, as the sixth recipient of the Dr. William R. Moore II Scholarship, which was endowed by his wife, MarLynne Moore in 2012.

Robinson graduated from Vicksburg's Warren Central High School and is starting her fourth semester in MCC's Associate Degree Nursing Program. A mother of two daughters, Robinson also works two jobs as well as attending college. She is a member of the Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing and the Organization of Student Nurses.



MarLynne, an MCC alumna of the Associate Degree Nursing Program and a retired nurse, believes in the power of education. She asked

that the scholarship be given to a single parent. MarLynne remembers being a single parent and struggling. "I fully understand how difficult it can be. I was blessed to have a wonderful support group in my family, but some students don't have this kind of support."

The scholarship serves as a tribute to the late Dr. Moore. She added that was why it was important to her to establish the scholarship to help a single parent with school expenses. "I truly believe this is what my husband would want me to do," MarLynne said.

Dr. William Ray Moore, II was born in West Virginia on November 11, 1928. After graduating from Jefferson Medical College, he enlisted in the Navy to pay off school debts. Upon his discharge from military service he moved back to his home town to practice family medicine. He completed his residency in New Orleans and moved to Meridian to begin his obstetric and gynecological practice and worked until his retirement in 1995.



## Anna Munn Bennett Memorial Scholarship

The legacy of MCC alumna Anna Munn Bennett will continue with the establishment of a scholarship in her memory.

Anna, who was a neonatal intensive care nurse at Anderson Regional Medical Center, died unexpectedly on Oct. 13, 2019. She was 30 years old.

Anna was an amazing mother to daughter, Lila and was often described as intelligent, compassionate, and kind.

Anna was a graduate of West Lauderdale High School. After completing her nursing degree through Meridian Community College, she realized her dream of being a Registered Nurse and working with infants in the NICU at Anderson Regional Hospital. Known for her skill, dedication and compassion for both her young patients and their parents, Anna was described as being "so sweet and caring to take the time to explain things when we asked questions ... you could tell she loved her

job and the babies she cared. We are so appreciative of the attention she gave our baby," one parent said. Another parent said, "She was a precious nurse to our family."



The Anna Munn Bennett Memorial Scholarship, established by neonatologists Dr. Robert Blubaugh and Dr. Roland Boyd, will be awarded beginning 2020-21 academic year to a second-year nursing student who works or has worked in the nursery at Anderson or Rush Foundation Hospital.

Anna graduated from MCC's ADN Program in 2011. Her mother, Clara Munn, works in the College's Student Services Division.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Anna Munn Bennett Memorial Scholarship, please contact the Meridian Community College Foundation at 601.484.8688.