





### AND JUST LIKE THAT...



Are you as amazed as I am about how quickly time passes? We fool ourselves into thinking today is dragging along at a snail's pace, but then we turn around and realize the moment we looked forward to, or maybe even dreaded, has passed us. My Emily recently walked across the graduation stage at Meridian Community College. It was a proud moment as I got to place a hard-earned diploma into the hands of my sweet daughter. She is a great kid with a bright future and big dreams. She's bursting with hope and optimism and is, as people often say, full of infinite possibilities. She absolutely loved her MCC experience. She found mentors in the classroom, made lifelong friends as a member of various clubs and groups and did her best to leave her mark in our hallowed halls. You need to know she was skeptical about attending the college where her "dad is the president," but she will tell you now that choosing MCC was the best decision she ever could have made.

And just like that, she's a graduate and is headed for the next chapter in her life.

Did you graduate from MCC? Can you remember the faculty and staff members who influenced you? Did doors open for you here that led you down pathways you never would have imagined? Maybe MCC was where you found your second chance, or even your best hope?

If you are reading this, you are holding a magazine called *Connections*. In the broadest sense, the name reflects our desire to connect the good work taking place at our college with those who value and support our mission. The truth, though, is I am daily amazed at how I see a fundamentally more important definition manifest in the words and actions of our students. In fact, I am often asked why I love being a part of this college, and here is my answer:

For so many of our students, MCC is where they connect with each other, with opportunities, and more importantly, with why they were created. It doesn't get better than that!

We genuinely appreciate those who support and invest in MCC. Your dollars and your time matter in big ways. Every time you encourage a student to walk through our doors, share your resources in the form of a scholarship or Tuition Guarantee, or help fund a new program or project, you are setting the stage for a transformative experience.

And, just like that, because of you, another student will be graduating from MCC to impact the world.

### Go Eagles!

Thomas M. Julner J

### MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### **MCC ADMINISTRATION**

**Thomas M. Huebner, Jr., Ph.D.** president

#### **Lauren Clay**

executive assistant to the president

#### **Annette Cook**

interim vice president for student success

#### **Pam Harrison**

chief financial officer

#### Leia Hill

vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation

#### **Joseph Knight**

vice president for workforce solutions

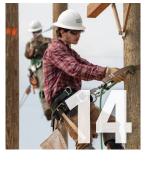
#### **Michael Thompson**

vice president for academic affairs

### **INSIDE THIS EDITION**



- **1 From the president** And just like that...
- 2 Who we are Foundation, administration, trustees and contributors
- **4 Foundation updates**Tuition Guarantee and Lifetime Quest celebrate 25 years
- 5 Meet Brandy Hill
- 6 Business/community spotlight World of Flowers/Allie Cat Run
- 8 Focus on... Ivy-Scaggs Hall dedication
- 10 UMMC nursing grant/BAS Trades
- **12 Fielding the dreams**'Power of Local' strengthens through partnership
- **14 Generating careers**New MCC program gets boost from Mississippi Power
- 16 Leading the leaders Bishop and Hill are MCCLA grads
- 18 Top CEO Huebner selected as top CEO
- 20 Alumna Gloria Brown
  MCC grad proves it's never too late to follow your dream
- **24 An outpouring of love**Center pays tribute to former MCC instructor
- **26 Spring graduation**Good things come in threes
- 28 Awards Day May 2021, Circle of Excellence, grads Top students saluted
- **30 Hall of Fame celebration**Ceremony adds new inductees
- **34 Homecoming 2021**Filled with smiles, tributes and royalty
- **36 Back to campus**College 4 Kids returns
- **38 Lifetime Quest**Celebrating two decades
- 40 MCCers of the Month
- **44 Light it up**Baseball and soccer fields light up the night
- 46 Athletics year in review
- 47 Tyler Moore saluted
- **48 Tuition Guarantee**Help guarantee Tuition Guarantee
- 50 MCC Foundation New scholarships and endowment
- 52 MCC Foundation scholarship recipients







### MCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jamie Cater, vice chair, a native of Meridian, is an alumna of Meridian Community College and is the owner of Cater's Market in Meridian and Starkville. Cater began her term as a trustee in 2014.



**Tommy Dulaney**, a lifelong resident of Lauderdale County, is an alumnus of MCC. He is the founder of the internationally-known company Structural Steel Services. The longest-serving member of the board of trustees for MCC, Dulaney began his service in 1984.



**Rev. LaBaron Hedgemon** is a native of Meridian and an MCC alumnus who is the full-time senior pastor for Freedom Rock Church. His service to the MCC Board of Trustees began in 2020.



**C.D. Smith**, community leader, returned to MCC as the newest member of the Board of Trustees in 2020, building on a 17-year tenure. Smith previously served on the Board of Trustees from 1991 to 2008. He is regional director with AT&T Mississippi.



**Alex Weddington**, chair, is a native of Meridian and is president of General Supply and Machine Co. He began serving on the MCC Board of Trustees in 2002.



### MCC FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

R. Jeffrey Smith, president C.D. Smith, vice president Alan Lamar, treasurer Leia Hill, secretary Robert Smith, past president Pam Harrison, advisor **BB** Archer Jonathan Bell Laura Carmichael **Doug Deweese Tommy Dulaney** Hardy P. Graham, Jr. Jerry Greene Tim Hogan **Bob Huff Barbara Jones** Jeff McCoy Dr. Tommy McDonald Mark McPhail **Donnie Massey Tony Pompelia Gerry Purvis** Dr. Tom Sikes **Greg Slay Donnie Smith Hampton Thames Buster Thomas Russell Thompson** M.L. Waters **Alex Weddington** Hon. Veldore Young-Graham

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

**Tony Boutwell** director of visual media

Marmion Francis lifetime quest coordinator

**Christopher Haralson** sports information director

#### Leia Hill

vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation

Theresa Hogan scholarships and alumni relations coordinator

Joy Smith coordinator for College Communications

**Kay Thomas** director of public information



## TUITION GUARANTEE AND LIFETIME QUEST CELEBRATE A QUARTER CENTURY

### **► NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**



### **WHAT'S IN 25 YEARS?**

A quick question: What's the first thing that comes to mind when the words 25th anniversary appear? Silver, right? After all, the metal is durable, long-lasting and precious. The qualities of silver easily apply to our College's signature programs, Tuition Guarantee and Lifetime Quest. For 25 years, both programs have enriched our community.

Because Tuition Guarantee covers tuition expenses for four semesters for students who reside in Lauderdale County and graduate from a Lauderdale County school, thousands have benefited. More than \$6.5 million have been invested in students since the program's inception.

The original concept was simple. We wanted to ensure that students knew at an early age college was attainable. This College, backed by this community, made a promise that our students had tuition covered.

In 1996, the first class of high school seniors benefited from Tuition Guarantee. It was an initial investment of \$150,000 from the MCC Foundation. Twenty-five years later, the yearly cost to assist students through this program has grown to more than \$500,000. These funds are raised dollars, provided by community members, businesses and individuals.

What we don't raise is supplemented by the College. The importance of this program is immeasurable. To ensure the program's sustainability, we must continue to develop donors and support from this community. Do you give? Would you?

I often ask people if they know someone who has benefited from the program, and for most, the answer is yes. Many have either children or grandchildren who received assistance from Tuition Guarantee.



My dream would be to have those same students or families of those students, the ones who received

these financial gifts, help ensure the future of the program for generations to come. After all, passing gifts along or paying it forward is the best way to thank the ones who helped you.

Lifetime Quest, another 25-year-old program, continues to provide lifelong learning opportunities from travel, to lunch-and-learn gatherings, to book discussions, to water aerobics, for the active 50-plus adults in our area. Boasting an average membership of 250 community members, Lifetime Quest prides itself on its monthly programming and travel opportunities.

It's my privilege is to be associated with these programs, and I hope you will consider joining us. Join the Foundation or join Lifetime Quest. Why not both?

Enjoy reading MCC's Connections. As the still relatively new executive director of the Foundation, I am proud this magazine marks the accomplishments of our College's faculty, staff, and students and highlights the work of the Foundation.

I believe education is the best investment you can make - and like silver, it's durable, long-lasting and precious.

### Give them wings!



### **BRANDY HILL JOINS MCC FOUNDATION STAFF**

For Brandy Hill, combining a career in accounting and education added up.

Explaining she's always had a penchant for numbers, Hill earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Mississippi State University-Meridian and a master of business administration from Delta State University. The West Alabama native worked with a Meridian-based private firm and garnered nine years of accounting experience in the higher education and nonprofit arenas before coming to MCC in April as MCC Foundation Accountant II.

"This type of accounting has a purpose," she said. "It's impacting students' lives ... not just tracking numbers." Hill said the scholarships the Foundation oversees make a difference.
"You realize how much students need the scholarships. Truly, some cannot go to college without the help."

Since she's been on campus, Hill said she has been warmly received by colleagues and the community. "The MCC Foundation is blessed to have Brandy join the office," said Diane Delk, Foundation Accountant I. "Our working together to record all transactions, make necessary adjustments and create reports is symbolic of teamwork," she added.

"Brandy and Diane make a great team," said Leia Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation. "As professionals, they both have the Foundation's mission at the forefront and will help firmly secure its future."

Hill and her husband, Ray "Tooney" Hill, live in Scooba.

## **BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

**WORLD OF FLOWERS: GROWING A BUSINESS** 

# FLOREY FINDS FLOWERS HEALING, COMMUNITY SERVICE

World of Flowers owner Albree Florey sees her business as a ministry.

"This has changed my life; getting to see and help people ... trying to be a servant in your community to those who need you in happy and sad times. That's what we're supposed to do," she said while completing a spray of flowers for a funeral and preparing for an upcoming out-of-town wedding.

Florey and her husband Scotty purchased the World of Flowers business in 2019. "When we bought this place, one of the big things was being a service - a service to clients and the community," she said.





Their service to others heightened with the pandemic. "We're with people in their good times and bad, and COVID-19 has magnified that need," she said. Florey explained that funeral services changed - visiting the sick in the hospital or at home changed. "We had people who could not get to their families. The grief process was turned upside down in a world that was already turned upside down. But if momma wanted pink roses, we found pink roses," she said.

Still, the drive to serve others guides the business. "My husband and I are committed to the seven-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day job. It never stops. I think we've met that need even in the middle of a pandemic," she said.

To better accommodate clients and to be closer to Meridian hospitals, the business has recently moved to its new location at the corner of 23rd Avenue and 16th Street, which was once the home of the long-standing Marshall Florist. "We want to continue to grow the business," she added.

Florey is an MCC alumna. She took University Transfer Program classes and later graduated from the Business and Office Technology Program. She worked for a hospital and later in radio sales. What she learned in her studies continues to help in her business, Florey noted.

She added, "we've got really good clients, and it's nice to do fun things now... graduations, proms, weddings. After doing a year of sad, it's nice to do some happy stuff."

To Florey, flowers are powerful. "They're pretty. Flowers make you happy. They heal."

## **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT**

### **ALLIE CAT RUN AND FESTIVAL BENEFITS MCC**

### A CHILD'S MEMORY LIVES ON

Signing their daughter's signature on a symbolic check, Leslie and Bill Carruth donated \$15,000 to Meridian Community College's Associate Degree Nursing Program.

The Carruths lost their daughter, Allie, in a tragic accident in the spring of 2017 and continue to honor

her memory through the Allie Cat Run and Festival. Now in its fourth year, the event donates proceeds to various nonprofit organizations, including MCC.

College officials were honored and grateful. "This is incredible.

You can't fathom what it means to our students and our programs," said MCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner to the Carruth family. "Being able to take a tragedy and turn it into something positive for the community is overwhelming."

Dr. Lara Collum, MCC associate vice president for nursing, indicated that the gift would enhance

the nursing program's skills laboratory and offer scholarship opportunities.

"It is always an emotional experience to receive gifts of this nature," said Leia Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and the executive director of the MCC Foundation. "This donation creates a

> legacy. Allie's memory will live on through these gifts and touch the lives of so many. The MCC Foundation considers it significant to be among the recipients of proceeds honoring such a special little girl."

The accident occurred when Bill Carruth was a student studying in his first semester of nursing at MCC. "The nursing program really stepped up and took care of him," Leslie Carruth said. "And forever, we will be in debt to you all for that," she said.

A portion of the 2019 Allie Cat Run and Festival proceeds also was donated to the College; because of the pandemic, the 2020 event was canceled.





# NAMING OF IVY-SCAGGS HALL REFLECTS LEGACY OF SERVANT LEADER

The legacy of Dr. William F. "Bill" Scaggs continues with the renaming of Ivy Hall to Ivy-Scaggs Hall.

The combined name honors MCC's founding father, Dr. H.M. Ivy, and the first president, Dr. Scaggs, who served 35 years in leading the institution. Dr. Scaggs began working at the College in 1963 as registrar before becoming the school's dean from 1964 to 1967 and president from 1967 to 1998. Upon his retirement, he was named president emeritus by the board of trustees and by his successor, Dr. Scott Elliott.

Describing the renaming of the building as both an incredible and timeless honor, William "Skip" Scaggs, as he spoke on behalf of the Scaggs family, said, "it's hard to capture our gratitude in a few brief comments. For my siblings and me, this naming reflects not just the life's work of our father but also of our mom who labored to take care of four children, all just two years apart in age, with a dad who was absent working and tending to the needs of our extended College family."



Skip Scaggs and Dr. Thomas Huebner



Sally Scaggs, Pam Harrison and Dr. Tommy McDonald



Adrian Cross and Wilhelmine Damon



Carrie Smith and Johnnie Nell Alexander

### He added, "Dad loved this school, the students, the faculty and staff; but above all, he loved the community college mission."

Skip Scaggs said both Dr. Ivy and Dr. Scaggs viewed the College as an academic schoolhouse and a resource to serve citizens and industry throughout the community. "These are two men who dedicated their professional lives to seeing that the community's needs for improving the lives of its citizens took root, grew and eventually flourished."

Current MCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner noted

Dr. Scaggs was a rare leader. "He understood the big picture, pushed people to succeed, placed this College on a path that in many ways continues to guide us."

C.D. Smith, MCC Board of Trustees member, said the recognition and expression of appreciation at the College's front door is a tribute to a man who gave the College and the community so much.



Civic leaders, community residents and campus members gather to honor Dr. William F. "Bill" Scaggs



### **ANSWERING THE CALL**

MCC ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM TAGGED FOR BOWER FOUNDATION GRANT

## B (The) W E R

#### **FOUNDATION**

Because of a \$3.8 million grant from the Bower Foundation, Mississippi community college faculty and students, including those in MCC's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program, will get a financial helping hand to help answer the call for nurses and nurse educators.

Specifically, the grant will generate critically needed health care administrators and community college nursing educators by providing life-changing graduate education for 64 registered nurses through the Registered Nurse-to-Master of Science in Nursing (RN-to-MSN) program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC).



"We are excited to partner with UMMC for the Bower Foundation Grant," said Dr. Lara Collum, MCC associate vice president for nursing and healthcare education.

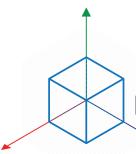
Building a Strong Future for Nursing in Mississippi will also spread the UMMC School of Nursing leadership development program statewide and provide online resources for nursing educators in the state's community colleges such as MCC.

Dr. Collum explained there were several components of the grant; developing emerging leaders in community colleges, supporting the Certified Nurse Educator certification for ADN faculty, and lastly, advancing the education of educators and leaders in practice.

"The aspect of the grant that will most impact students is the offering of a early RN entry to the bachelor of science nursing (BSN) program option for ADN students," she said. Noting that the details for this portion of the grant are still being developed, Dr. Collum said if students are granted early entry to the BSN program, they may be able to avoid the competitive admission process once they complete their ADN.

This investment in nursing education will result in more nurses in the state, and for the 64 recipients, a leap forward in their nursing careers, said Dr. Julie Sanford, UMMC dean of the School of Nursing.





### **BUILDING ON PARTNERSHIPS**

### MCC, MSU-MERIDIAN COMBINE RESOURCES TO OFFER **NEW BAS EMPHASIS IN TRADES SUPERVISION**

A new bachelor of applied science (BAS) degree emphasis for students who earned their associate of applied science (AAS) degree in areas like 3D CAD, Precision Machining and Electrical Technology will be available through Mississippi State-Meridian this fall.

commercial service companies," Dr. Ford said. "It is customized for community college graduates to further their careers by eliminating glass ceilings in companies that require a bachelor's degree. It is a true 2 + 2 path to graduation and success."

Mississippi State introduced the BAS degree in 2019 to offer students who have earned an AAS degree the opportunity to apply technical education credits earned from a community college or the military to a bachelor's degree.

> MCC is the only community college in Mississippi to have this particular trades supervision emphasis with MSU.

Offered at MCC Riley

Workforce Development Center, the degree program is designed to provide graduates in the east Mississippi/west Alabama region with the necessary leadership skills to be successful. It will cover such topics as safety, estimating, materials and methods, as well as project management.

The curriculum was developed by Dr. George Ford, professor and director of Building Construction Science in MSU's College of Architecture, Art and Design (CAAD) at the University's Starkville campus, along with other CAAD faculty.

"A technical, hands-on person with the communication skills this degree provides is the type of employee companies seek, especially construction and



Stuart Brown, program coordinator and instructor for the MCC 3D CAD Engineering Technology Program, left, Dr. Terry Dale Cruse, associate vice president and head of the MSU-Meridian campus, and MCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner take a closer look at the software.

"We are very grateful to MCC for allowing us to use space on their campus," said Dr. Terry Dale Cruse, associate vice president and head of the MSU-Meridian campus. "This offer not only enables us to save initial start-up costs and streamline the rollout to begin offering classes this fall, but it also is one more example of the excellent working relationship our institutions have enjoyed throughout the years."

"I look forward to watching this program take off," said MCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner. "I believe the marketplace will embrace this opportunity in a big way. I'm also thrilled that once

again, MCC and MSU-Meridian can use our resources and work together to create something unique and beneficial for our community."

The BAS program features an individualized curriculum, wherein students may choose up to three specific emphasis areas to complete the degree program requirements and meet their career objectives. Additional emphasis areas available at MSU-Meridian include communication/broadcast, criminology, history, psychology, event and hospitality services, healthcare services, general business, kinesiology/clinical exercise **FOR MORE** 

physiology and **INFORMATION** special education. **SCAN HERE** 

### FIELDING THE DREAMS

### 'POWER OF LOCAL' STRENGTHENS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

The MCC Foundation's capital campaign for the College's new softball and tennis complex kicked off with Citizens National Bank initiating the first corporate donation.

"We are thrilled to partner with Meridian Community College on this exciting project," said Archie McDonnell, CEO of Citizens National Bank. "Citizens National Bank and MCC have a long-time heritage of striving for excellence and share the same commitment of investing in the success of the citizens who live here."

College administrators and coaches are excited with this foundational gift. "This project is important for our College and, more importantly, for our community," Dr. Thomas Huebner, president of Meridian Community College, said.







Rephrasing a cliché, "when you build it, they will come," MCC Softball Coach Faith Robinson said a softball facility on Campus would change the recruiting environment for the College significantly. "Just for young women to feel supported and not have to drive away from campus to practice and play games will help with the type of athletes we attract."

Thames said, "Our Bank loves reinvesting in the local community, and we believe this new facility will provide a memorable experience for all of the spectators who come to Meridian to watch the games."

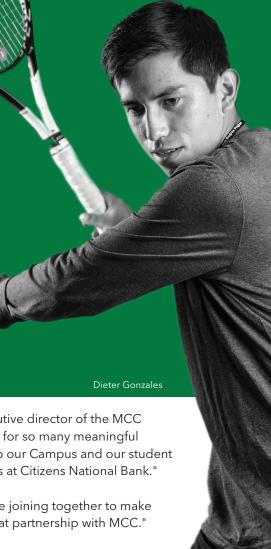
Thames noted throughout the Bank are numerous employees who share the excitement of watching their children and grandchildren play in girls' softball programs. This new venue will be a great way to bring families together.

MCC Tennis Coach T.J. Carter said being able to bring top junior players on Campus and show them they can train and play at the top tennis facility in the state will help take MCC's recruiting to another level.

Expanding to eight courts instead of four will be a tremendous help with practice, Carter added.
"Finally, we will be able to host not only top-notch JUCO matches and tournaments, but we will be able to partner alongside the USTA and UTR to put on some great events for the public."

Leia Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and the executive director of the MCC Foundation, said, "The MCC Foundation is privileged to raise funds for so many meaningful campus initiatives. The tennis and softball complex will add value to our Campus and our student experience, and we couldn't ask for better partners than our friends at Citizens National Bank."

McDonnell added, "Through the Power of Local, our two entities are joining together to make great things happen, and we consider it an honor to join in this great partnership with MCC."





## **GENERATING CAREERS**

## NEW MCC PROGRAM GETS BOOST FROM MISSISSIPPI POWER



# Mississippi Power

Thanks to Mississippi Power, MCC's new Utility Lineman Program got a financial boost energizing the program.

The utility company donated \$20,000 to MCC to assist the College in start-up costs associated with the program's first year of operation.

Under the guidance of instructor Curtis Bradley, the Utility Lineman Program began in January. By May, the graduates were ready to build, repair and maintain electrical power and distribution systems.

Students' training includes electrical systems, operations, safety, electrical distribution and equipment, basic electrical theory and overhead electrical construction operations. Students also practice climbing, framing, building single and three-phase overhead lines, pole top and bucket rescue techniques, operating bucket trucks and maintaining and repairing overhead systems.

"Our commitment goes beyond this check," said Michael Harvey, northern division manager for Mississippi Power Co. "We're excited, and we want to be actively engaged," he said. Harvey noted his leadership team and fellow employees see the value; they want to meet and build relationships with the students and program officials.

He said, "It's a symbiotic relationship." Students are gaining skills, and the company is getting the opportunity to hire students who have been trained. Plus, Harvey said, "We're supporting our community partners."

MCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner said to have the support of Mississippi Power is fundamental to this program's success. "It's a difference-maker for us."







## **LEADING THE LEADERS**

## BISHOP AND HILL ARE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADS

Valerie Bishop, dean for institutional effectiveness, and Leia Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, were two of the 35 members of the May 2021 graduating class of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.

The Mississippi Community
College Leadership Academy was
developed in 2009 to address
the projected need for upperlevel leaders in the Mississippi
community college system.

The academy's term is a year-long investment, meeting from June to May.

Participants note the program is challenging, requiring a lot of work outside of their college positions; ranging from reading leadership materials, conducting research and completing projects in teams and individually. "MCCLA is a well-established program that evaluates real-world issues that higher education administrators face," Hill said.

Bishop, who has worked at MCC for 14 years, said the experience she gained from the academy was enriching. "Being able to network with community college personnel from across the state allows us to share knowledge and get advice from fellow leaders who have more experience or expertise with a certain issue."

Hill echoed Bishop's comments. "The experience is worthwhile, and the time spent collaborating with others in our field is invaluable."

Bishop added, "Each community college functions better when all 15 community colleges cooperate and work together for community college students in Mississippi." Bishop holds a bachelor of science from Georgetown College and a master of science from the University of Kentucky. Hill has an associate in arts from MCC, a bachelor of science from Mississippi University for Women, a graduate certificate from the University of Florida and a master of arts from the University of Mississippi. She is currently working on her doctorate in higher education leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Bishop and Hill joined with Dr. John-Mark Cain, superintendent of Lauderdale County Schools, in developing the MCC and LCSD Mentoring Program as their academy project. The Mentoring Program uses faculty and staff from the College to guide middle and high school teachers learning Canvas, a learning management system. For their efforts, they were presented the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education Governor's Award.









The recognition spotlights leaders from across the state who demonstrate excellence among top executives. Chosen are powerful and influential business leaders in Mississippi who are senior decision-makers and make a significant impact in their fields. These CEOs have helped their companies achieve strong growth and success and have profoundly impacted their company and community.

Described throughout his career as an energetic instructor, an inspiring professor, a trusted mentor and a visionary leader, Dr. Huebner became the third president of Meridian Community College on July 1, 2018.

Since arriving at MCC, Dr. Huebner has had a tremendous impact. In addition to leading efforts to tell the MCC story and elevate the presence of the institution, he has worked to secure multiple grants, including substantial awards for advanced manufacturing, has developed relationships with industry and educational partners, moved the College to establish a number of new industry-relevant programs, renovated campus facilities, implemented a new strategic planning process and received the international academic honor society for community and junior college's Phi Theta Kappa President's Paragon Award.

A special edition of the *Mississippi Business Journal* spotlighted Dr. Huebner and other 2021 honorees.

Earlier this year, Dr. Huebner was named in the first class of the Top 10 Over 50 for Meridian and Lauderdale County, presented by Mississippi Power and *The Meridian Star*.





### **BY THE NUMBERS**



### **FACEBOOK**

Since 2018, followers have increased by more than 130.15 percent, engagement has grown by 187.86 percent.



### **TWITTER**

Since 2018, followers have increased by 33.6 percent, engagement has increased by 193 percent.



### **INSTAGRAM**

Since 2018, followers have increased by 88.44 percent, engagement has increased by 43.2 percent.



### TIKTOK

Since 2020, the number of followers is 400 and counting.



### YOUTUBE

Since 2018, there have been 119,400 video views, 771 new subscribers, 609 videos posted, 973,600 impressions.



## MCC GRAD PROVES IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAM

## FOR MCC ALUMNA GLORIA BROWN, THE PHRASE "YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS" RINGS TRUE.

After years spent working and raising a family, Brown enrolled at MCC at the age of 54 with the lifelong dream of pursuing a college degree. She graduated from the community college in 2004 with an associate degree in University Transfer; then, she continued to pursue her education by earning three bachelor's degrees.

"I was a widow after 31 years of marriage, and my three kids were out of college," she recalled. "I wanted to fulfill a lifelong dream of going to college, so I enrolled at MCC. I had always wanted to go to college, but I knew I had to get my children through their education first."

A native of Meridian, Brown moved to St. Louis to live with relatives after her mother's death when she was 16. She returned to her hometown after graduating from high school.

She married Willie Brown Sr., and they had three children. She went to work at Sanders Lumber Co., laying sticks between lumber to separate each board before the stack was sent to the kiln for drying.



"I was the first woman that ever worked at Sanders Lumber Co. doing that kind of work," she recalled. She stayed at the lumber company for two years before joining Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Co., where she worked for 25 years before retiring in 1991. She also worked a second job at Winn-Dixie grocery store, but she had to leave that job to care for her husband when he became ill. She also worked for a time at Children's Education Connection.

During this time, her children were graduating from college and finding success in their respective fields. Her son, Willie Brown Jr., lives in Brandon and is a market sales leader for Bimbo Bakery. Her daughter, Alicia Brown, a registered nurse with a bachelor of science in nursing, lives in Walnut Grove and serves as complex nurse manager for Tyson Foods Inc. in Forest. Her youngest child, Jamila Brown Coleman, lives in Meridian and serves as adult education lead instructor at MCC. She also has nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

After her husband passed away, Brown became interested in working for Hope Village for Children. This non-profit organization opened in Meridian in the early 2000s and provides emergency shelter and



residential programs for children who are removed from their homes due to neglect, abuse or misfortune.

"When Hope Village for Children opened in Meridian, I knew that it was a place where I wanted to work," she said. "After looking at the job requirements, I saw that even though I had many years of work experience, and I also had experience working with children, I still was not qualified. I did not have my high school



diploma. Of all jobs that I worked, I had never been asked for my high school diploma, so I didn't think at my age, I would have needed it."

The school where Brown had attended in St. Louis had no record of her graduating. So first, she decided to enroll in the adult basic education program at MCC to obtain her high school equivalency, or GED.

Brown credits Jennifer Whitlock, who at the time was the adult education instructor but now serves as director of the program, and Susie Chapman, another instructor, with helping her navigate the program to receive her GED in 2002.

"They were both understanding, and most of all, patient with me," she said. "They helped me to quickly be able to earn my high school equivalency diploma."

Brown said earning her GED is one of her proudest accomplishments.

"Fulfilling the dream of going to college came after I received my GED; and I saw that receiving a college degree was an achievable goal," she said.

After receiving her GED, Brown's quest for learning took off.

She enrolled in MCC classes and earned her associate degree in 2004. She was able to apply for the job she wanted at Hope Village and started working for the organization in 2005 as a developmental coach. She worked from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. and took morning classes.

After graduating from MCC, Brown transferred to the Meridian campus of Mississippi State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2010. Loving



college, she continued with her studies and earned a bachelor's in Social Work in 2012 and a bachelor's in History in 2013.

"I was so into school, I just stayed on after my first degree," she said. "I just wanted to keep going."

Brown enjoyed the atmosphere of college and being a non-traditional student among young students fresh out of high school. She learned a lot from them, and she believes she was a good mentor and influence on them. "Some of them are still in touch with me, and they tell me that if it wasn't for me, they probably would not have kept going," she said. "For me, I was not going to college for long-term financial gain, job stability,

#### **CONNECTIONS | PRESIDENT'S EDITION 2021**

career satisfaction and success or advancement in the workplace. I just wanted the personal satisfaction of earning a college degree."

Brown, who at age 75 still works for Hope Village as a house parent, has proven that it is never too late to follow one's dreams or to pursue an education.

"Never doubt yourself or what you can do. Be persistent," she said. "I am at peace with my life because I look back and see that I accomplished something I always wanted to do and, as a result, I am now doing something that allows me to give back and help others."

Brown laughed, "I am definitely not going to go out of life as a grouchy old lady who did not fulfill what she wanted to do in life."

Coleman, Brown's daughter, in recognizing her mother earning her high school equivalency diploma was one of her most outstanding achievements, has since founded the Gloria Blackshear Brown High School Equivalency Scholarship in her honor. The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded through the MCC Foundation to a deserving MCC student who earns a high school equivalency diploma and demonstrates academic ambition and financial need.





# MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# FOR MORE INFORMATION SCAN HERE



### **JOIN OTHER ALUMS**

Now's a great time to become a member of MCC's Alumni Association.

Theresa Hogan, scholarship and alumni relations coordinator, said membership benefits include being informed of College events, networking with other alumni, and being an advocate for an institution that provides quality education.

Alums can go to **www.meridiancc.edu/alumniassociation** to join. There's also a social media channel by going to **www.facebook.com/groups/mccalumniassociation**.

For details, contact Hogan at MCC at 601.484.8841.



## **AN OUTPOURING OF LOVE**

### **NEW CENTER PAYS TRIBUTE TO FORMER MCC INSTRUCTOR**

When MCC Culinary Arts Technology Program students begin their studies in the fall, they'll gather, learn and grow in the new Mark Chandler Center for Culinary Arts.

Chandler's legacy, which surpasses his widely-known bread pudding, was honored and will continue as students, faculty, staff and community residents meet in the newly remodeled facility located in College Park. College officials showcased the facility in a dedication ceremony

while reflecting on Chandler's life and passion for his craft in both educational and hospitality industry arenas.

A committed educator, Chandler began working at MCC in 1996, where he taught and led the Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology Program until his passing in March 2020. "Mark was truly a special individual; he cared about his students, was a good friend to his colleagues and taught a subject he loved in a community and college



he loved," noted Leia Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation. "We all love Mark, and that is one of the many reasons why we are here today," said An Howard Hill, MCC Culinary Arts Technology Program coordinator and instructor, in addressing the audience. "He was not only a mentor to me but also a very dear friend."

Chandler instructed her in the ways of developing community college relationships and how to build a program. An Howard Hill added, "most importantly, he taught about instilling pride and work ethic in students."



Students in the program's new center will learn in a fully equipped, state-of-the-art kitchen. There is a hydroponics grow wall so students can experience growing and maintaining the integrity of produce and specialty ingredients that are not always locally and readily available. Also, in the center, a high-flex teaching classroom will allow students to continue learning whether they are in the center or away from campus.





"Graduation is always an exciting time, even more so after the year everyone has had," said Deanna Smith, MCC dean of student services. "These students have worked hard and we were excited to recognize them," she added.

More than 350 students participated in person in the three ceremonies which were held at the Evangel Temple.

The different ceremonies, health education and nursing programs, career and technical education programs and University Transfer, were staggered to maintain proper safety guidelines. In addition, the Associate Degree Nursing and Practical Nursing programs conducted pinning ceremonies at the Evangel Temple before the commencements.





## **GRADS JOIN CIRCLE**

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY SERVICE, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND SPIRIT ARE HALLMARKS OF THE COLLEGE'S CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE.

This recognition celebrates outstanding MCC graduates. Selection is made from faculty and staff nominations.

## **TOP STUDENTS SALUTED**

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS WERE APPLAUDED AT THE ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM.







Christopher Hopson



Morgan Marlow



Morgan Mayatt



April Miles



Camryn Parten



James Pruitt



Kaymen Russell



Tara Shelton



Jimmyia Smith



Lucas Thomas



Ragan Williamson

This year's recognition was presented via social media with winners revealed on the College's Facebook and Instagram accounts.

MCC sophomore Lucas Thomas received the H.M. Ivy Award, a recognition given to the most outstanding graduating sophomore. Thomas, involved in many campus organizations, including the academic honor society Phi Theta Kappa and Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College at MCC, was accepted to the University of Mississippi's Trent Lott Leadership Institute for the fall. Majoring in public policy leadership, Thomas plans to study law.

MCC Foundation scholarship award winners included Grace Brown, Royalty Scholarship; Christopher Hopson and Tara Shelton, Phil Hardin Scholarships; Morgan Marlow, Rosenbaum Scholarship; Morgan Mayatt and James Pruitt, Mississippi Power Heritage Scholarships; April Miles, Anna Munn Bennett Scholarship; Camryn Parten, Kaymen Russell and Ragan Williamson, H.M. Ivy Scholarships; Jimmyia Smith, Cochran Scholarship and Lucas Thomas, Johnson Scholarship.







Dr. Reginald Sykes, left, Neil Henry, Michele Maida Smith and Wanda McPhail

Henry is regional president of Citizens National Bank; McPhail is retired MCC tennis coach; Smith is retired MCC athletic director; and Dr. Sykes is president of Bishop State Community College in Mobile, Ala.



Neil Henry

"I am grateful to be considered for this tremendous honor," Henry said. "MCC realigned me as a student, challenged me to be successful, and I'm grateful for that."

McPhail shared, "All I was, all I am and all I hope to be, I owe to my Creator. He has guided me every step of the way, and I believe He placed me at MCC, and I am a better person for having served here." She said working at the College was the best occupation - other than motherhood - that she ever had.



Wanda McPhail



Michele Maida Smith

Smith thanked former MCC Fitness Instructor Wilhelmine Damon for her friendship and support and Dr. Kathy Baxter, former dean of academic affairs, for her guidance. She also credited the late President Emeritus Dr. William F. Scaggs. "He influenced me in so many ways; he had a way about him that seemed to bring out the best in me."

Dr. Sykes said mentors helped shape his career, and he pointed to Dr. Scaggs's vision. Noting that in his current position, Dr. Sykes has often asked himself, "Where would I be if Dr. Scaggs had not offered me a job as dean of students? He saw something in me that I did not see in myself."



Dr. Reginald Sykes



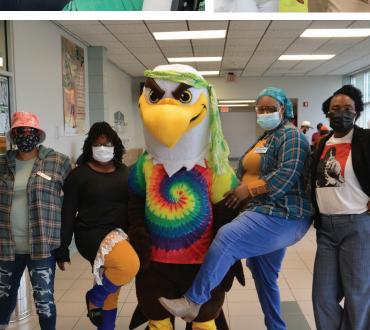
In addition to the Hall of Fame ceremonies, the College recognized Soraya Welden as a Talon Club member. The designation salutes employees who have attained 30 years of service to the College.



















# **HOMECOMING 2021**

#### **FILLED WITH SMILES, TRIBUTES AND ROYALTY**



With the focus of offering an authentic homecoming experience for alumni and the community, MCC's Homecoming 2021 met its mark and more.

The calendar-packed week started with dress-up day themes (superhero, tacky tourist) and culminated with the crowning of the homecoming queen, Ambreah Waters, between the double-header games at Scaggs Field. Events for students, sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement, included Olympic-style games and Hype Night.

The Alumni Association hosted a reception, including the 20-year lvy League Recruiter Reunion which allowed alumni to reunite and engage.





Also, as a part of the homecoming events on game day, the William F. Scaggs family was spotlighted; Scaggs' son, William "Skip" Scaggs, threw the first pitch to start the first baseball game at Scaggs Field.





## **COLLEGE 4 KIDS IS BACK**

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S SIGNATURE COLLEGE 4 KIDS PROGRAM RETURNED WITH FUN AND LEARNING.

The annual two-week summer enrichment program hosted nearly 500 children ages 6-12.

The youths experienced a wide range of activities, from building mini rockets to making slime to encountering Clydesdale horses - all to spark a love of learning.

College 4 Kids is a community outreach event, but it also offers the opportunity to help the next generation of MCC students become comfortable on campus.

Courtney Pitts, college outreach and communications specialist, served as coordinator for this year's Summer Experience.



at meridian community college







# TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD AND OVER 200 MEMBERS STRONG, MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S LIFETIME QUEST CARRIES ON ITS MISSION: OFFERING LEARNING IN RETIREMENT.

Lifetime Quest (LTQ), an MCC Foundation entity, provides enrichment opportunities - from mini-programs to special events to travel for the active 50-plus adults.

For Lifetime Questers, the phrase learning never stops is their mantra. "Membership in Lifetime Quest is important because the program offers opportunities for lifelong learning. Interaction with others, a primary function of LTQ, is significant to maintaining good health," said Marmion Francis, coordinator of Lifetime Quest. Diane Wells also serves as coordinator, specializing in travel.

Membership does have its privileges, and that applies to Lifetime Quest. "We offer a water aerobics class for those who enjoy swimming," Francis said, adding, "making new friends is encouraged as we offer travel opportunities and interesting programs at our monthly Lunch Bunch meetings."





#### TO JOIN LIFETIME QUEST SCAN HERE









Lifetime Questers travel to Camden, Alabama

Because of the pandemic, Lifetime Quest went on hiatus for the safety of its members and community. But with the easing of restrictions, Lifetime Quest has made up for the lost time. Francis explained the first Lunch Bunch, a demonstration of container gardening lead by fellow Lifetime Quester Linda Cook, was a success with 75 participants.

"We offered a day trip to Camden, Alabama, and it filled in two and a half hours," she added.

Members also get free admission to the College's Arts & Letters events, invitations to reading and discussion sessions, discounts to the Eagle's Nest Bookstore and the College's Dental Lab.

Annual membership dues are \$80.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LIFETIME QUEST'S HISTORY SCAN HERE





THE MCC FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES TOP FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS WITH THE MCCER OF THE MONTH AWARD. A \$250 HONORARIUM COMES WITH THE RECOGNITION.

Honorees are asked, "what do you like most about MCC?" Here are their answers:



#### JANUARY | CYNDY BRATU

**Administrative Assistant** 

"I love the family feel of MCC. Everyone is friendly, and I think you can count on any one of them if you were in a bind."



#### FEBRUARY | TIFFANI MINCHEW

**Dental Assisting Technology Coordinator and Instructor** 

"I love the atmosphere.

I loved it as a student and even more as a faculty member. It's home now!"



#### MARCH | GLORIA ADAMS

Medical Assisting Technology Coordinator and Instructor

"I love that MCC is a family."



#### APRIL | DR. PAIGE PENNINGTON

**Director of Dental Programs** 

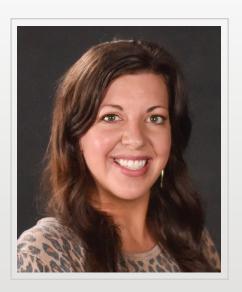
"It is the camaraderie between my coworkers. Our department is a strong team of people dedicated to one goal: to produce the best graduates possible in every way."



MAY | **DAWN WRIGHT** 

**Psychology Instructor** 

"It is the ability to help students be their best academically and personally."



JUNE | VALERIE CREEL

**Associate Degree Nursing Advisor** 

"I love the diversity at MCC and enjoy meeting students from all over the world. I love meeting new people and hearing why they chose MCC."

# COLLEGE HONORS ITS OWN WITH END-OF-YEAR EVENT

# MCC FACULTY AND STAFFERS' SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS CAME INTO FOCUS AT THE MCC FOUNDATION AND THE MCC FACULTY STAFF ASSOCIATION GATHERING.

"We are so lucky to have a strong foundation with a great history of individuals believing that the faculty and staff are the heart of our institution. The MCC Foundation is proud to honor you," said Leia Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, when she addressed the 300-plus audience.

The Holladay Family Professional Development Awards were given to Brandi Pickett, wellness coordinator and instructor, and Gloria Adams, program coordinator and instructor for the Medical Assisting Program. The awards come with a \$2,500 stipend. The Holladay family, believing that professional development is essential to student success, provides professional development opportunities for College faculty and staff.

Michael Allen, custodial director, Dr. Tommy Winston, Physical Therapist Assistant Program coordinator and instructor, and Dawn Wright, psychology instructor, received the MCC Enrichment through Travel Awards. They each were awarded \$2,500.

The T.J. Harris Award, which names an MCC employee who has made outstanding contributions beyond their regular job description to the community and MCC, was given to Susie Gibson, social science instructor.

Deanna Smith, dean of student services, Joy Smith, college communications coordinator, and Adam Foreman, director of physical plant, were selected as recipients of the John A. Johnson Award. Honorees demonstrate enthusiasm for the college mission, spirit, commitment to service and job, and interest and participation in community and campus activities. Each received a \$500 cash award.

Jamila Brown Coleman, adult education mentor and lead instructor, Kim Coward, sociology instructor, and Otis Gowdy, Commercial Truck Driving Program coordinator and instructor, were named the Dr. Clarence W. Roberts Outstanding Teacher of the Year award winners. They were selected based on excellence in teaching, innovative techniques and service to the College and community. A \$500 honorarium was given to each.





Joy Smith, left, Amy Miller and Lauren Pratt







Gloria Adams



Michael Allen



Dr. Tommy Winston







Deanna Smith



Adam Foreman



Jamila Brown Coleman

#### Recent and current retirees were spotlighted. Retirees included:

Keith Englen, 2019; Theresa Boykin, Susie Horne, Rhonda Moore, Richard Barlow, Dr. James Dauphine, Christopher Edwards, Barbara Jones, William Pierce, Suzanne Grafton, Rhonda Thompson, Cathy Parker, Clara Munn, Willie Mae Kirkland, David Fontenot, Rita McClure and Soraya Welden, 2020; and Stephanie Brown, Charlotte Rasco, Pam Baranello, Wanda Jackson, Delia Harwell, Betty Hennington, Kathy McKay, Barbara Burnside, Otis Gowdy, Charlie Price and Dr. Ray Denton.







# MCC ATHLETICS INSTALLED NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART LIGHTS THAT QUICKLY BECAME A FAN FAVORITE.

With the previous lighting more than 30 years old, College officials saw an opportunity to create something unique for the baseball and soccer fields by installing a new system. MCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner said, "We wanted something that could become a calling card, something special for the institution."

Musco Lighting won the bid with their show light package. Athletic Director Sander Atkinson said, "I've enjoyed

watching the fans' reactions when they see the light show, and it has added a lot of atmosphere to the park. I've never seen anything like it."



TO SEE THE LIGHTS IN ACTION SCAN HERE



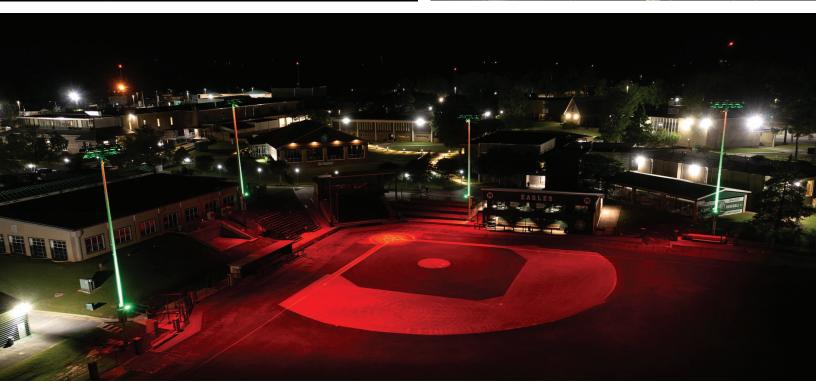




MCC can provide light shows, synced with music, for home runs, goals scored and celebrations for victories with the new light show package. The College is the first in the state to have this capability. This creates a game experience unique to MCC.







## **YEAR IN REVIEW**

#### **EAGLES LAND FIVE TEAMS IN THE TOP 25**



**BASEBALL** The Eagles end the season 32-13 and ranked 5th in the NJCAA. The Eagles batted .346 with 53 home runs, good enough for 8th in the country.

Braden Luke, Banks Tolley and Alec Sparks were named to the NJCAA All-Region team and selected to the first team MACCC All-Conference team. Bridley Thomas was selected to the second team. In addition, Brett Mason, Christian Jones and Keshun Collier were Honorable Mentions to the MACCC All-conference team.

**GOLF** The MCC Golf team finishes 8th at NJCAA Golf National Tournament, and marks MCC's fifth Top-Ten finish in five years for the Eagles. Freshman golfer Ethan Dyess won the Tommy Snell Award with the low scoring average in the state. Dyess had a conference low 72.46 scoring average, more than a stroke ahead of second place. The MCC Golf team will bring back the core of the national tournament team and look to bring in some outstanding freshmen.



**TENNIS** The MCC Lady Eagles tennis team finished 13th in the NJCAA National Tournament in Mesa, Arizona.

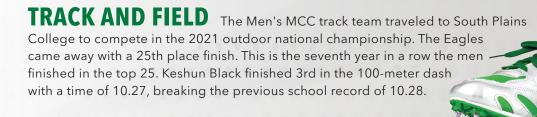
After a disappointing loss at the Region 23 tournament in Ellisville, the Lady Eagles thought their season was over. However, a few days later, head coach T.J. Carter got a call from the NJCAA inviting the team to the NJCAA National Tournament, and he quickly accepted the at-large bid.

For the Lady Eagles freshmen, Harper Bryan and Ralie Boles were named to the MACCC All-Conference team.

The men's team also received an at-large bid to the Men's NJCAA National Tournament in Plano, TX. The men finished the tournament ranked 21st.

Sophomore Matthew Tennant, from Australia, received ITA Most Improved Sophomore and signed to continue his career at Southern Arkansas University. Sophomore Cainan Black, from Enterprise, signed to continue his career at Belhaven University.

For the Eagles, sophomore Matthew Tennant and freshman Colin Hartman were named to the MACCC All-Conference team.





**SOCCER** The Men's soccer team finished the season at 5-6-1, and the Lady Eagles finished at 3-8-1.

Sophomores Sophie Roberts, Brynn Boutwell, Torenzo Williams and Miguel Vasquez were all selected to the MACCC All-Star team.

Both teams sent players on to play at the next level.

**SOFTBALL** The Lady Eagles softball team finished the year at 8-29. Sophomore Torree Bradley was named to the first team All-MACCC, and freshman Sydney Sizemore was an honorable mention.





**BASKETBALL** The Eagles finished the season at 8-6 and in third place in the south division of the MACCC. Sophomore Justin Brown was named to the MACCC All-Conference team.

The Lady Eagles finished the season at 11-4 and in second place in the south division of the MACCC. Sophomore Sidney Sims was named to the MACCC first-team All-Conference team. In addition, sophomores Berniya Hardin and Ariana Hart were named to the MACCC second-team All-Conference team.

# MOORE NAMED TO MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE HALL OF FAME

MCC baseball standout Tyler Moore was inducted into the 2021 Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame.

Moore, a native of Brandon, played for the MCC Eagles from 2005-2007. While an Eagle, he earned NJCAA All-American status and was honored by the ABCA as the 2007 NJCAA Division II Baseball Player of the Year. Ranked fourth in the nation with a .472 batting average in 2007, Moore led the nation with an MCC-record 19 home runs and ranked 10th nationally with 62 RBIs. He compiled a .989 fielding percentage and committed just five errors at first base.

Moore finished with a school-record 22 doubles and a .927 slugging percentage and helped lead the Eagles to a 41-15 mark. He hit .300 with 49 RBIs and 15 home runs as a freshman to help power MCC to a 35-17 record and the 2006 MACJC state title. As a freshman, Moore earned All-Region 23, All-District and All-State honors.

The Washington Nationals drafted Moore in the 16th round of the 2008 Major League Baseball draft

out of Mississippi State University. In 2010, Moore was named the Nationals Minor League Player of the Year.

He was added to the 40-man roster in November of 2011, where he spent five seasons with the Nationals. Moore finished his career as a member of the Miami Marlins in 2017. For his career, Moore batted .227 with 30 home runs and 121 RBIs.

Today, Moore lives in Madison with his wife

Whitney and his son Beckham. In addition to real estate investments, Moore owns and operates Stadt Nutrition Club in Madison.





# FRESHMAN BEGINS HER FALL STUDIES WITH TUITION GUARANTEE

Incoming MCC freshman Isabella Sanders will join the Lady Eagles Tennis Team when she begins her Fall 2021 academic studies.

The West Lauderdale High School grad also chose to study at MCC for another reason. "My parents wanted me to take advantage of MCC's Tuition Guarantee."

Sanders signed up for the Tuition Guarantee scholarship from the MCC Foundation when she graduated from West Lauderdale. "It will cover the cost of tuition for all four of my semesters at MCC as long as I maintain a certain grade point average and take at least 15 credit hours a semester," she said.

Her academic goal is to earn an associate of arts from MCC and then go to a four-year institution to work toward her bachelor of science in nursing. "The classes I will be taking at MCC will focus on courses I will need to get into a nursing program," she said.

# TUITION GUARANTEE LETTER CHANGES STUDENT'S DIRECTION



When Deanna Smith's mom received a letter explaining the new Tuition Guarantee Program at Meridian Community College, she convinced her daughter going to MCC to start her college studies was the best plan.

"If my mom had not received that letter from MCC about the Tuition Guarantee program, my entire life would have gone a different direction. I know that sounds extreme, but considering I had such an awesome experience as a student and have now been working in education for 16 years (13 of those at MCC), I would say it is an accurate statement," said Smith.

Today, Smith is the dean of student services at MCC, serving where she got her start in college 21 years ago.

"During my time as a student at MCC, I made friends who have had a lasting impact of my life. I got involved with the Ivy League Recruiters and Campus Activities Board. My motto was that college was going to be what I made it."

"So, I plugged myself in and really enjoyed my time at MCC. So much so, that when I graduated from Mississippi State University, I came back as the

student recruiter fresh from college at 21. Considering I'm creeping closer to 40 now and I'm still at MCC, I think it is safe to say that the Tuition Guarantee program left a lasting impression," Smith said.

Smith urges parents to take advantage of Tuition Guarantee. "Your child will get an excellent education while saving a large sum of money. And if they do well at MCC, the universities offer excellent transfer scholarships."

And, Smith adds, "I had to tell my mom, 'she was right' - which happened pretty frequently as I got older."

# NEW MCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PAYS TRIBUTE TO TEXAS NATIVE

"I couldn't think of a better way to really honor who she truly was."

That's what Cindy Chisolm said her

reason was for establishing two \$1,000 scholarships through the Meridian Community College Foundation in memory of her mother, Barbara Jeanne Kurtz Freese.

Freese, who was described as a lifelong learner, was a retired Texas and Louisiana teacher who died in December 2020. She was 92 years old.



Barbara Freese

Growing up on a farm outside of Floresville, Texas, during the Great Depression, Freese and her eight siblings helped with the chores that included feeding and milking the cows, taking care of the chickens and picking cotton. They also would walk three miles to a one-room schoolhouse.

Freese, though, desired a different life.

"There must have been a teacher or a subject that captivated her that made her want to be more than just a farmer's wife or settle for that lifestyle," said Chisolm. "Something that appealed to her."

Chisolm speculates a teacher saw Freese's ambition and set in motion a change for her life.

"I do know she played basketball, so somebody saw something in her and wanted to help. And they wanted to make sure she got to a university," Chisolm said.

The local superintendent's family invited Freese to live in their home to help with the chores and the children. "They would see to it that she would graduate from high school with everything she needed," Chisolm said. The superintendent's family also made sure Freese got small jobs here and there to pay for books and tuition. Chisolm explained, "She must have known it was up to

her if she was to become educated to the point where she could have a career and support herself."

She attended what was called Southwest Texas State, now known as Texas State University at San Marcos. After earning her bachelor's degree, Freese began teaching elementary school in Runge, Texas, where she met her future husband, Olen Freese. The Freeses lived in Corpus Christi, Texas, and New Orleans, where Freese earned her master's degree in elementary education when she was in her 50s. The couple later returned to and retired in Texas.

Chisolm said her mom never bragged about it, but she had a history of making donations to a teachers' association. "She believed in helping others in the same kind of ways in which she was helped," she said.

"I think she felt like she wanted to give back because somebody made sure she got what she needed," Chisolm said.

She added, "that was just a part of her makeup."

These two new MCC Foundation scholarships are earmarked for students majoring in education and transferring to a four-year university.

Leia Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, said it is an emotional experience when people reach out to establish memorial scholarships.

Hill added, "We know that Mrs. Chisolm's mother meant the world to her family. Education is the gift that lasts a lifetime, and a memorial scholarship provides a meaningful way for a family to honor their loved one while carrying the legacy forward to future generations of students."



### **ENDOWMENTS**



# FRAN AND WADELL BYRD MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

Longtime MCC supporter Frances Byrd left a bequest for MCC in her final testament, completing an endowment fund she created for her beloved husband, Wadell, who passed away in 2016. Named for them both, the endowment will fund scholarships for Fran's passions, nursing and theology.

Fran lived and worked in Mississippi most of her life and retired from work as a nurse practitioner with the State Health Department after 25 years. Fran was active in many community organizations, including the MCC Foundation, Lifetime Quest and served

on the Board of Directors for the Meridian Symphony Association. She was a member of Central United Methodist Church, where she served on the senior adult leadership team. Fran had a lifelong passion for Christian mission work and traveled the world in His service. She loved to sing and was blessed to share those talents with the Meridian Symphony Chorus and her beloved church choir. Fran loved her friends, her travels, her books and her bunco group.

# LEIGH ANN KEY MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

In honor of the life and legacy of Leigh Ann Key, her friends and family have established the Leigh Ann Key Memorial Scholarship Endowment at Meridian Community College. A native of Meridian, Leigh Ann attended MCC en route to her bachelor's degree at Mississippi College in 1987, and her juris doctor degree at the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1991. After over 20 years of operating the Key Law Office and a lifetime of fiercely advocating for her clients and others in need, Leigh Ann ended her valiant battle with cancer on Nov. 20, 2020. She



loved helping those in need and generously opened her home to many foster children, exchange students and a myriad of others who needed a place to stay. She loved being a coach's wife, attending tournaments and serving as a mother figure to players. Her input was vital to the success of the MCC golf program.

To honor these MCC Eagles and contribute to the funds associated with their legacy, contact the Meridian Community College Foundation at 601.484.8612 or visit **www.meridiancc.edu/giving** or scan the QR code on the right. Designate by name in the online form.





#### **FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS**



#### **Kacie Nabors**

Cecil Adkins Memorial Scholarship

#### Jessica Sullivan

ADN Donor Scholarship

#### **Lucas Thomas**

Ida Mae James Alexander Memorial Scholarship

#### **Jasmine Bush**

Anderson Board of Directors Scholarship

#### **Kiera Long**

Anderson Support and Development Foundation Scholarship

#### **Natalie Patchin**

Anderson Support and Development Foundation Scholarship

#### Angela Bautista

Dr. William Jeff Anderson Memorial Scholarship

#### **Blair Black**

Dr. William Jeff Anderson Memorial Scholarship

#### **Haley Bonner**

Dr. William J. Anderson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

#### **Gina Duvalle**

Dr. William J. Anderson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

#### **Jasmine Bates**

Dr. William J. Anderson, III Memorial Scholarship

#### Michelle Smith

Dr. William J. Anderson, III Memorial Scholarship

#### **Naomi Anderson**

Charles Armstrong Scholarship

#### **Henry Zheng**

Charles Armstrong Scholarship

#### **Nicole Briggs**

AT&T Scholarship

#### **Jonah James**

Bill Autry Memorial Tennis Scholarship

#### **Cody Marks**

Laurie M. Autry Memorial Scholarship

#### **Jacob Graham**

C. B. Bailey Memorial Scholarship

#### Joy St. Clair

C. B. Bailey Memorial Scholarship

#### **Kinsey Davis**

Beverly Barham Memorial Scholarship

#### **Edwar Hernandez**

Leonard Corydon Barrell Family Scholarship

#### **Gregory Melton**

Leonard Corydon Barrell Family Scholarship

#### Abdulrehman Arif

Dorothy McCauley Bates Memorial Scholarship

#### **Mason Teffeteller**

Dorothy McCauley Bates Memorial Scholarship

#### **Chelsea Litchfield**

Sallie Mae Bell Memorial Scholarship

#### Jada Hiatt

Anna Munn Bennett Memorial Scholarship

#### **Kimberly Brasfield**

Janet Billings ADN Scholarship

#### **Gabrielle Jones**

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

#### Rana Cook

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

#### Kaymen Russell

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

#### **Shelbie Reid**

Thomas and Norma Bourdeaux Scholarship

#### **Kyra Howell**

Harry and Vivian Boureau Music Scholarship

#### **Katherine Kelly**

Susan Partridge Boyette Memorial Scholarship

#### **Ethan Archie**

Gloria Blackshear Brown High School Equivalency Scholarship

#### Allie Roddie

Keli Breanne Brown Memorial Scholarship

#### **Thomas Cottrill**

A. D. Burdette Math Scholarship

#### Jimmyia Smith

Margaret F. Butler Memorial Scholarship

#### Samantha Mosley

Madeline Scott Callahan Memorial Scholarship

#### **Erin Walker**

Allie Cat Carruth Scholarship

#### **Emily Lucas**

Mark Chandler Memorial Scholarship

#### **Jacob Bynum**

Alta and Ivan Chisolm Memorial Scholarship

#### Kinlee Odom

Alta and Ivan Chisolm Memorial Scholarship

#### **Megan Oliver**

A. C. Johnson/Civitan Scholarship

#### Jayla Smith

A. C. Johnson/Civitan Scholarship

#### **Michael Fain**

Lynn Combest Memorial Scholarship

#### **Kenyata Blair**

Chuck Nicholson/Community Bank Veteran Scholarship

#### **Montgomery Campbell**

Chuck Nicholson/Community Bank Veteran Scholarship

#### **Tatyana Evans**

Construction Services/A. C. Terry Scholarship

#### **Apryl Butler**

Emma Ruth Corban Scholarship

#### Sara Beth Brown

Courtyard of Scholars Scholarship

#### **Whitney Bartlett**

Winnie P. Crampton Nursing Scholarship

#### **Adam Moncure**

Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship

#### **Zachary Brewster**

Clifton "Buddy" Davis Memorial Scholarship

#### Anna Kathryn Touchstone

L. J. Davis and Winifred Davis Memorial Scholarship

#### Felicia Barfield

Toni L. DeVaney Memorial Scholarship

#### **Tylier Roberts**

Toni L. DeVaney Memorial Scholarship

#### Michael Chaney

Glen Deweese Scholarship

#### **CONNECTIONS | PRESIDENT'S EDITION 2021**

#### **Charita Ford**

Glen Deweese Scholarship

#### **Keisha Bobbitt**

DHUGG Scholarship

#### Shtoria Fox

**DHUGG Scholarship** 

#### **Avery Byerley**

Wanda Sharp Dixon Memorial Scholarship

#### Latoya Griggs

T. K. Dobbins, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

#### Juanita Johnson

T. K. Dobbins, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

#### Lauren Carbonneau

Downtown Optimist Club/Bill Herndon Memorial Scholarship

#### **Tiaris Johnigan**

Drive-Thru Program Scholarship

#### **Hannah Herrington**

Margaret Reed Dulaney Scholarship

#### **Audrea Stapleton**

Earnest Workers King's Daughters and Sons Scholarship

#### **Keegan Tumblin**

Eva Mae Gilbert Edwards Memorial Scholarship

#### **Clare Whitney**

R.A. Emmons Family Education Scholarship

#### **Matelyn Heiser**

William H. Entrekin Family Music Scholarship

#### Samantha Wilkins

Erika's Hope Memorial Scholarship

#### **Camryn Brewer**

Don and Donia Evans Scholarship

#### **Jacob Leake**

Don and Donia Evans Scholarship

#### **Matelyn Heiser**

Hugh and Katherine Foster Memorial Scholarship

#### **Estefany Chavarria**

Bebe Roberts Freeman Scholarship

#### Keri Moore

Barbara Freese Memorial Scholarship

#### **Tessa Ward**

Barbara Freese Memorial Scholarship

#### **Adrian Evans**

Jacob Chester Frist Memorial Scholarship

#### Jessica Howard

Future Nurses Scholarship

#### **Chaiydreanna LeFlore**

Future Nurses Scholarship

#### **Justin Irwin**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

#### **Rileigh Marlow**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

#### **Micah Pogue**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

#### **Presley Williamson**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

#### **Patrick Spurgeon**

Carolyn and Arthur H. "JR"
Goldman Memorial Scholarship

#### **Rachel Adams**

Kimberly Renata Govan Scholarship

#### **Madelyn Gray**

Dottye and Hardy Graham, Sr. Scholarship

#### **Haley Clark**

Gayle Gray Memorial Nursing Scholarship

#### **Madison Leggett**

Thomas H. Greer, Jr. M.D. and Joycelyn D. Greer Scholarship

#### **Chelsea Robinson**

Shirley Griffin Nursing Scholarship

#### Rana Cool

Debbie Gunn Memorial Scholarship

#### **Amber Riley**

Debbie Gunn Memorial Scholarship

#### Kristina Monsour

William Gunn, Esquire Memorial Scholarship

#### Ivan Barnard

Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship

#### Michael Bishop

Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship

#### Lane Davis

Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship

#### Tyler Graham

Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship

#### Cerre maas roa

Michael James

#### Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship

**Jacob Miles**Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship

#### James Murphy

Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship

#### **Joseph Solomon**

Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship

#### **Grace Brown**

Mattie D. Hart/Emma Donald Music Scholarship

#### Shakedria Griffin

Mattie D. Hart/Emma Donald Music Scholarship

#### **Lacy Spears**

Judy Hartzler Scholarship

#### **Caroline Presley**

Katherine Chisolm Hester and Lamar Hester Memorial Scholarship

#### **Ethan Doxey**

T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial Scholarship

#### **Braden Luke**

T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial Scholarship

#### **Michael Tabb**

T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial Scholarship

#### **Colton Albritton**

Eddie Holladay Broadcast Scholarship

#### Sage McKee

Dr. Jeff Hollingsworth Memorial Scholarship

#### **Cameron Thornton**

Dr. Jeff Hollingsworth Memorial Scholarship

#### **Hannah Little**

Richard and Faye Hollingsworth Nursing Scholarship

#### **Lauren Stephens**

Richard and Faye Hollingsworth Nursing Scholarship

#### **Leslie Smith**

Catherine Hovious Nursing Scholarship

#### **Brooke Tanner**

Catherine Hovious Nursing Scholarship

#### **Isaiah Harrison**

Linda and Billy Howard Computer Technology Scholarship

#### Laura McCraney

Richard Harper Howarth, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

#### **Briana Carter**

Dr. George E. Howell Nursing Scholarship

#### Alanna Rawls

Dr. George E. Howell Nursing Scholarship

#### Dylan Laird

Sarah Cox Moore and Nannie Moore Hudson Memorial Scholarship

#### . . . . . .

Jamie Smith
Austin and Alice James Accounting
Scholarship

#### . . . . . .

**Garrett Evans**John and Ann Johnson Scholarship

#### Jerome Adkins

Reuben S. Johnson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

#### Brett Mason

Walter and Cora Thompson Johnson Memorial Scholarship

#### Jacob Vance

Walter and Cora Thompson Johnson Memorial Scholarship

#### **Krystal Coleman**

Ann and Ken Joyner Book Scholarship

#### **Ashton Hamilton**

Ann and Ken Joyner Book Scholarship

#### **Alexis Wilson**

Key Brothers Memorial Scholarship

#### Rebecca Deakle

Gondine Kittrell Memorial Scholarship

#### Aaliyah Atkins

Edward T. Lafferty Scholarship

#### Natalie McCoy

Edward T. Lafferty Scholarship

#### **Daniel Edwards**

Prof. Howard Lane Memorial Scholarship

#### **Krystal Johnson**

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship

#### Kara Kuntz

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship

#### **Kennedy Mayatt**

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship

#### **Taryn Dumas**

OLE Oscar Lewis Estate LLC Scholarship

#### **Derma Myers**

Stennis "Judge" Little Memorial Scholarship

#### Easton Rainer

Stennis "Judge" Little Memorial Scholarship

#### **Allyson Gilbert**

Lockheed STEM Scholarship

#### **Hailey Wells**Lockheed STEM Scholarship

**Lesleigh Wallace**Dr. Lloyd Wilton and Dr. Sula
Johnson Marsalis Memorial

#### Scholarship

**Billie Brown** MCCF Miscellaneous Scholarship

MCCF Miscellaneous Scholarship

#### **Timothy Hopkins**

Maiya Davis Kathleen Newby McDaniel

#### Memorial Scholarship

**Cameron Garrett**Kathleen Newby McDaniel
Memorial Scholarship

#### **Kimber Bolton**

Emily Louise McDonald Nursing Scholarship

#### Latasha Cooper

Emily Louise McDonald Nursing Scholarship

#### **Mallory Smith** Percy R. McLemore Scholarship

**John Williams**Medical Lab Technology
Scholarship

#### Aleah Manuel

Meridian Area Dental Association Scholarship

#### **Dallas Steele**

Meridian Area Dental Association Scholarship

#### Bridgette Cerda-Marin

Meridian Exchange Club/Bo Russell Memorial Scholarship

#### **FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### Olivia Leager

Meridian Rotary Club Scholarship

#### **Joseph Aviles**

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship

#### **Makenzie Bohl**

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship

#### **Reagan Mathis**

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship

#### **Dallas Walk**

MHS Class of 1978 Scholarship

#### Lane Mercer

Midway Member Scholarship

#### **Dieter Jairo Gonzales**

Thomas Y. Minniece Memorial Scholarship

#### **Lauren Alford**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Erika Altman**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Monique Anthony**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Chelsea Banks**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Olivia Barlow**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Natarsha Barnes**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Kimberly Brasfield**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Adrain Brown**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Stephanie Busby

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Nicole Clark**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Joe Clay

Mississippi Board of Nursing

#### Scholarship

**Akeyah Coleman** Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Taran Collins**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Raven Cook**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Ryan Covington

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Lavesha Crowell

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Michelle Culpepper

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Mary Davis**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Brianna Dent**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Trimia Dubose**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Alyssa Duncan

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Michelle Eakes**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Kiara Finderson**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Breanna Gordon**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Meagan Graham

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Arkemia Greer**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Kandice Harper**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Emily Harrington**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Brittany Hedgpeth**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Ebony Hill**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Kayla Hodges**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Bianca Holifield**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Walisa Holmes**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Victoria Hood

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Arkala Howse**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Tamician Hunt**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **MaSahn Ingram**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Alexa Johnson**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Brittany Johnson**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Jessica Jones**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Victoria Jones

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Sherreon Jordan**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Juane Kirkland**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Chastity Lewis**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Hannah Little**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Shemika Martin**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Amanda May**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Hortensa McCorkle

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Bridgette McCoy

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### James Mizell

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Samantha Mosley**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Ashley Newman**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Wanda Newman

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Raven Oltremari**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Monica Potts**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Latarisa Ray**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Lexus Riggs

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Grecia Ringo**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Markeisha Russell

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Michelle Ryans**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Hannah Sanders**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Inger Slaughter**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Keyahda Smith**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Veronica Smith**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Lauren Stephens**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Leila Stewart

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Victoria Straughter

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### Taliyah Tate

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### DeJurnee Thomas

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Harry Tucker**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Leah Vernon**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### - . . . . . . . . .

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Porsche Webster**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Kelsei White**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship **Kiersten Wilburn** 

Mississippi Board of Nursing

#### Scholarship

**Shauntel Wilder-Malone** Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Shawonder Wilson**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Grace Yarbrough**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **CONNECTIONS | PRESIDENT'S EDITION 2021**

#### **Takeshia Young**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

#### **Chuy Boswell**

Mississippi Power Foundation Heritage Scholarship

#### Jakennis Heidelberg

Mississippi Power Foundation Heritage Scholarship

#### **Vincent Reynolds**

Mississippi Power Foundation Heritage Scholarship

#### **Daiquan Scott**

Mississippi Power Foundation Heritage Scholarship

#### **Marcus Barber**

Mitchell Companies Scholarship

#### Eli Bryan

Mitchell Companies Scholarship

#### **Sallie Carver**

William D. Mobley Dental Hygiene Scholarship

#### **Stormy Hauptman**

William D. Mobley Dental Hygiene Scholarship

#### Joseph Jernigan

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

#### **Christopher Rainer**

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

#### **Jayla Smith**

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

#### **Tyler Smith**

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

#### **Emily Williams**

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

#### LaQuinta Hudson

Dr. William R. Moore, II Memorial Scholarship

#### **Carolyn Keeton**

Joyce Morrison Memorial Scholarship

#### Mae Ford

Mott Foundation Commercial Truck Driving Scholarship

#### **Eddie Holloway**

Mott Foundation Commercial Truck Driving Scholarship

#### **Christan Stringfellow**

Mott Foundation Commercial Truck Driving Scholarship

#### Jimmy Tubbs, Jr.

Mott Foundation Commercial Truck Driving Scholarship

#### Jordan Colenberg

Ruth Van Dyke Nelson Memorial Scholarship

#### **Myea Young**

Ruth Van Dyke Nelson Memorial Scholarship

#### **Ada'Shea Hunt**

Sara and Sam Niemetz Math Scholarship

#### Sara Hartman

Gloria Nuckolls Health Scholarship

#### **Keisha Bobbitt**

Nurse to Nurse Scholarship

#### Kayla Hodges

Nurse to Nurse Scholarship

#### Markeisha Russell

Nurse to Nurse Scholarship

#### Daetreeona Johnson

Alexander Ott/The Crossings Memorial Scholarship

#### **Wesley Phillips**

Eli Pacetti Memorial Scholarship

#### D'Kerria Myles

Pioneer Classes Scholarship

#### **Francene Gaines**

Dr. O. D. Polk, Sr. and Mrs. Evelyn Lucille Dorsey Polk Memorial Scholarship

#### **Shellie Shines**

Dr. O. D. Polk, Sr. and Mrs. Evelyn Lucille Dorsey Polk Memorial Scholarship

#### **Jaden Dominy**

Mark M. Porter Memorial Scholarship

#### Olivia Harrison

Gerald Price Memorial Scholarship

#### Julia McKenna

George Pugh Memorial Hospitality Scholarship

#### **Sydney Herrington**

Gerry Wayne Purvis Scholarship

#### **Josiah Goss**

Radio People Scholarship

#### **Jayce Moore**

Radio People Scholarship

#### **Mykel Smith**

C. B. "Dough" and Alice Rawlings Scholarship

#### **Shabraia Wheaton**

C. B. "Dough" and Alice Rawlings Scholarship

#### Caleb Carbonneau

Rea, Shaw, Giffin and Stuart Scholarship

#### **Cayley Covington**

Jo and George Rea Memorial Scholarship

#### Kadijah Keyes

Elizabeth Riley Memorial Scholarship

#### Clara Mutai

Elizabeth Riley Memorial Scholarship

#### **Chelsea Robinson**

Elizabeth Riley Memorial Scholarship

#### Keri Moore

Mary Ann Bonney Riley Scholarship

#### **Michael Carey**

Richard F. Riley, M.D. Scholarship

#### **Yenesis Atencio**

Miriam Roberson Nursing Scholarship

#### **Destiny Clark**

Miriam Roberson Nursing Scholarship

#### **Anna Ramsey**

I. A. Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship

#### **Katie Reid**

Rush Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship

#### **Louis Gatlin**

Judie Bounds Rutledge Memorial Scholarship

#### **Lawson Freeman**

Big and Ham Sanders Scholarship

#### **Hannah McPherson**

Doris and Cecil Seale Memorial Scholarship

#### Julia Thaggard

Daniel P. and Ruby Self Scholarship

#### **Adrianne Smith**

Jackie Bates Slay Memorial Scholarship

#### **Erin Gibson**

Lee Anne Smith Memorial Scholarship

#### **Grace Brown**

Maude Smith Scholarship

#### Monika Johnson

Margaret and Bill Smylie Scholarship

#### Victoria Hodge

State Farm Companies Scholarship

#### Structural Steel Services Scholarship

Chloe Robbins

#### Structural Steel Services Scholarship

**Megan Nowell**Walter H. Thompson Memorial
Radiologic Technology Scholarship

#### Jamie Thomas

Dr. Dan Thornton, Jr. Scholarship

#### **Monique Anthony**

Mae Carroll Thornton Scholarship

#### Keisha Bobbitt

Mae Carroll Thornton Scholarship

#### LaToya Smith-Johnson

Mae Carroll Thornton Scholarship

#### Courtney Odom

Jacob Toney Memorial Scholarship

#### **Christian Freeze**

Upward Bound Scholarship

#### **Chloe Kinney**

Scholarship

Upward Bound Scholarship

#### **Christian Luvene**

Upward Bound Scholarship

#### **Bailey Weddington**Bob and Barbara Walker Scholarship

**Aaron Brannan** Rodney Walker Technology

#### **Benjamin Allison**

Les Wallace Memorial Scholarship

#### **Katelyn Dyess**

Waters Family Scholarship

#### Nikita Brown

Norma Webb Scholarship

#### **Cayleb Dyess**

Tommy Webb Business Scholarship

#### **Tara Shelton**

Tommy Webb Business Scholarship

#### **Tristan Taylor**

WGBC-TV Broadcasting Scholarship

#### **Andrew Hodges**

James C. and Garnett S. Wilbourn Family Scholarship

#### **Courtney McPherson**

James C. and Garnett S. Wilbourn Family Scholarship

#### Harleigh Barham

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

#### Ralie Boles

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

#### **MacKenzie Britt**

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

#### Avery Bryan

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

McKenzie Shirley Charles James Winright, Jr. and Jean Ellen Winright Memorial

#### Scholarship

**Alanna Rawls**Woodall Family Scholarship

#### **Nicole Longmire**

WTOK Broadcast Communication Scholarship

**Claribel Fernandez Castillo** 

#### Charles L. Young, Sr. Cosmetology Scholarship

**Ally Gavin** Charles L. Young, Sr. Cosmetology

#### Scholarship

**Ethan Archie**Charles and Doretha Young, (MLK)
Scholarship

#### **Destiny Clark**

Charles and Doretha Young, (MLK) Scholarship

#### LaCamiyah Taylor

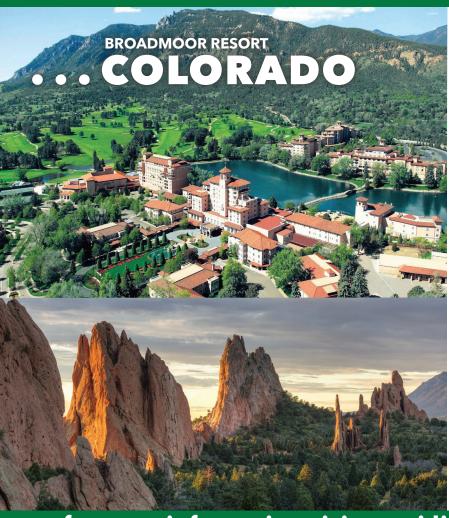
Charles and Doretha Young, (MLK) Scholarship

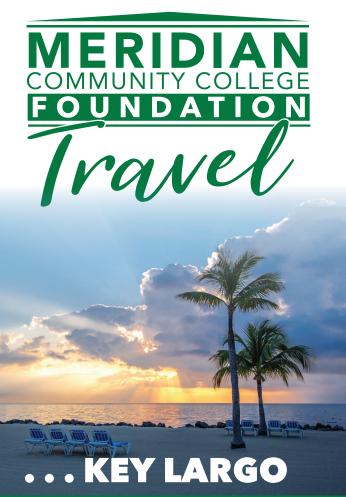
#### **Hunter Thornton**

Ralph Young Scholarship



#### **BEAUTIFUL DESTINATIONS AHEAD...**





for more information visit: meridiancc.edu/foundationtravel