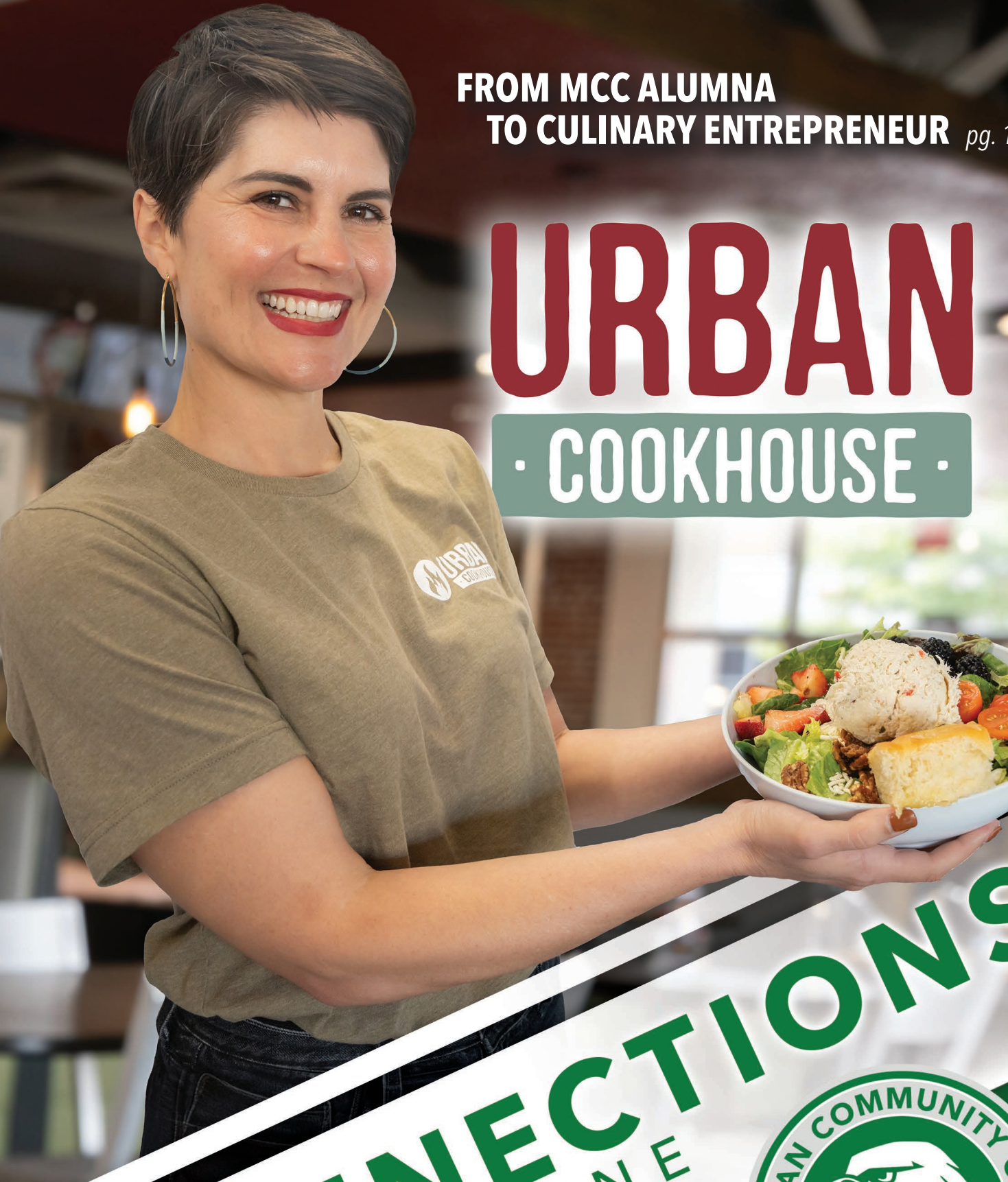


FROM MCC ALUMNA
TO CULINARY ENTREPRENEUR *pg. 14*

URBAN

· COOKHOUSE ·



CONNECTIONS
MAGAZINE



INSIDE THIS EDITION



MCC ADMINISTRATION

Thomas M. Huebner, Jr., Ph.D.
President

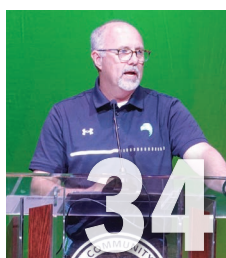
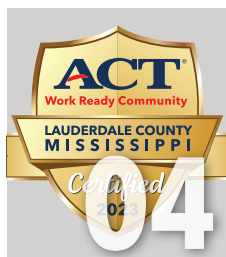
Drew Edwards, CPA
Vice president for financial services
and chief financial officer

Cedric Gathings, Ed.D.
Vice president for student affairs
and dean of students

Leia Agnew Hill, Ed.D.
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



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MCC FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

Meridian Community College Foundation attracts private investment to the College by fostering individual and corporate philanthropy so the College can strengthen its commitment to excellence.

BEYOND THE OFFICE

A FATHER OF TWO EAGLE GRADUATES

As the college president and a proud parent of two MCC graduates, I've recently had the unique privilege of experiencing this institution as a leader and a dad. Let me be clear: it wasn't always easy. There were times when we struggled--my kids and I--to figure out our roles.

My daughter Emily initially hesitated about attending MCC but quickly fell in love with the campus. She thrived here, discovering her passions and forming lifelong friendships. Her time at MCC was transformative, and now that she's finishing her university education, we can all see the impact MCC had on her future.

My son Eli, a baseball player, always knew he wanted to play at MCC. Playing under Coach Sudduth's guidance and hearing his name called by Robby Atkinson, the voice of the Eagles, was beyond our expectations. The memories he created are strong; his teammates will be his friends for life, and he will forever identify himself with the two years he spent at MCC. As he moves on to play at the next level, we're immensely grateful for the experiences that shaped him here.

You need to know that being the "president's kid" is rarely easy---for the student or the parent. It carries expectations and assumptions held by all sides that may not reflect reality. My son insisted that I wasn't allowed to watch baseball practice for the two years he was a student here, which was challenging for me. Because my daughter was heavily involved in theater, I had the opportunity to see every production during her tenure multiple times; that was easy.

Why am I telling you about my kids? Because before they graduated from MCC, I could only talk about what I saw in the lives of others. Now, I bear testimony to what it means to be the parent of an MCC student. I witnessed friendships strengthen, knowing these connections would last a lifetime. Faculty and staff invested deeply in my children's lives, making a lasting impact. They received a high-quality education, navigating late-night study sessions and high expectations from mentors who believed in their potential. A strong support network surrounded them when they needed it most.



Dr. Tom Huebner

Sometimes, I saw them make decisions I wished they didn't, but I also saw them learn from their mistakes, regroup, seek counsel, and move forward.

One more lesson I learned firsthand: I know for a fact that students who don't clean their residence hall rooms receive a fine. And I know if it happens more than once, the fine increases!

As a dad, I'm grateful for MCC. It was exactly what my kids needed to create the opportunities they are now pursuing.

As the president, I believe in this place and the people who make us who we are more than I ever did before.

If you aren't convinced already, let me assure you that Meridian Community College is a special place. Daily, it opens doors for students, like my children, supported by dedicated faculty, staff, and generous donors.

MCC isn't just a college--it's a place where students truly "Find their Wings."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Huebner".

► NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UNWAVERING DONOR SUPPORT FUELS EXCEPTIONAL GROWTH, AND INNOVATION AT MCC



Dr. Leia Agnew Hill

As we reflect on the past six months, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the support from our dedicated donors. Your generosity propels Meridian Community College forward, enabling us to provide exceptional educational opportunities and foster a vibrant campus community.

This year, our college has seen remarkable achievements, largely thanks to your contributions. Our students have excelled in their academic pursuits, our facilities have been enhanced to offer state-of-the-art learning environments, and our faculty have been supported in their efforts to provide innovative and engaging instruction.

One of the highlights of this period has been the completion of the new Nursing Simulation Lab. This cutting-edge facility will significantly impact the training of our healthcare students, equipping them with the skills and confidence they need to succeed in their careers.

We are also thrilled to announce the establishment of several new scholarships to support students and ensure that financial barriers do not stand in the way of their education. These scholarships are a testament to the belief in the potential of every student who walks through our doors.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the upcoming projects and initiatives that will further enhance the educational experience at MCC.

From expanding our Career and Technical Education programs to developing new community partnerships, your continued support will be instrumental in our success.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to every donor on behalf of the entire MCC family. Your commitment to our mission inspires us to strive for excellence every day. Together, we are shaping the future of education and creating opportunities for generations to come.

Thank you for your support and belief in Meridian Community College.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Agnew Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Leia Agnew Hill
Vice President for Institutional Advancement and
Executive Director of the MCC Foundation

MCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jamie Cater, 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. He is the full-time senior pastor for Freedom Rock Church. His service to the MCC Board of Trustees began in 2020.



C.D. Smith, chair, 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 a regional director with AT&T Mississippi.



Alex Weddington, vice 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

- C.D. Smith, president
- Russell Thompson, vice president
- Alan Lamar, treasurer
- Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, corp. secretary
- R. Jeffrey Smith, past president
- Drew Edwards, advisor
- John Anderson
- BB Archer
- Steven Cooksey
- Dr. Ray Denton
- Doug Deweese
- Tommy Dulaney
- Hardy Graham, Jr.
- Pam Harrison
- Tim Hogan
- Bob Huff
- Barbara Jones
- Larkin Kennedy
- Donnie Massey
- Dr. Tommy McDonald
- Mark McPhail
- Chris Phillips
- Tony Pompelia
- Gerry Purvis
- Dr. Tom Sikes
- Greg Slay
- Donnie Smith
- Robert Smith
- Hampton Thames
- Buster Thomas
- Tyler Walton
- M.L. Waters
- Alex Weddington
- Hon. Veldore Young-Graham

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Vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation
- Theresa Hogan**
Foundation scholarship coordinator
- Courtney Pitts**
Lifetime Quest and alumni association coordinator
- Joy Smith**
Communications coordinator
- Kay Thomas**
Director of public information



LAUDERDALE COUNTY ACHIEVES ACT WORK READY COMMUNITY DESIGNATION

Lauderdale County is now an ACT Work Ready Community.

ACT Work Ready Community initiatives assist an area, region, or state in developing its workforce pipeline to provide skilled workers for employers. The framework allows each participating community to quantify and improve the skill levels of its workforce through a standardized workforce skill credential, the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate.



Signing a banner are Dr. Tom Huebner, Dr. Amy Carter, Dr. John-Mark Cain, and Allen Tyra.

"This designation is a testament to the powerful collaboration between our educational, governmental, and business entities. Together, we're building a stronger, brighter future for our community," said Craig Hitt, City of Meridian Community Development director.

"We're excited Lauderdale County has received this designation and proud to have partnered with others to achieve the benchmarks for this certification," said Meridian Community College President Dr. Tom Huebner. The MCC-Riley Workforce Development Center also offers testing for students and community residents.

Hitt noted ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate also serves as a recruiting tool for hiring talented employees to fill skilled positions. "It's also an asset companies look for when determining where to relocate or open new businesses."

To begin the certification process, Lauderdale County leaders attended a leadership and training program hosted by ACT, and during the session, they developed their goals by building awareness, cooperation, and commitment with local employers, policymakers, and educators.



At the ACT Work Ready Community announcement are Craig Hitt, Rob Smith, Dr. Tom Huebner, Dr. Amy Carter, Allen Tyra, Dr. John-Mark Cain, and Randy Sharman.

Students in Meridian Public School District, Lauderdale County School District, and Meridian Community College take the ACT WorkKeys Assessment, which measures their knowledge of mathematics, workplace documents, and graphic literacy. Depending on how they perform on the test, students can receive bronze, silver, gold, or platinum designations.

Meridian Public Schools District Superintendent Dr. Amy Carter said the ACT WorkKeys Assessment is already producing positive results in the city schools.

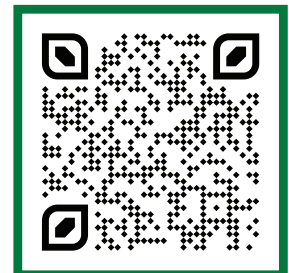
In the first year the assessment was given, 119 Meridian High School students took the exam, with more than 86 percent receiving a silver-level certification or higher. "This achievement underscores the vital role education plays in shaping the future," she said.

Lauderdale County School District Superintendent Dr. John-Mark Cain echoed Dr. Carter, noting, "Being an ACT Work Ready Community speaks to the dedication to preparing our students for the challenges of today's workforce." For the past seven years, Lauderdale County School District has administered the ACT WorkKeys assessment to every 12th grader. Dr. Cain noted that 315 of the 427 seniors scored at the silver level or higher.

Commitment from businesses and industries is vital to the program. "I'm excited to watch the positive impact this designation will bring to our area," said Gina Sharman, vice president of A&B Electric. "The ACT Work Ready Community designation will ensure that we're equipped with top-tier talent, ready to meet the health care needs of our community," added Larkin Kennedy, CEO of Ochsner Rush Health.

Though the County has achieved the designation, the work is ongoing; it begins a two-year growth and maintenance phase to maintain certification.

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MITCHELL SIGNS

OVER A CENTURY OF CRAFTING EXCELLENCE, COMMUNITY BONDS

Mitchell Signs, with its roots reaching back to 1903, is one of the country's oldest continually operating sign companies.

And it's the relationships that have been formed and nurtured throughout the years that the company covets while it continues to flourish and grow. "While we have done projects in 46 states and multiple countries, we're known as a national company, but our local market is very important to us," said Kyle B. Edmonds, president of Mitchell Signs.



Mitchell Signs, along with M'Prints, is housed under an 80,000-square-foot facility at 3200 Highway 45 North and is a part of the Mitchell Companies organization.



Tim Hogan

"While we are spread out and our footprint goes across the U.S., our core bread and butter is that we are a custom sign shop. We handle it from start to finish - the design process is what we love to do. We love working with local businesses, colleges, and the community. We help them create their business identity, starting with the design through the production of the sign," Edmonds explained.

One of its local customers is Meridian Community College, but it goes beyond producing and purchasing signs; the connection between Mitchell Companies and MCC is multifaceted. Over the years, MCC graduates have found employment within the organization, ranging from graphic design professionals to linemen to welders. CEO Tim Hogan has served on the MCC Foundation Board for nearly two decades. "Mitchell Companies has had a relationship with MCC ever since I can remember," Hogan noted.

Beyond business, Mitchell Signs is involved in the community. "We do what we can to give back," Hogan said, noting the company has supported the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience, the Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian, the East Mississippi Business Development Corp., and the Riley Center, among others.

The company is committed to quality. "We don't want to be the biggest, we want to be the best," Edmonds said.



Kyle Edmonds



Ben Davidson

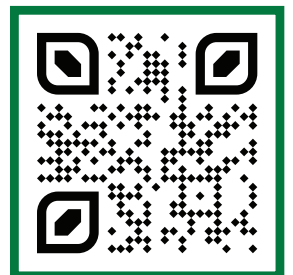
"While we are always looking to grow, we want to make sure that we do the things that got us where we are," Edmonds said. "We thrive on the relationship, and that is why we are who we are and why we have the trust and the reputation with our customers," he said.

So, while the company looks to grow, "we want to do that at a pace where we make sure we don't outkick our coverage, so we can do it the right way: grow profitability and maintain the quality of our product. The people are very important to us," Edmonds said.

The average tenure of their employees is over 12 years, with many having dedicated 25-30 years to the company. "It's a family," he added, stressing the importance of maintaining this atmosphere.

In gratitude, Edmonds credits MCC, the community, and their customers. "Without customers, there would be no need for us; we certainly appreciate that. A true thank you to anybody we've been fortunate to work with, and we look forward to continuing to work with many others. We truly appreciate the business."

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MCC REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 2023

POW/MIA Salute

In a ceremony marked by reverence and gratitude, Meridian Community College hosted a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag-raising event in front of Ivy-Scaggs Hall. The event saw a strong turnout from both the campus and the local community.



OCTOBER 2023

My College Cares

MCC community members, including faculty, students, staff, and administrators, offered their support to various groups and agencies throughout the area.



Candy Cruise

Approximately 2,600 community residents gathered at MCC's Track to participate in the fourth annual Candy Cruise, hosted by the Eagle's Nest Bookstore and the MCC Foundation. Nineteen teams from various campus programs and organizations lined the track with their booths, distributing candy, smiles, and other treats to attendees.



Queen City Race for Life and Street Strut and Queen City Car Show

The events highlighted a renewed commitment to fighting breast cancer, serving to raise awareness and support for those affected by the disease.



DECEMBER 2023

Food Drive

In the spirit of community and giving, MCC students, faculty, and staff helped to replenish the College's food pantry by providing donations that ranged from canned food to diapers.



JANUARY 2024

MLK Celebration and Meridian MLK Parade

Incorporating the theme of "Empowering the Dream Through Hope, Courage, and Unity," the College hosted its annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Celebration with educator, pastor, writer, and consultant Jason Gibson giving the keynote address. MCCers also turned out to participate in the City of Meridian's MLK parade.



FEBRUARY 2024

Blood Drive

Students, employees, and community members rolled up their sleeves to help others when MCC hosted a two-day blood drive event with Mississippi Blood Services.



Black History Month

MCC's 2024 Black History Month Celebration showcased the theme, "African Americans and the Arts," through an array of songs, poetry, and stories. Community residents, along with MCC staff and students, presented selections that reinforced this theme.



COLLEGE FOR KIDS

LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION!

College For Kids, MCC's annual summer camp program, once again blended fun and education for young campers aged 6 to 12. During the two-week program, children engaged in 31 diverse activities, from All About Animals to Lego Mania to Pickleball. This exciting mix of classes provided an unforgettable experience, leaving campers eager for their next adventure in learning.







CONNECTING WITH INDUSTRY THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA



Brian Warren

Brian Warren, Precision Machining Engineering Technology instructor and program coordinator at Meridian Community College, has introduced an innovative approach to empower his students by integrating LinkedIn into their educational journey.

Warren's goal is to equip students with technical, professional, and networking skills essential for their future careers in CNC machining, automation, and manufacturing. He developed a contest to connect students with industry officials by having them create LinkedIn accounts and gain connections.

"I wanted to come up with a way to replicate that success for all students in the program, not just a few that choose to network on LinkedIn, so I needed an incentive for participation," Warren said.

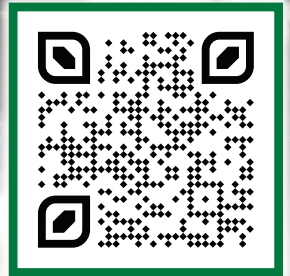
The top prize was a tool kit valued at \$300, with Hannah Buchanan, Jaylon Pruet, Tyson Marlow, Cade Cook, and Tyler Bearden emerging as the top five winners. Buchanan, who previously didn't use social media, now has around 600 connections.

Warren chose LinkedIn due to its strong presence in the CNC machining and manufacturing community. Industry professionals from renowned companies like Blue Origin, SpaceX, Eaton, Lockheed Martin,



Hannah Buchanan

CONNECT



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Glock, Milwaukee Tool, and Boeing reached out to connect with students.

Jetson Porter, Full-Time Trainer at Enoch Precision Machining, praised the initiative: "I loved the LinkedIn challenge because it opened up the students to people who are actually working in the industry they're learning about."

Rachel Marshall, co-owner of Excel Machine, added, "This was a great project for these students, to simply engage them on a professional workplace platform and show them the power of networking in a positive and meaningful way."



Tyson Marlow

The initiative not only helps students build professional networks but also exposes them to industry trends and opportunities.

As Warren notes, "I don't want to simply help them land their first job; I want to help them launch a career. LinkedIn will play a big part in that for a large part of their career."

GRANTED: MCC RECEIVES \$1.5M TO BOOST CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAMS

Meridian Community College won grants totaling \$1,503,593.49 through AccelerateMS, the state office of Workforce Development.



These grants, made possible through state funding via AccelerateMS and the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery, will be pivotal in expanding and enhancing career pathway programs, benefiting students and the local community, said MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner.



"This investment will empower us to equip our students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in today's rapidly changing job market. It is a testament to our commitment to providing education that prepares individuals for meaningful careers. We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to make an even greater impact on our community," said Dr. Huebner.

Lucy Lamberth, MCC director of Workforce Grants and Development, said grants received encompass a wide range of initiatives to strengthen the College's commitment to education and workforce development.

The five grants include Nurse Navigator, Nursing Simulation Lab Expansion, Lineman, Kubota, and Diesel Technology.

The Nurse Navigator grant will establish a dedicated support system for nursing program students. A designated navigator will provide students with comprehensive information about available resources on and off campus to help overcome barriers and ensure the successful completion of their chosen career pathway.

Funding from the Nursing Simulation Lab Expansion grant will facilitate the growth of the College's nursing simulation skills lab. This expansion includes acquiring additional

equipment, increasing the lab's capacity for students to engage in simulation-based learning within their chosen program of study.

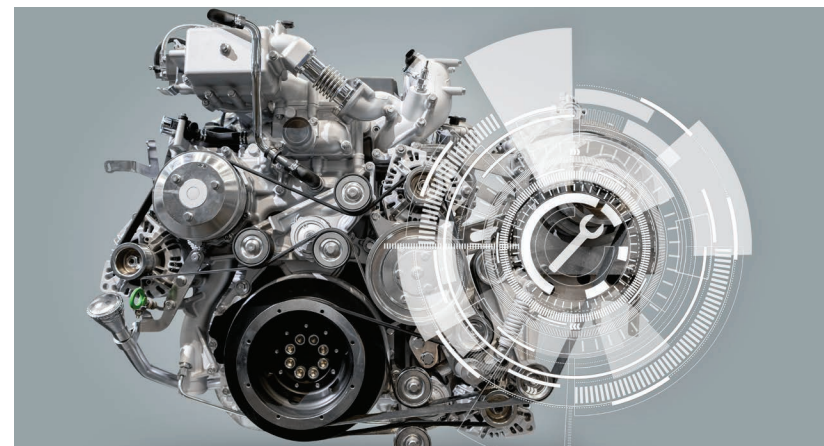
The Lineman grant will provide vital instructional support and equipment maintenance for the Utility Lineman program. In its inaugural year as a for-credit Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, this funding will ensure that students receive top-notch education and training.



The College is gearing up to launch a Kubota TECH NC3 certification course, focusing on maintenance specific to the Kubota brand. In partnership with Parish Tractor Co., MCC aims to become a Kubota-certified training facility. This grant will serve as startup funding for this course.

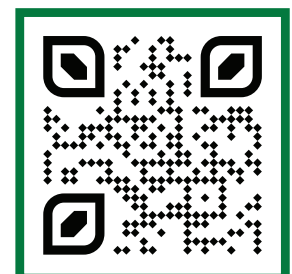
The Diesel Tech grant will provide essential startup funding for the implementation of a Diesel Maintenance Technician Program. This program will equip students with the skills and knowledge required for a career in diesel maintenance.

"These grants underscore MCC's commitment to providing high-quality educational opportunities and career



pathways for its students. With the generous support of AccelerateMS and the Office of Workforce Development, the College is poised to significantly impact the local workforce and the community as a whole," added Lamberth.

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FROM MCC ALUMNA TO CULINARY ENTREPRENEUR

ANDREA SNYDER'S INSPIRING
PATH TO SUCCESS





She's an entrepreneur, restaurateur, partner, manager, wife, and mom. Andrea Snyder exemplifies the transformative power of education and opportunity.

Snyder and her husband David launched two dining concepts, Urban Cookhouse and Farm Bowl + Juice Co.; the original Urban Cookhouse, a farm-to-fire-to-table, fast-casual restaurant, opened in June 2010. Farm Bowl + Juice Co., which began in January 2018, specializes in acai berry and oatmeal bowls, cold-press juices and smoothies. The Snyders have restaurants in Homewood, Vestavia, the Downtown communities of Birmingham, and one location in Tuscaloosa.

This Meridian Community College alumna (Class of 2002), grew up in the Meridian area. She now makes her home in the Birmingham, Alabama, suburb of Homewood, and credits her community college alma mater for giving her a firm foundation - without going into the red.

"I did not have any funds to start college, and I decided that it was important for my long-term financial health not to start my college career in debt," Snyder said.

Her initial collegiate plans looked different; she wanted to go to Mississippi State University and get a cheerleading scholarship to pay for college. "When I did not make the squad, I reevaluated my options," she said. That's when she looked closer to home. "MCC was the smartest choice financially for me, and I believed the quality of the basic prerequisites offered at MCC would prepare me for any university."

With its signature Tuition Guarantee Program, the MCC Foundation underwrites any part of the tuition not covered by other financial aid for graduates of Lauderdale County high schools and homeschooled grads. More than 8,000 students have been helped through the Tuition Guarantee Program since its inception 28 years ago.



After graduating from Southeast High School in 2000, Snyder enrolled at MCC and took advantage of the Tuition Guarantee Program.

“MCC and Tuition Guarantee gave me the time to explore different careers and majors, so I did not waste money while trying to figure that out,” she said.

When she started at MCC, she planned for a degree in nutrition and dietetics, but she soon realized, from job shadowing and researching, that the medical field wasn’t for her. That’s when she turned to marketing. “It seemed interesting and broad enough to apply to varied careers,” she remembered.

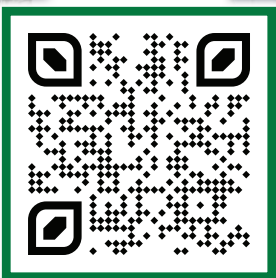
Among her favorite memories from her MCC days are her experiences in campus activities. “Recruiting allowed me to build my confidence as a public speaker, be involved in student life, and gain new friendships,” she said. She also credits Toastmasters as a core memory that prepared her for public speaking.

Snyder added, “MCC also gave me the opportunity to grow as a leader in a smaller college setting before being thrust into a large university.”

She continued her education by attending the University of Alabama, where she met David, who is also a native of Meridian. She received her degree in marketing; he earned his master’s in business administration. Their talents



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combine to make a powerful team, with David handling the business details and Andrea managing the marketing.

Snyder explained, "After graduating college, we received invaluable experience with a fast-casual restaurant start-up in Birmingham. The knowledge that we gained with that company gave us the confidence to take what we had learned and create our own concept."



"A critical factor in our success has been not compromising on recruiting and retaining the best talent," she added. Looking ahead, she envisions the family's businesses as staple establishments known for their unwavering focus on customer service and fresh, made-from-scratch recipes.

Another key to their success stems from Snyder's philosophy of gratitude and treating people well. "I frequently get texts and calls from customers telling me of the small moments created by our employees that make a big impact on their daily lives," she said. These reminders underscore her appreciation for her staff and their dedication to customer care.

She admits the most challenging part of the business is the stress of knowing that over 100 people depend on the couple to make the right decisions and maintain job security. Yet, this responsibility also brings immense satisfaction to Snyder.



"Seeing people happy in their jobs, enjoying their coworkers, and working as a team makes my heart happy."

The Snyders are the parents of two daughters, Ruby, 12, and Dylan, 10. "When I'm not working, I am managing the restoration of a pre-civil war home and maintaining our cattle farm in south Alabama," she said. "We acquired the properties in 2021; it is my family's absolute happy place."

Though she said she's not been as hands-on with the cattle operation as her husband, "it's been an exciting venture for both of us, and the farm is a place we can share and enjoy with friends and family."



David Quave, Dr. Sarah Garner Abernathy, and David Charles Garner

ALUMS CELEBRATED AS HALL OF FAME HONOREES

Meridian Community College honored three exceptional alumni during its annual Hall of Fame ceremony, recognizing their outstanding contributions to the institution and the wider community.

Inaugurated in the Hall of Fame Class of 2024 were Dr. Sarah Garner Abernathy, David Charles Garner, and David Quave. Dr. Abernathy is a family nurse practitioner for the G.V. Sonny Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Garner is the associate chief financial officer for the government of the District of Columbia. Quave retired from Medtronic Corp., marketing biomedically-engineered products. Dr. Abernathy and Garner are sister and brother, marking the first time siblings were inducted into the same Hall of Fame class.

"These individuals have made a lasting impact on their communities, and their contributions have been nothing short of extraordinary," said Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation. "Your contributions are immeasurable," she added, addressing the trio.

MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner echoed those sentiments, adding, "They have had a big impact, and we are as proud as we can possibly be of their work and service."



**HALL of
FAME**



Dr. Tom Huebner



Dr. Sarah Garner Abernathy, David Quave, and David Charles Garner



Dr. Sarah Garner Abernathy



Dr. Leia Agnew Hill

Dr. Abernathy, who had not been on campus for 50 years, said, "I am so thankful to Jesus Christ, who has guided and directed my life's career. And I am humbled to be recognized

by this institution where my foundation started at the age of 17."

She added, "MCC has afforded me the opportunity to move forward toward a successful career that has given me so much."

Also offering thanks, Garner said, "There were times that I truly would

have never imagined receiving an honor such as this. However, the good Lord saw fit to lift me up in those hard times and bless me with strength and courage just as he did Joshua after the death of Moses in the Bible."

He added that others - including MCC faculty and staff - helped him succeed.



Quave noted that MCC, "has played a pivotal role in not only shaping my educational journey but also the fabric of our community. And I truly believe that."

Meridian Community College was there for Quave and his family, "What a blessing," he said.

"It is my hope that every capable student in Lauderdale and surrounding counties will take full benefit of the academic excellence MCC has to offer," Quave added.



Also during the ceremony, deceased MCCers Mary Tolbert, Jimmie Evans, Clara Castle, Kelly McKee, Mark Gunn, Morris Sweatt, Darlene Withers, Tina Reena Keenan-Bonner, Sally Widen, and Mary Taylor were remembered with the Tolling of the Bells.

WATCH VIDEO



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David Charles Garner

BUILDING DREAMS AND BANKING SUCCESS

COOKSEY'S JOURNEY WITH MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Not all careers follow a straight, Point-A to-Point-B path; sometimes, a career pursues the person.

Take, for example, Meridian Community College alumnus and President and Chief Operating Officer for Great Southern Bank, Steven Cooksey.

A certified public accountant for a Meridian-based accounting firm for 16 years, Cooksey was offered the opportunity to join the bank in 2015. "It was a difficult decision because I was then a partner at the CPA firm, and such a move would require leaving the stability of the working world to which I was accustomed. Ultimately, I didn't want to look back in 10-15 years and wonder, 'what might have been,' he said.

After talking with his wife and praying about the situation, he accepted the offer and began his career in the community banking industry, where he oversees all operational aspects of the bank. Helping people pursue their dreams and achieve their financial goals continues to appeal to and drive him.

Growing up in Collinsville, Cooksey worked with his dad during high school breaks, a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker for local contractor Jim Anderson. "Most of the work was custom residential homes, but occasionally there would be a commercial business project. Ironically, during my time working for Mr. Anderson, it overlapped with the construction of Great Southern Bank's North Hills and Bonita Lakes branches," he remembered.

"Having been a part of the construction team on those facilities is something special to me, given my present role with the bank," he said.

When the time came for Cooksey to graduate from high school, he was unsure what to do. "No one else in my family had ever gone to college. There was a part of me that thought the logical next step was to simply follow in my dad's footsteps and continue in the construction industry," he said.



Steven Cooksey

His dad, though, offered him food for thought. While his father enjoyed working with his hands, the daily exposure to the elements took its toll. "He encouraged me to find something to do that would lead to an inside office job," Cooksey said.

Cooksey added, "This brought MCC into focus for me." When starting his college studies, Cooksey thought he would pursue a degree in engineering or architecture "that would still revolve around my limited experience in the construction field."

Fate would intervene again, though. Cooksey explained: "However, after narrowly surviving Don Gilliam's chemistry class, I was faced with having to take a physics class to continue on the path to a university transfer in the engineering program. A couple of weeks into the physics class was enough to let me know I needed to change direction."

Again, Dad's words hit home. "He told me that I should learn how to help other people manage their money, and then I would always have a job," Cooksey said. Over the years, as the elder Cooksey built houses for many doctors and lawyers, he observed they all seemed to have investment brokers, bankers, and accountants to help manage and invest their money.



GREAT SOUTHERN BANK

A Welcome Change In Banking

"MCC had some accounting classes available then, so I enrolled in Accounting Principles. The rest, as they say, is history," Cooksey said. He would continue his education at MCC, earning an associate of arts degree and transferring to Mississippi State University - Meridian Campus to receive a bachelor of science degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting. Cooksey passed all parts of the Certified Public Accountant exam on the first sitting and would later gain the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation. In 2023, he would be named a high honors graduate from the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

Cooksey joined Great Southern Bank in May 2015 as a senior vice president. A year later, he was named chief financial officer. In August 2022, he was named president and chief operating officer and began serving as the vice president of Great Southern Capital Corporation, the bank's parent holding company.

Great Southern Bank, originally founded in 1902 as Bank of Quitman, holds assets totaling more than \$350 million and has over 105 employees that operate 12 retail banking locations in Meridian, Decatur, Quitman, Enterprise, Waynesboro, and Hattiesburg.

For Cooksey, helping people pursue their dreams and achieve their financial goals appealed to him before he moved into banking, but it also applies today.

"There are still certain services that many people prefer to talk through with someone they trust and is informed about the nature of the transactions involved. It is in those instances that your local community banker can be indispensable to offer advice and a quick response when time is of the essence for a financial transaction," he said.

And what part of his job does he enjoy the most? "The 'big picture' lightbulb moment with a newer employee when they see how the work they do contributes to the overall successful operation of the bank," Cooksey said.

He adds that his community college alma mater is an asset. "Having the ability to get two years of college courses under your belt at MCC before transferring to a four-year college is not only a smart financial move, it also



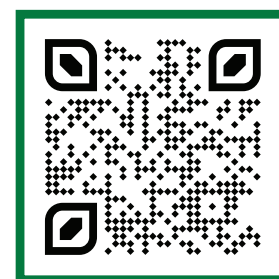
Dr. Ray Denton and Steven Cooksey

aids with the adjustment from high school to the college experience," he said.

Cooksey also sees the College's investment in the community, especially with the MCC Foundation's tuition assistance program. "For Lauderdale County students, the Tuition Guarantee Program made possible by local businesses and individuals is a fantastic benefit."

The College is also an investment for his family. Cooksey and his wife Tracy are the parents of two daughters, Savannah, 21, and Sarah, 19, who are MCC alums. Savannah graduated from the Dental Hygiene Program; Sarah completed her second year and plans to transfer to Mississippi State University in Starkville to pursue a degree in elementary education.

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MCC FOUNDATION LUNCHEON CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

Meridian Community College freshman Alondra Arreola-Espino expressed her gratitude for receiving an MCC Foundation Scholarship simply: "It makes me feel like I can keep going."

Arreola-Espino, who received the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Scholarship, was one of many students whose stories were shared during the MCC Foundation Scholarship and Endowment Donor Appreciation Luncheon. The Meridian resident graduated from the University Transfer Program.

The luncheon served as a platform to thank donors and to connect scholarship recipients and donors.

Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, acknowledged the donors for their generosity. "Scholarships do more than pay the bill; they open doors and create new opportunities. They empower students to focus on their studies, and they inspire them," she said.

"Because someone believes in them enough to help them pay for college," Dr. Hill said.

Pedro Gonzales, a sophomore from Chunky, studied in the Precision Machining Engineering Technology Program and is thankful to have received the Gene



Brandy Hill, Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, Theresa Hogan, Courtney Pitts



Justin Humphrey, Clay Holladay, Laura Greer Holladay, and Dr. Tom Greer



Barbara Jones, Rebecca Combs-Dulaney, and Dr. Tom Huebner



Brandy Hill and Jeanne Jones



Hannah Dover, Justin Humphrey, and Aaliya Mendiola



Haas Scholarship. "This scholarship is super important to me because I come from an immigrant household," he said.

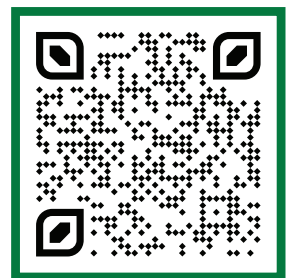
"This helps me to be able to work and go to school and not worry about the financial side of school so I can try my best in the classroom and outside the classroom," Gonzalez said.

Dr. Hill added that supporting education is investing in the future. "Scholarships can help produce the next generation

of workers, problem solvers, cancer curers, leaders," she added. She told the donors, "Your commitment to our students is very special."

By contributing to these scholarships, you are making a profound impact on the lives of our students and the broader community. Together, we can build a brighter future.

WATCH VIDEO



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Betty Purvis and Gerry Purvis

PURVISES CHAMPION EDUCATION WITH \$100K TUITION GUARANTEE PROGRAM GIFT

Betty and Gerry Purvis are lifelong supporters of education and community development and are committed to helping others.

As president and vice president of Purvis Business Machines, the Purvises have operated their Meridian-based, 20-plus employee business for 45 years; they credit Meridian Community College for their success. Gerry explained that after he served in the Army and began working in the electronics field, he reached out to an MCC representative and was able to attend college using the GI Bill. "I quickly discovered I loved college-level studies. After about three years of night school classes, I received my associate of arts degree," he said.

Gerry added, "My learning experiences at our community college literally changed my life and put me on a completely different career path."

His experience has also set him on a path to help others achieve their educational dreams. "I've always been a financial supporter of Meridian Community College," he said.





Statistics show that money is the biggest obstacle for most college students.

Meridian Community College's Tuition Guarantee addresses that problem by assisting Lauderdale County high school graduates with the affordability of community college. The MCC Foundation initiated the Tuition Guarantee in 1996, and it is funded by private investment from businesses and individuals.

Recently, the Purvises have pledged \$100,000 that is earmarked for the Tuition Guarantee endowment, helping to ensure its sustainability and its role in transforming lives for future generations. Betty explained the reason for their gift. "We would like to provide assistance in helping people so they will not be saddled with debt for their education or possibly have no hope of education without Tuition Guarantee or scholarships."

She continued, "Education is the key to success." Gerry added, "It's an investment."

"If we can help someone with their education/ability to provide for themselves, then that is a lifelong reward for us and the person we are helping. There are many worthy causes to donate to, but an MCC education gives people a hand up, not a handout," she said.

Gerry noted individuals can contribute to the Tuition Guarantee - not just businesses. "Folks in Meridian and Lauderdale County have a history of supporting worthwhile causes, of which this would be a major one," he said.

He recalled when he was initially approached with the Tuition Guarantee concept, he thought it was an excellent idea. A business leader shared with the Purvises that they would be approached by many in the community to give to their causes. "His recommendation was to pick out one thing that you

have a passion for and support that with all your heart and wallet," Gerry remembered.

"And that was an easy one. I believed education changed my life, so it progressed from there," he said.

He added, "We are truly blessed to have an institution such as MCC at our disposal in Lauderdale County. I think most of us know the current workforce needs have become technical in nature - gone are the days of finishing high school and just getting a job. Most jobs need specialized training or some type of certification - MCC can provide these opportunities at an effective price point."

Betty stressed that the Tuition Guarantee is not free money. "The hope is that students who benefit from MCC's Tuition Guarantee will pay it forward," she said.

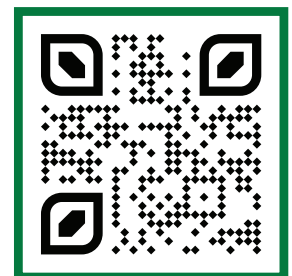
Embodying the spirit of giving, the Purvises said they follow their faith-based belief to help others whenever possible.

There's another way that philosophy has manifested itself. In 2009, Betty established a scholarship funded through The MCC Foundation in honor of Gerry, her husband of 54 years. "I recently made a book with the recipient's letters and thank you notes. And we've given 16 scholarships," she said.

"It's been a pleasure to do that. Some we knew, some we didn't know. We've helped people out there who were traditional students and older people who are going back to school. It's been a blessing in itself," Betty continued.

Gerry said, "For life to have meaning, there has to be a mixture of love, sacrifice, and giving."

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CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2024

From ceremonies to celebrations to cheers and tears, Meridian Community College hosted two Spring 2024 commencements for graduates from the Career and Technical Education and University Transfer Programs.

Dr. Tom Huebner, president of Meridian Community College, is proud of the Class of 2024. "MCC has played a pivotal role in helping these graduates discover their potential, equipping them with the essential knowledge, skills, and support to excel," he said. "Seeing them soar toward their dreams underscores the purpose of our efforts," he added.

The highlight of the University Transfer Program ceremony was the announcement of the Phil Hardin Foundation Scholarships, which were awarded to Nathan Louis Mott and Ember Lynn Temple, and the H. M. Ivy Scholarships,

which were presented to Phallyn Makale Clark, Amari K. Davis, and Madison Elizabeth Hines.

The Hardin Scholarships, which are \$5,000 awards to each honoree, pay tribute to the life of businessman Phil Hardin and his philanthropic endeavors to support education. The Phil Hardin Foundation funds them through the Meridian Community College Foundation.

Dr. H.M. Ivy, the founding father of Meridian Community College, is remembered through the Ivy Scholarships. This year marks the 51st year for outstanding graduates to receive scholarships. The honorees each receive \$3,600 for their junior year of study, and if their academic excellence continues, they will get another \$3,600 for their senior year of study. These awards, which are based on academic





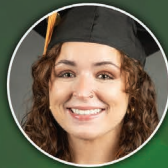
excellence, extra-curricular participation, financial need, and faculty appraisals, are funded through an endowment established by the Phil Hardin Foundation.

Mott is from Collinsville and plans to pursue a career in civil engineering. He is a member of the Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College at Meridian Community College and an officer in the MCC chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa academic honorary society. He plans to attend Mississippi State University. Temple, a Meridian resident, aspires to become a high school mathematics teacher while also coaching women's soccer. She is a member of the Honors College, a lead team member of the Baptist Student Union, a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and PTK. She will continue her education at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Clark is from Moselle and will attend Mississippi State University to study to become a physician's assistant. A member of PTK, Clark has been a member of the Lady Eagles Softball Team for her freshman and sophomore years. Davis, a member of the Honors College, is Student Government president, a member of PTK, and was selected to the All Mississippi Academic Team. This McComb resident plans to attend Mississippi State University and study engineering. Hines is from Livingston, Alabama, and will continue her studies at the University of Southern Mississippi in the medical laboratory science field. She is a member of PTK and the Honors College.

Also, during the ceremonies, 33 graduates were chosen as members of the Spring 2024 Circle of Excellence. Students who studied in the College's University Transfer and Career and Technical Education programs were saluted for their academic achievement, leadership, community service, and spirit.

Fifteen Career and Technical Education students named to the Circle of Excellence included Daniel Bihn of Enterprise, Precision Machining Engineering Technology; Jessie Broadwater of Florence and Savannah Cooksey of Collinsville, Dental Hygiene Technology; Meagan Cade of Caledonia and Rachel McCollough of Waynesboro, Associate Degree Nursing; Cameron Case of Philadelphia, Early Childhood Education Technology; Caitlin Coats of Philadelphia, Business and Marketing Management Technology; Catherine Compton of Scooba, Hannah Herrington of Stonewall, and Gracie Humphreys of Union, Physical Therapist Assistant Technology; Atoria Crowell of Meridian, Media Production Technology; Madison Gregg of Maben, Jonathan Polk of Meridian, Addisyn Pope of Collinsville, and Emily Stewart of Philadelphia, Radiologic Technology.



ALLISON BEARD



DANIEL BIHN



JESSIE BROADWATER



MEAGAN CADE



CAMERON CASE



PHALLYN CLARK



CAITLIN COATS



CATHERINE COMPTON



SAVANNAH COOKSEY



ATORIA CROWELL



AMARI DAVIS



HANNAH DOVER



BRADON EPTING



GARY LAMAR GIBSON



MADISON GREGG



DAWSON HESTER



HANNAH HERRINGTON



MADISON HINES



GRACIE HUMPHREYS



ISAAC JAMES



DAVANYE' KIGHT



CHARLES KING



RACHEL MCCOLLOUGH



THIAGO MARTINS-FASANO



AALIYA MENDIOLA



NATHAN MOTT



JOHNATHAN POLK



ADDISYN POPE



MEADOW SMITH



EMILY STEWART



EMBER TEMPLE



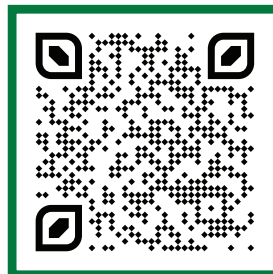
DAVID VICK



EMMA WINSTEAD

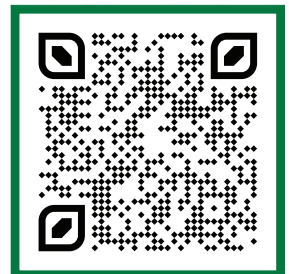
University Transfer Program students selected for Circle of Excellence were Allison Beard, Hannah Dover, Bradon Epting, Gary Lamar Gibson, Aaliya Mendiola, Thiago Martins-Fasano, Ember Temple and Emma Winstead, all of Meridian; Phallyn Clark of Moselle; Amari Davis of McComb; Dawson Hester of Brookhaven; Madison Hines of Livingston, Alabama; Isaac James, Nathan Mott, Meadow Smith, and David Vick, all of Collinsville; DeVanye' Kight of Ridgeland; and Charles King of Stringer.

2024 SPRING COMMENCEMENT UNIVERSITY TRANSFER VIDEO



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2024 SPRING COMMENCEMENT CAREER & TECHNICAL VIDEO



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MCC'S RACHEL McCOLLOUGH EARNS NCLEX® SCHOLARSHIP, ALL MISSISSIPPI FIRST-TEAM HONORS

Meridian Community College alum Rachel McCollough was awarded a scholarship to help cover the cost of NCLEX® exam fees and study materials.

Next Generation NCLEX®

The scholarship, funded by national nursing exam prep company Hurst Review Services, is exclusively for Phi Theta Kappa nursing majors who plan to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX®). Hurst Scholars received a code to cover the cost of Hurst Review NCLEX® study materials and a cash award to cover the exam fees.

The NCLEX® is a standardized exam each state's board of nursing gives to determine if RN or LPN/LVN candidates are competent for entry-level nursing practice. In addition to the scholarship, Hurst also provides a \$50 discount on NCLEX® study materials.

McCollough, 42, of Waynesboro, graduated from the College's Associate Degree Nursing Program in May. She has worked as an EMT and a paramedic, graduating from these College programs, and is now channeling her energies into nursing. McCollough, a member of PTK, was an honor student and earned the Dr. Jeff Hollingsworth Scholarship in 2023. She also was named to the First Team of the All-Mississippi Academic Team for the 2023-24 academic term.

She joined other Mississippi community college students who were recognized as First and Second Team members. The highest-scoring nominee from each of the 15 Mississippi two-year colleges is named to the

All-Mississippi First Team. The remaining students are chosen for the All-Mississippi Second Team.



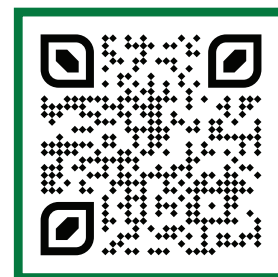
Rachel McCollough

"We are excited to continue our partnership with Hurst Review Services in helping address financial barriers students face with certification costs," said Dr. Monica Marlowe, executive director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation.

"With Hurst's support in providing NCLEX® certificate scholarships and study materials to PTK members, we can help meet the growing need for a trained workforce in nursing fields."

Phi Theta Kappa honor society recognizes students' academic achievement at associate degree-granting colleges and helps them grow as scholars and leaders. The Society comprises over 3.8 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 countries, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges.

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SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION

FIVE WAYS TO GIVE TO THE MCC FOUNDATION

President's Roundtable - PRT comprises businesses and individuals committed to supporting MCC's Tuition Guarantee program.

Annual Giving Fund - The Annual Giving Fund consists of gifts from individuals interested in supporting the College through scholarships, program support, or unrestricted funds.

Memorials and Honoraria - Donations are accepted as memorials and as living tributes. Acknowledgments are made using cards depicting a scene from campus.

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

Planned giving - Bequests, insurance, annuities, and trusts that list the MCC Foundation as the beneficiary.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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APPLAUSE

COLLEGE HONORS ITS OWN DURING CELEBRATION EVENT

MCC congratulated employees at the End-of-the-Year Celebration hosted by the MCC Foundation to recognize the hard work and achievement of College faculty and staff.

Among the notable highlights were the announcements of the winners of the T.J. Harris, Dr. Clarence W. Roberts Outstanding Teacher, John A. Johnson, Holladay Family Professional Development, and the MCCer of the Month awards.



Dr. Tom Huebner



Dr. Samantha Lay



Dr. Ida Holliday



Dr. Angie Carraway



Michelle Stokley



William Davidson



Rhonda Smith



Dr. Leia Agnew Hill and Dr. Tom Huebner



Crystal Sterling



Lisa Jenkins



AnHoward Hill

The Holladay Family Professional Development Award, with a \$2,500 stipend, provides professional development opportunities for College faculty and staff. Dr. Samantha Lay, English instructor; Dr. Ida Holliday, Associate Degree Nursing instructor; and Mandy Hurtt, executive director of admissions and recruiting, received these awards.

The MCC Foundation's Enrichment through Travel Awards, which are \$2,500 each, were given to recipients to enhance their lives and further MCC's mission through travel. Recipients were Dr. Angie Carraway, Science, Wellness, and Fitness Division chair and



Dr. Lara Collum and Nedra Bradley

chemistry instructor; Gloria Adams, Medical Assisting Program coordinator and instructor; and Jessica Simpson, Associate Degree Nursing instructor and simulation lab faculty member.

Dr. Tommy Winston, Physical Therapist Assistant Program coordinator and instructor, was named the T.J. Harris Award recipient. This award spotlights the work of an MCC team member who has contributed beyond their regular job description to the community and the College. Dr. Winston is active in Kappa Alpha Psi's Meridian alumni chapter, focusing on securing scholarships for young men pursuing higher education. He also leads a college prep ministry at Freedom Rock Church. At the College, he has been an advisor to Phi Theta Kappa academic honor society and a spokesman in commercials.



William Davidson, Rhonda Smith, and Dr. Leia Agnew Hill received the John A. Johnson Awards. Davidson is assistant dean of institutional research; Smith serves as college and career navigator; and Dr. Hill is vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation.



The Johnson Awards come with a \$500 honorarium each. Recipients are nominated for their demonstrated enthusiasm for the community college mission, college spirit, commitment to service and job, and interest and participation in community and campus activities.



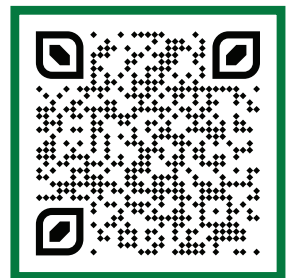
The Dr. Clarence W. Roberts Outstanding Teacher Awards celebrate distinguished work, innovative techniques, and service to the College and community. A \$500 gift is presented to each faculty member selected. Recipients were Lisa Jenkins, Associate Degree Nursing Program instructor; Michelle Stokley, computer science instructor; and Crystal Sterling, mathematics instructor.



In continuing the tradition of recognizing employees for years of service to the College, pins were presented during the celebration, too.

Retirees George Arinder, Christy Jones, Jill McKinion, and Jennifer Whitlock were also acknowledged for their contributions to MCC.

VIEW ON FACEBOOK



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CONGRATULATIONS

The MCC Foundation recognizes outstanding faculty and staff members with the MCCer of the Month Award. Recipients are honored with a plaque and a \$250 honorarium in recognition of their exceptional contributions.

Honorees are asked, "What do you like best about MCC?"

Here are their replies:



JANUARY | **TAYLOR STOKES**

Junior Programmer and Data Analyst

"One of the most remarkable aspects of MCC is its impact on the community, serving as a critical stepping stone for so many people's education and career pursuits."



FEBRUARY | **DESI LEEPER**

Webmaster and Media Specialist

"I get to work with some of the best people, and I am so lucky to be surrounded by a community filled with such genuine, caring individuals. I have found lifelong friends here, been supported through difficult times, and celebrated during the big moments in my life."



MARCH | **ANNAH MCRAE**

Workforce Coordinator

"My coworkers are the best people on earth. We are here for each other through the highs and lows. They really are a second family to me."



APRIL | **BRANDY HILL**

Senior Foundation Accountant

"The people! I've witnessed coworkers throughout the college face hard times, and the MCC family came together just as a family should and provided support in every way they could. The administration does a great job of setting high expectations for the quality of work they expect while also operating with a family-first mentality."



MAY | **ANHOWARD HILL**

Culinary Arts Coordinator

"The work culture and the family environment - I cannot think of a better place to work; I feel part of a giant family. MCC cares for its people!"



JUNE | **DR. CEDRIC GATHINGS**

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

"The best thing about MCC is the sense of community. We have a diverse and inclusive environment where everyone is committed to supporting each other."

CLARENCE WEATHERSPOON TAKES HELM OF MCC'S MEN'S BASKETBALL



Clarence Weatherspoon

Former NBA professional, Goodwill and Pan America Games player, and coach, Clarence Weatherspoon has been named head coach of the Men's Eagle Basketball Team at Meridian Community College.

Weatherspoon is succeeding Coach James Green, who is retiring after serving eight years at MCC. Green, who MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner described as a legend who invested in the lives of countless students, said he was excited for the College's next chapter in basketball with Weatherspoon at the helm.

Dr. Huebner said, "If you know basketball—at any level—you know Clarence Weatherspoon. Clarence has made a significant mark on the game as a high school player at Motley High School in Columbus, a college player at the University of Southern Mississippi, a 13-year NBA professional, and a D1 and community college assistant."

"He is a perfect fit for where we want to go at Meridian Community College. His vision for MCC

basketball is exciting, and I believe he will build on the important foundations established by Coach Green. The future of MCC Eagle basketball is in good hands," Dr. Huebner added.

Weatherspoon's coaching career includes serving as an assistant coach for the Jones College Bobcats for the past two years, as an assistant coach at Southern Miss from 2016 to 2022, and as a volunteer assistant coach role at Ridgeland High School.

Weatherspoon, a standout player under M.K. Turk with the USM Golden Eagles, scored 2,130 points, the second all-time in school history. As a senior, he averaged 22.3 points and 10.5 rebounds per game, with career averages of 18.5 points and 11.3 rebounds per





game. He led the Golden Eagles to their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearances in 1990 and 1991.

As a player, Weatherspoon's accolades include being the only three-time Metro Conference Player of the Year and the all-time leading rebounder in conference history. As an amateur, he represented Team USA in the Goodwill Games, earning a silver medal, and the Pan American Games, securing a bronze.

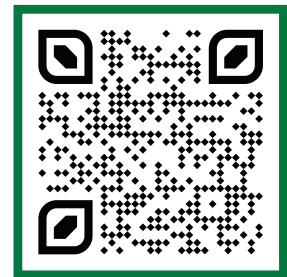
Weatherspoon was selected ninth overall in the 1992 NBA draft by the Philadelphia 76ers. He made an immediate impact, setting a rookie franchise record with 1,290 points and achieving 45 double-doubles in his second year, the seventh-most in the history of the NBA. Over his 13-year NBA career, he averaged 11.5 points and 7.5 rebounds per game, playing for Philadelphia, Golden State, Miami, Cleveland, New York, and Houston. He also made a memorable appearance in the 1993 Slam Dunk Contest, finishing second.

Weatherspoon looks forward to getting to work at MCC. "I want to thank President Tom Huebner, Athletic Director Sander Atkinson, and especially Coach Green for giving me this chance to become a head coach and a member of the MCC family. I say thank you to my wife Hazel, my kids, and all the coaches, family, and friends who supported me on this journey, especially Coach James Granderson, Coach M.K. Turk, and Coach Newton Mealer."

Weatherspoon is a native of Crawford and earned his degree from USM in 1993. He and his wife, Hazel, have two sons, Clay and Bryant, and a daughter, Simone.



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MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELCOMES RYAN MOUNCE AS NEW HEAD TENNIS COACH

Ryan Mounce has been named the new head coach for the Eagle Tennis teams and brings experience in coaching, personal training, and player development.

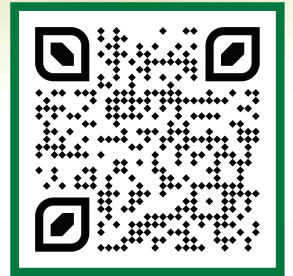
Meridian Community College Athletic Director Sander Atkinson noted Mounce's qualities. "Ryan brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success, which will be invaluable in continuing the tradition of excellence at MCC."

Mounce played at Oxford High School and served as vice president of the University of Mississippi club team. As an assistant coach at Lafayette High School under the mentorship of coach Debbie Swindol, Mounce helped direct the Lafayette Commodores to four state championships.

In addition to his coaching roles, Mounce is an experienced tennis professional at the Oxford Park Commission and has dedicated time as a personal trainer and wellness center staff member at the YMCA. His experience in personal training and player development uniquely positions him to propel the MCC Eagles to new achievements, Atkinson noted.

Mounce is grateful for the MCC opportunity. "I'd like to thank MCC Athletic Director Sander Atkinson, the interview committee, and MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner for allowing me to step into this role. I also thank Coach Debbie Swindol of Lafayette High School for providing me with so much guidance and mentorship as a coach and person over the last four years."

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EAGLES LEADERSHIP CONVOCATION CLASS OF 2024 INTRODUCES 'EAGLE EYE'



Ready to spread their wings are members of the E.L.C. Class of 2024, including Shaquita Hopson Alfonso, Jeanette Howell, Laureta Chislom, Angie Pickard, Eric Griffin, Erin Richardson, Jamila Brown Coleman, Christopher Haralson, Tim Cole, and Terrell Taylor.

With its capstone project, the Eagles Leadership Convocation (E.L.C.) Class of 2024 offered another way to share Meridian Community College's message with its internal audience.

E.L.C. is an academic year-long professional development and leadership program comprising 10 MCC faculty and staff members. This year's cohort included Shaquita Hopson Alfonso, associate director of veterans and military services and C2C coach; Laureta Chislom, executive assistant to the president; Tim Cole, director of custodial and support services; Jamila Brown Coleman, adult basic education director; Eric Griffin, Commercial Truck Driving Program instructor; Christopher Haralson, athletic trainer and sports information director; Jeanette Howell, support services coordinator; Angie Pickard, human resources director; Erin Richardson, instructional design specialist; and Terrell Taylor, art instructor and Casteel Gallery director.

As a part of their final project, the E.L.C. members crafted a solution to address a College issue and presented it

to the President's Cabinet. Haralson told the cabinet, "When faculty and staff understand the College's missions and goals, they collaborate more effectively. We need transparency and efficient communication to keep everyone informed and aligned."

They developed the idea of a communication vehicle, Eagle Eye, which will be available for MCC faculty and staff to glean essential information about the College. Information updates would correspond with campus-wide events, such as fall and spring convocations. Readers could use embedded QR codes in Eagle Eye to locate more information. Interactive videos will also be included.

MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner saw the project as doable and was pleased with the plan's preliminaries. "This is awesome," he said. Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, said, "This year's project is valuable because it presents the same message in multiple ways, enhancing its memorability."



The project presentation was the final gathering for the E.L.C. Class of 2024, but before they graduated from the program, they were applauded for their efforts and for helping to make a positive change for the College. "Thank you for being a part of it," said Dr. Huebner. "This has been exciting."

Coleman shared that the leadership program offered many benefits. "By participating in E.L.C., I not only contributed to the improvement of the college but also unlocked my personal growth and a career advancement opportunity by becoming director of adult education."

The Class of 2025 has been selected, and this new cohort includes Darren Bane, workforce project manager; Jaterra Hurst, women's basketball assistant coach; William Davidson, assistant dean of institutional research; Casey Holladay, social media coordinator and event specialist; Phyllis Holladay, mathematics instructor; Matthew Milner, lead media specialist and videographer; James Price, director of facilities management; Flora Sumrall, Business Office Technology Program and Accounting Technology Program coordinator; Crystal Webster, director of student accounts; and Marion Whiting, director of housing and student activities.

Each recipient will receive a leadership book, an E.L.C.-branded Polo-style shirt, a medallion, a certificate at graduation, and \$500 after program completion.

LEARN MORE



SCAN HERE



Shaquita Hopson Alfonso



Christopher Haralson



Laureta Chislom



Jeanette Howell



Tim Cole



Angie Pickard



Jamila Brown Coleman



Erin Richardson



Eric Griffin



Terrell Taylor



DR. TOM HUEBNER RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS' RECOGNITIONS

Meridian Community College President Dr. Tom Huebner has been awarded two international awards, the Pi Kappa Delta Order of Attainment and the Phi Theta Kappa Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction.

Pi Kappa Delta is an international forensics honor society dedicated to promoting excellence in speech and debate. Its Order of Attainment was established in 2007 to honor the societal contributions of PKD alumni whose contributions range global, national, or local in scope and reflect the role of forensics and Pi Kappa Delta in building life-long citizens.

In being named to the Pi Kappa Delta honor, Dr. Huebner joins educators, politicians, scientists, actors, journalists, and lawyers, including Edward R. Murrow, Ann Richards, Jerry Mitchell, James Belushi, Steven Hunt, Steven Beebe, and more. All were members of PKD and were recognized by the organization for work outside the speech and debate arena.

"This is a great honor for me," said Dr. Huebner. "I invested so many years of my life in intercollegiate



PI KAPPA DELTA
The Art of Persuasion, Beautiful and Just





employment. They have taken an active interest in helping high-achieving students and developing student leaders on campus.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Dr. Huebner earned a bachelor's degree in communication and English from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, a master's degree in speech communication from the University of Georgia, and a doctorate in communication from the University of Southern Mississippi. He also graduated from The University of Alabama's Community College Leadership Academy.

Dr. Huebner has been a collegiate communications instructor, a director of speech and debate, dean of admissions, vice president of enrollment management, and vice president of student affairs before becoming a community college president.

forensics and PKD. Being recognized in this way makes me proud," he said.

He added, "This award highlights the critical role of speech and debate in developing essential skills in our students. Joining the ranks of notable PKD alumni is a testament to the impact of our collective efforts in this field."

Gina Jensen, historian and convention coordinator of Pi Kappa Delta, said the Order of Attainment is the highest award the organization presents to someone who has left forensics and has been high-achieving outside the field. "It's a very special award; we've only awarded it since 2007," she said.

Only five or fewer people are recognized every other year for the Order of Attainment, and Jensen described it as "a very elite class of people." She said of Dr. Huebner: "He's done so much, and we feel like he deserves it because of all the good work he has done throughout his entire career, inside and outside of forensics."

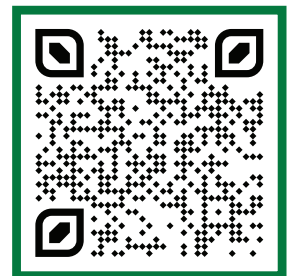
The Shirley B. Gordon Award is PTK's most prestigious award for community college presidents. To receive this top award, college presidents and CEOs must have served for at least five years. Students on campus nominate recipients who are only eligible to receive the award once throughout their careers. A field of 604 college presidents is eligible to receive this award. The award recognizes college presidents who support student success initiatives leading to more robust pathways to completion, transfer, and



Throughout his career, Dr. Huebner has been described as an energetic instructor, an inspiring professor, a trusted mentor, and a visionary leader.

He became the third president of Meridian Community College on July 1, 2018.

WATCH VIDEO



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DR. LEIA AGNEW HILL RECEIVES WHEMN LEADERSHIP AWARD



Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, Meridian Community College vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, received the Women in Higher Education Mississippi Network (WHEMN), Leadership Award.



WHEMN serves to promote women's leadership in Mississippi higher education, facilitate networking, forge partnerships, increase the visibility of women administrators, support

career development, mentor potential leaders, and acknowledge achievements through awards.

The WHEMN Leadership Award given to Dr. Hill signifies the recognition of her excellent leadership qualities, her ability to lead others, and her commitment to making a significant difference at Meridian Community College, according to Dr. Charlotte Pegues, 2024 WHEMN state coordinator. "This award not only highlights her professional achievements but may also inspire other faculty and staff members, encouraging them to strive for excellence," noted Dr. Pegues.

MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner echoed Dr. Pegues' comments. "It is such an honor for Dr. Hill to have been chosen from a distinguished group of community

college and university nominees across the state. I'm not surprised she was chosen, though. The last year has been difficult for Dr. Hill and her family, but she persists when most would just quit. Her tenacity is a special attribute and makes her a great example for young leaders to follow," he added.

Dr. Hill was honored and humbled to learn that she was the recipient of the WHEMN award and she credits colleagues and family for their support. "The ones who truly deserve recognition are the people surrounding me," she said.

In addressing other leaders at the conference, she offered this advice: "Invest time and effort into building your team. Find the right people for the right roles, nurture their growth, and trust their abilities. When you do, you'll find that leadership becomes a collective effort, and you'll have allies who stand beside you instead of behind you."

A graduate of MCC, Dr. Hill has worked in higher education for 18 years, and at the College for more than 14 years in roles that include foundation program coordinator and associate vice president of communications. Dr. Hill, who holds a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi, earned a bachelor's degree in communication from Mississippi University for Women, a graduate certificate in social media marketing from the University of Florida, and a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Mississippi.

Other accolades she has received include Mississippi's Top Leading Business Women, the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District Two Communicator of the Year Award, and the Distinguished College Administrator from the Phi Theta Kappa academic honor society.



MCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

FUELING GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

At the heart of educational excellence, the MCC Foundation's endowments are pivotal in sustaining and enhancing our community's future. These endowments serve as a testament to the enduring commitment of local families and organizations dedicated to fostering opportunities and growth.

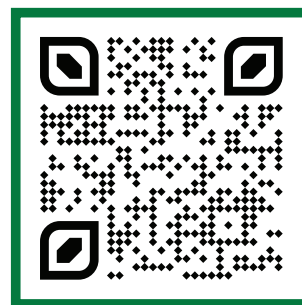
Recent additions to our endowment portfolio include:

- **The Meridian Council of Garden Clubs Endowment:** Supporting students facing financial hardships.
- **The Jerry Greene Memorial Scholarship:** Assisting students in the Hotel/Restaurant Management Technology Program.
- **The Gerry Wayne Purvis Scholarship:** Prioritizing children of Purvis Business Machines employees, with added focus on merit and financial need.
- **The Harold J. Meyer, Jr. Scholarship:** Aiding business program students who show academic promise and financial need.
- **The Keli Breanne Brown Memorial Scholarship:** Assisting physical therapist assistant students.
- **The Melvin Sanford Memorial Scholarship:** Honoring local high school baseball players maintaining a 3.0 GPA.

- **The Oscar Lewis Estate (OLE) LLC Scholarship:** Supporting special needs students in dual enrollment programs.
- **The Bill Autry Memorial Scholarship:** Helping Lauderdale County students with financial needs and a 3.0 GPA, particularly those who played tennis under Bill Autry.
- **The Wanda Sharp Dixon Memorial Scholarship:** Aiding students majoring in math or science.
- **The Marcella and Hubert Langford Scholarship:** Supporting education majors from Lauderdale County.

These scholarships, funded through the endowments, not only alleviate financial burdens but also open doors to countless possibilities for our students, enriching both their lives and our community.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



SCAN HERE

BUTLER RETURNS TO HER MCC ROOTS

Jaycee Butler has joined Meridian Community College as the executive assistant to the vice president for institutional advancement and MCC Foundation office coordinator, returning to her academic roots.

Butler began her journey at MCC in 1997, studying for two years before transferring to other universities. Initially pursuing speech pathology, she found her calling in elementary education and school libraries.

"Coming to MCC thrills my soul," Butler said. "While I'll always be a teacher at heart, I love the camaraderie, collaboration, and creativity that comes with this role."

She credits MCC for teaching her valuable study and planning skills.

Butler appreciates the College's growth and the enthusiastic atmosphere on campus. "Something is booming here, and I want to be a part of that," she said.

Married for 24 years to Eric, an anesthesia professional at Ochsner Rush Health, Butler has two children: Grant, 18, heading to Mississippi College, and Lila, 15, a high school sophomore.

Outside work, Butler enjoys home life, reading, and mission work.



"My faith is a big part of me," she explained, noting her connection to Haiti. Despite current travel restrictions, she remains hopeful about returning to her mission work there.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP 2023-2024 RECIPIENTS



DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

Cecil Adkins Memorial Scholarship

Raven Boyd

ADN Donor Scholarship

Tyshika Hawthorne

Anderson Board of Directors Scholarship

Ashley Hollman

Anderson Support and Development Foundation Scholarship

Macy Gray
Erika Nixon

Dr. William Jeff Anderson Memorial Scholarship

Robin Garner
Letasha Naylor
Marquita Brewster

Charles Armstrong Scholarship

Eboni Alford

AT&T Scholarship

Eli Collum

Bill Autry Memorial Scholarship

Allyn McCary
William Mitchell

Laurie M. Autry Memorial Scholarship

Catherine Compton

C. B. Bailey Memorial Scholarship

Ana Marie Hunt
Luke Ishee

Beverly Barham Memorial Scholarship

Destiny Chisolm

Barnett All-America City Scholarship

Jamie Blanks

Leonard Corydon Barrell Family Scholarship

Amiya Boyd
Cordaisha Jones

Sallie Mae Bell Memorial Scholarship

Alexis Conklin

Anna Munn Bennett Memorial Scholarship

Joeye McWilliams
Harley Pullin

Cameron Scott Boggan Memorial Scholarship

Shalishana Hundley

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

Maci Manning

Judie Bounds Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Thomas

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

Marqus Armstrong
Ebony Fulford

Thomas and Norma Bourdeaux Scholarship

Cameran Sammons

Harry & Vivian Boureau Music Scholarship

Payton Alexander

Susan Partridge Boyette Memorial Scholarship

Jasmine Smith

Gloria Blackshear Brown High School Equivalency Scholarship

Craven Smith

Keli Breanne Brown Memorial Scholarship

Rebekah Stephens

Margaret F. Butler Memorial Scholarship

Alexa Boger
Brendan Vetter

Fran and Wadell Byrd Memorial Scholarship

Kacey Williams

Madeline Scott Callahan Memorial Scholarship

Shaniuva Edmonds

Carney-Nelson Scholarship

Marquita Cooper
Kristen Knost

The Carter Foundation Scholarship

Madison Carr

Cater's Market Culinary Scholarship

T'Yunna Pierce

CEFCO C. E. Fikes Scholarship

Khadeja Johnson

Mark Chandler Memorial Scholarship

Natacha Fortenberry

Alta and Ivan Chisolm Memorial Scholarship

Halle Smith

Coastal Television Scholarship

Edward Rackley

Justin and Brent Cobb Memorial Scholarship

Jacob Russell

Robert F. Cochran Jr. Memorial Scholarship

John Voss

Lynn Bruner Combest Memorial Scholarship

Jaeden Carney

Lynn Combest Memorial Marketing/Photography Scholarship

Caitlin McDonald

Chuck Nicholson/Community Bank Veteran Scholarship

Justin Pugh

Winnie P. Crampton Nursing Scholarship

Ariana Ramos

Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship

Laryanna Hollis
Jada Kendricks
Aries Miller

Clifton "Buddy" Davis Memorial Scholarship

Camden Ivey

L. J. Davis and Winifred Davis Memorial Scholarship

Anna Kate McGowin

Toni L. DeVaney Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Franks

DHUGG Scholarship

Phillip Moore

T. K. Dobbins, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Madison Miller
Victoria Spears

Downtown Optimist Club/Bill Herndon Memorial Scholarship

Regina Lewis
Jonathan Sharp

Margaret Reed Dulaney Scholarship

Savannah Cooksey

Earnest Workers King's Daughters and Sons Scholarship

Jasmine Gilmore

R. A. Emmons Family Educational Scholarship

Michaela Acord
Danille Burnett

William H. Entrekin Family Music Scholarship

Samuel Mosley

Erika's Hope Memorial Scholarship

Amanda Nichols

Evans PTK Scholarship Award

Aaliya Mendiola

Don and Donia Evans Scholarship

Ava Hayes
Mallory Holloman

Hugh and Katherine Foster Memorial Scholarship

Hasen Caldwell

Marmion Loving Francis Scholarship

Kiersten Mabry

Bebe Roberts Freeman Scholarship

Heidi Gardner



Jacob Chester Frist Memorial Scholarship

Jerriunika Harris

Future Nurses Scholarship

Jamonique West
Teatrice White

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

Keon Buck
Tristan Buckalew
Ally Fisher
Blessing Godson
Hays Monsour

Kimberly Renata Govan Scholarship

Shakira Thompson

Dottie and Hardy Graham, Sr. Scholarship

Isaac James
Lance Rawson
Emma Winstead

Gayle Gray Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Barbara Nelson
Heather Wood

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

Heather Champion

Debbie Gunn Memorial Scholarship

Amanda Farr
Amber Speed

Mark E. Gunn Memorial Scholarship

Lanie Crawford

William Gunn, Esquire Memorial Scholarship

Amber Fant

Gene Haas Scholarship

Tyler Bearden
Daniel Bihn
Hannah Buchanan
Eli Collum
Daniel Davis
David Downs
Samuel Downs
Marisol Garcia
Pedro Gonzalez
Logan Hemphill
Justin Hopkins
Daniel Johnson
Tyson Marlow
Memphis Pierce
Nicholas Ray
William Satcher
Joseph Stephens

Phil Hardin Foundation Scholarship

Ali Applebee
Jaylen Vance

Lou Weddington Hart Memorial Scholarship

Edmariah Sherrod

Mattie D. Hart/Emma Donald Music Scholarship

Hasen Caldwell
SeDerrick Davis
DaVanye Kight
Connor Todd

Judy Hartzler Scholarship

Shamia Easter

Katherine Chisolm Hester and Lamar Hester Memorial Scholarship

Samantha Lauderdale

HireCNC Scholarship

Hannah Buchanan

T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial Scholarship

Stephany Reyes
Elizabeth Robbins
Libby Smith

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



Eddie Holladay Broadcast/Marketing Scholarship
Justin Humphrey

Dr. Jeff Hollingsworth Memorial Scholarship
Rachel McCollough

Hotel Restaurant Supply / Jerry Greene Scholarship
Albrie Harper
Diana Suarez

Catherine Hovious Nursing Scholarship
Jamia Hornsby
RyanDashia Worsham

Linda and Billy Howard Computer Technology Scholarship
Christopher Chertkow

Richard Harper Howarth, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Lauren Lewis

Dr. George Howell Nursing Scholarship
Shantiona Bridges
Jasmine Carter

Industrial Technology Scholarship
Reed Terrell

H.M. Ivy Scholarship
Joel Linton
Madison Moore
Garrett Riggs

Austin and Alice James Accounting Scholarship
Emily Benthall
Ali Mehr

John and Ann Johnson Scholarship
Brooklyn Baughman

Reuben S. Johnson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Tiara Powe

Walter and Cora Thompson Johnson Memorial Scholarship
Addison Keene
Ty Williams

Edwin Arlo and Bonnie Joiner Memorial Scholarship
David Vick

Ann and Ken Joyner Book Scholarship
Aliscia Bethard
Amber Gates
Fantasia Jennings

Lucy Kahlmus Dental Hygiene Scholarship
Reagan Mathis

Key Brothers Memorial Scholarship
Jasmyn Dees

Kingdom InfluenceHER Leadership Scholarship
Michaela McDonald

Gondine Kittrell Memorial Scholarship
Brittany Johnson

Prof. Howard Lane Memorial Scholarship
Randaius Gully

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship
JaBria Dunnigan
LaToya Flowers
Haylie Jarman
Matthew Scott
LaToya Steele
Shakira Thompson

LFW Ministries Scholarship
Carlisha Barfield

Stennis "Judge" Little Memorial Scholarship
Shaunta Dinkins
Mesheila Harris
Teresa Terrell

Lockheed STEM Scholarship
Bradon Epting

Jack Malone Memorial Scholarship
Dirk Dickson
Madisyn Sims

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

MCC Alumni and Friends Scholarship
Peyton Simpson

MCCF Board of Directors Scholarship
Christian Wilkins

MCCF Miscellaneous Scholarship
Satcher Fulcher
Shawonder Wilson

Kathleen Newby McDaniel Memorial Scholarship
Keeton Garrett
Anne-Marie Giles

Emily Louise McDonald Nursing Scholarship
April Ervin

Percy R. McLemore Scholarship
Nikkie Brown

Meridian Area Dental Association Scholarship
Reagan Mathis

Meridian Exchange Club/Bo Russell Memorial Scholarship
Marco Espino

Meridian Lion's Club Scholarship
Angel Buckley

Meridian Media Group Scholarship
Tonya Jenkins

Meridian Rotary Club Scholarship
Kennedy Franklin
Parker Webb

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship
Kinsey Davis
Marisol Garcia
Morgan Inshetski

Richard L. Meyer Memorial Scholarship
Pretavia Crockett

Thomas Y. Minniece Memorial Scholarship
Giulia Riccotte

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship
Harleigh Barham
Fallon Blackwell
Dacia Booth
Jimmy Brazell
Marquita Brewster
Buffy Brooks
Jasmine Brown
Meagan Cade
Jasmine Carter

Heather Champion
Zachquana Cole
Ramanitra Denson
Amanda Edmonds
Michael Ekes
April Ervin
Amber Fant
LaToya Flowers
Teonna Gadson
Robin Garner
De Carlos Garrett
Shekira Gill
Jasmine Gilmore
Aleeyah Griffin
Kayla Haney
Tyshika Hawthorne
Savannah Henley
Dana Holdiness
Ashley Hollman
Keshuna Hunter
Brittany Johnson
Lashanda Jones
Kamryn Kidd
Maria Landrum
Jennifer Laws
Adam Leister
Laquandra Lewis
Maci Manning
Aaliyah McCallum
Allyn McCary
Rachel McCollough
Lakeesha McFarland
Takeita McNair
Gary Meadows
Zykerial Miller
Rosalyn Moss
Jada Moulds
Letasha Naylor
Amanda Nichols
Tony Odum
Jasmine Pegues
Camryn Phillips
Kimberly Pitts
Monica Potts
Tiara Powe
Bilishia Powell
Harley Pullin
Cynthia Roberts
LaToya Robinson
Erica Smith
Marilyn Smith
Amber Speed
LaToya Steele
Meagan Suggs
Lisa Tackett
Nycolette Terrell
Sierra Thedford
Gregory Thompson
Brittany Todd
William Walton
Alaysha Watson
Andrea Weir
Jamonique West
Teatrice White
Rodney Wilcox
Kacey Williams
Shanette Williams
Dylan Williamson
Raven Wilson
Heather Wood
RyanDashia Worsham

Mississippi Power Heritage Scholarship

Christan Jones
Cartavion Naylor
Wallace O'Field
Kaydence Patterson
Justin Phillips
Marquez Williams
Johnathan Willis

Mitchell Companies Scholarship

Jaylon Pruet

William D. Mobley Dental Hygiene Scholarship

Jessie Broadwater
Katelyn Reding

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

Alondra Arreola-Espino
Emily Guin
Matilyn Lee
Landon Nixon
Latoya Robinson

Dr. William R. Moore, II Memorial Scholarship

Aleeyah Griffin

Joyce Morrison Memorial Scholarship

Fallon Blackwell

Steven Nabors Memorial Scholarship

Jesse Mixon

Ruth Van Dyke Nelson Memorial Scholarship

Gavin Ricks

Virginia Price Nelson Scholarship

Kelsee' Purnell

Sara and Sam Niemetz Memorial Scholarship

Christopher Watson

Gloria Nuckolls Memorial Scholarship

Heather Addy

Alexander Ott/The Crossings Memorial Scholarship

Madison Alford
David Downs

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

Latoya Robinson

Mark M. Porter Memorial Scholarship

Tanner Haguewood

Rev. George Pugh Memorial Hospitality Scholarship

Erika Monroe
Tracey Stanley

Gerry Wayne Purvis Scholarship

Samuel Downs

Jo and George Rea Memorial Scholarship

Alyssa Franklin

Recycled and Renewed/Second Chance Scholarship

Raven Wilson

Elizabeth Riley Memorial Scholarship

Kristen Hosey
Lakeesha McFarland

Richard F. Riley, M.D. Scholarship

Gregory Thompson
Rodney Wilcox

Miriam Roberson Nursing Scholarship

Kaylynn Boshoff
Allyn McCary

Ardell Moffett Rogers Memorial Scholarship

Harley Morland
Haley Stockman

I. A. Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship

Cora Bucurel

Lucile Reisman Rosenbaum Scholarship

William McCullough

Royalty Education Scholarship

Margaret Freeman

Sonny Ruff Excellence in Nursing Scholarship

James Grantham

Big and Ham Sanders Memorial Scholarship

Aaliya Mendiola



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Joe Charles and Mai Keen Sanders Memorial Scholarship
Ashley Viverette

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Emma Murray

Lee Anne Smith Memorial Scholarship
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Maude Smith Scholarship
Meadow Smith

Margaret and Bill Smylie Scholarship
Kathryn Grant

State Farm Companies Scholarship
Laquandra Lewis
Reagan Mathis

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Pretavia Crockett

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Madison Gregg

Dr. Dan Thornton, Jr. Scholarship
Alicia Gabrelcik

Mae Carroll Thornton Scholarship
Chezzie Dearing
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Jacob Toney Memorial Scholarship
Ashlee Craft
Jessica Suarez

Jacob "JT" Touchstone Memorial Scholarship
Sylvia Yates

Bob and Barbara Walker Scholarship
Mary Pean

Rodney Walker Technology Scholarship
Hayden Burrage
Charles Watson

Waters Family Scholarship
Chloe Smith

Norma Rawlings Webb Scholarship
Felecia Hales

Tommy Webb Business Scholarship
Jessica Harrison

Hunter George Weddington Memorial Scholarship
Alaysha Watson

James C. and Garnett S. Wilbourn Family Scholarship
Kayli Warren

Joan K. Williams Memorial Scholarship
Catherine Odom

Charles James Winright, Jr. and Jean Ellen Winright Memorial Scholarship
William Moffett
Emma Sowell
Hallie Thomas

WTOK-TV Broadcast Communication Scholarship
Terrance Parker

Charles L. Young, Sr. Cosmetology Scholarship
Noelle Clay

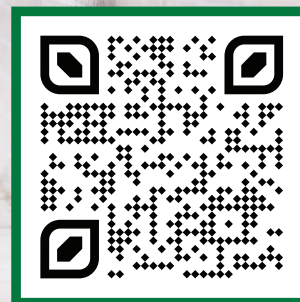
Charles and Doretha Young, (MLK) Scholarship
Pedro Gonzalez
Lane Mercer
Kanedria Page



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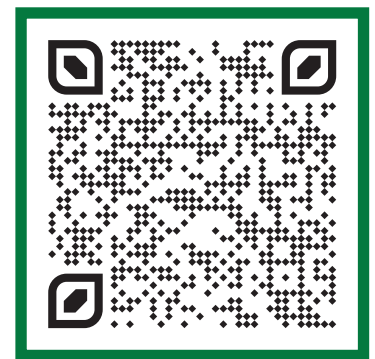
Supporting the MCC Foundation means transforming lives through initiatives like Tuition Guarantee, merit scholarships, and program support. Your generosity not only empowers students but also strengthens our community, ensuring every dollar invested enriches futures and builds lasting impact.

“We give to what we value, to what tugs at our heartstrings; we give to what we connect with, where our passions lie,” said Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation.



NAMING NAMES

Is there a notable MCC alum who deserves to be a member of the MCC Hall of Fame? If so, send us their resume and nominate them as part of the MCC Hall of Fame recipients.



Scan the QR code or visit: www.meridiancc.edu/halloffame