

WE PUT **COMMUNITY** IN COLLEGE

The power of community: see how investment builds lasting legacy, unlocking a future of unlimited potential for every generation.

MCC Alum DJ Johnson

PRESIDENT'S EDITION 2026

CONNECTIONS MAGAZINE



INSIDE THIS EDITION



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

Lara Collum, Ph.D.
Vice president for workforce solutions
and dean of nursing

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

Leia Agnew Hill, Ed.D.
Chief of staff, vice president for
institutional advancement and
operations and executive director
of the MCC Foundation

Lucy Lamberth
Vice president for financial services
and chief financial officer

Will Nathan
Vice president for enrollment services
and institutional technology and chief
technology officer

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.

TIME WELL SPENT

WHY MCC'S STORY NEVER GETS OLD

Just this morning, I had the opportunity to spend some time with the leadership team from one of our local school districts. It was a wonderful way to begin the day. Being in a room with people who have devoted their lives to educating and guiding the next generation is always inspiring. Hearing about their successes, their challenges, and the responsibility they carry reminds me how fortunate we are to have so many dedicated educational leaders in our community. It also gave me the chance to share the story of Meridian Community College. I am always proud to tell our story; it was a good morning.



Dr. Thomas Huebner

I have many opportunities to talk about MCC and the work we do, and each time I am reminded that this place is truly special. Our history is unlike that of any other community college in Mississippi. Because of how and why we were founded, our connection to this community runs especially deep. Every decision we make is rooted in the people and places we serve. This town, this county, and this region are our focus. We work hard to adapt to a changing educational landscape, but we do so while honoring the vision of those who built this college: creating opportunities for people to discover a path forward and a purpose worth pursuing. The impact of that vision can be seen all around us.

The fingerprints of Meridian Community College are everywhere in our community. Our graduates help lead our cities and counties. They own businesses, build companies, and create jobs. They serve as physicians, nurses, radiologic technologists, dental hygienists, and countless other healthcare professionals who care for our families every day. They are attorneys, judges, law enforcement officers, pastors, educators, and public servants. They build our roads and bridges, maintain our infrastructure, fly our airplanes, power our industries, and keep our economy moving forward. Many first discovered their purpose while sitting in an MCC classroom, encouraged by faculty who believed in them and supported by staff who helped them succeed. Others answered the call to military service and proudly wear the title of Eagle wherever they are stationed around the world.

When you stop to think about it, the influence of this college is remarkable. For nearly nine decades, MCC has been helping students discover what is possible and providing the opportunities to pursue it.

If you've watched one of our commercials, followed us on social media, visited campus, or read this edition of Connections, you've seen our slogan: Find Your Wings. Those three words capture the heart of what happens at Meridian Community College. Every day, students arrive with hopes, questions, talents, and ambitions. Here, they find encouragement, preparation, training, and opportunity. They discover abilities they didn't know they had and possibilities they hadn't yet imagined.

Helping students find their wings is more than a slogan. It's our purpose. And being part of a college so deeply committed to that purpose is about as rewarding as it gets.

Go Eagles!

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

► FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MCC . . . WHERE FUTURES RISE



Dr. Leia Agnew Hill

At Meridian Community College, we often talk about student success in terms of graduation rates, workforce training, scholarships, or transfer opportunities. Those things matter because they represent lives being changed every single day.

But behind every number is a person with a story.
A first-generation student working two jobs while pursuing a nursing degree.
A parent returning to college to create a better future for their family.
A workforce student learning skills that will strengthen not only their own future but the future of our entire region.

That is what this year's theme, "MCC ... Where Futures Rise," represents.

At MCC, we see education as more than coursework and credentials. We see it as a launching point, a place where confidence grows, opportunities expand, and futures begin to take shape. Every classroom, every scholarship, every mentor, and every partnership contributes to helping our students rise to their full potential.

This mission has always been at the heart of MCC, but today it feels more important than ever.

Across our campus, we continue to see remarkable growth and momentum. Our students are excelling in healthcare, workforce development, academics, athletics, the arts, and community leadership. Employers continue to look to MCC as a trusted partner in preparing the next generation of skilled professionals. Donors and community supporters continue to invest in our students because they understand the lasting impact education creates for families and communities alike.

Through the work of the MCC Foundation, we are also reminded daily that generosity changes lives. Scholarships often provide more than financial assistance; they provide hope, encouragement, and the reassurance that someone believes in a student's future.

That is why our additional campaign message, *Elevating Eagles. Strengthening Futures*, resonates so strongly. When we invest in students, we strengthen our workforce, our local economy, and our communities for years to come.

Whether you are an alumna or alumnus, donor, employee, student, or friend of the College, you are part of this story. Your support, encouragement, and belief in our mission help create opportunities that truly transform lives.

At MCC, futures do not simply begin here.

They rise here.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "L. Agnew Hill".

MCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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.



C.D. Smith, community leader, returned to MCC as a 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 the retired regional director with AT&T Mississippi.



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



Alex Weddington, 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

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 Greg Slay
 Donnie Smith
 R. Jeffrey Smith
 Robert Smith
 Tyler Walton
 ML Waters
 Alex Weddington
 Hon. Veldore Young-Graham

CONTRIBUTORS

Mark Brentnall
 Director of visual media

Dr. Leia Agnew Hill
 Chief of staff, vice president for institutional advancement and operations, and executive director of the MCC Foundation

Theresa Hogan
 Foundation scholarship coordinator

Amy Miller
 Lead graphic designer

Matt Milner
 Director of videography and sports information

Glenda Sanders
 Executive assistant to the chief of staff, vice president for institutional advancement and operations, and executive director of the MCC Foundation

Joy Smith
 Communications coordinator

Kay Thomas
 Director of public information

MCC PARTNERS WITH BROWN UNIVERSITY ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

Meridian Community College students are gaining research experience typically found at a four-year university while helping study environmental conditions in their own community.

MCC students Hannah Beddingfield, Laklee Howell, and Elizabeth Shirley presented findings from an ongoing project connected to Brown University School of Public Health and Community Noise Lab. The research looks at air quality, noise, light, and water conditions in the greater Meridian area.

Dr. Erica Walker, a Mississippi native and assistant professor of epidemiology at Brown University, leads the Community Noise Lab project. Dr. Angie Carraway, MCC chemistry instructor and division chair of science and wellness, serves as MCC's principal investigator for the project.



"This project is about helping people understand their environment and how they can protect their communities as growth continues," Dr. Carraway said.



Students collected data from 13 sites, resulting in 52 measurements taken during the day, at night, on weekdays, and on weekends. They used air, noise and light monitors to gather information, then worked with Brown University collaborators to analyze and interpret the results.

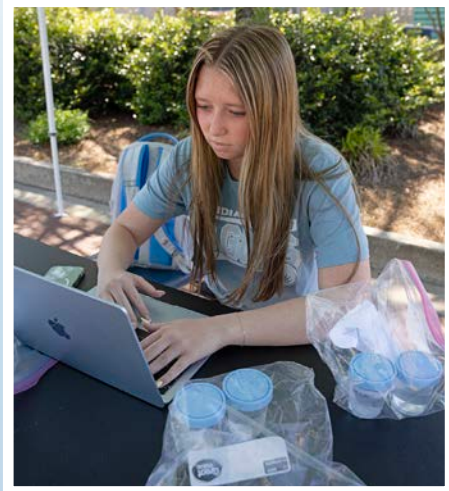
The students found that air quality measurements were within the "good" range. Daytime noise levels were near recommended limits, while some nighttime levels were higher, likely because of nearby railroads, highways and urban activity. Students also studied light

pollution and determined that results were within the accepted range. They tested home water samples from faculty and staff as part of an honors chemistry project.

Dr. Cristina Nica, one of the Brown University project collaborators, said MCC's work is part of a larger Environmental Comfort Index project involving communities in Mississippi, Alabama, and Rhode Island.

"We are very proud of these students and very grateful for the chance to work with MCC," Dr. Nica said.

Dr. Chad Graham, MCC dean of academic affairs, said the project gives students a rare chance to take part in undergraduate research at the community college level.



Visit meridiancc.edu for more information.



Laklee Howell, left, Elizabeth Shirley, Hannah Beddingfield, Dr. Angie Carraway, and Dr. Cristina Nica review before the project presentation.

MCC'S PRESIDENT'S CABINET WELCOMES NEW LEADERS

Meridian Community College's President's Cabinet has added three new members to its team of senior leaders who help guide the College's work in academics, student support, workforce training, finance, technology, operations, and institutional advancement.

Joining the Cabinet are Dr. Lara Collum, vice president for workforce solutions and dean of nursing; Lucy Lamberth, vice president for financial services and chief financial officer; and Will Nathan, vice president for enrollment services and institutional technology and chief technology officer.

They join Dr. Cedric Gathings, vice president for student affairs and dean of students; Dr. Leia Hill, chief of staff, vice president for institutional advancement and operations, and executive director of the MCC Foundation; and Michael Thompson, vice president for academic affairs.

Under the leadership of MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner, the Cabinet helps establish priorities, strengthen College operations, and advance MCC's mission to improve lives by meeting the educational, cultural, and workforce needs of local and global communities.

"These leaders bring a deep understanding of MCC, a commitment to our students, and the experience needed to help us move the College forward," Dr. Huebner said. "They understand our work is ultimately about creating opportunities for students and strengthening the communities we serve."

Together, the Cabinet reflects a balance of institutional knowledge, professional expertise, and a shared commitment to MCC's mission.



Dr. Lara Collum

A first-generation college student and graduate of MCC's Associate Degree Nursing program, Dr. Collum brings more than three decades of experience in nursing practice, education, and administration. During her 28 years at MCC, she has provided leadership for nursing and health programs while supporting faculty, curriculum development, accreditation, student success, and program growth.

"I am excited to strengthen partnerships with employers and expand opportunities that prepare students for successful careers. My goal is to ensure our programs remain responsive to workforce needs while supporting economic growth throughout our community."

– Dr. Lara Collum

PRESIDENT'S
PRESIDENT'S



Lucy Lamberth

Lamberth, also an MCC alumna, joined the College in 2010 as workforce project and grants manager. In her new role, she will focus on strengthening financial processes, supporting compliance and accuracy, and ensuring the College's financial operations align with institutional priorities.

"I am honored to serve MCC in this new role and to continue working alongside such a dedicated team," Lamberth said.

"I look forward to helping guide strategic decisions that support the College's mission and future growth. My goal is to ensure we remain strong stewards of the resources entrusted to us through transparency, accountability, and compliance, while supporting innovation and student success. Together, we can continue building a strong foundation for our students, employees, and community."

– Lucy Lamberth



Will Nathan

Nathan brings 25 years of experience in software and infrastructure development, systems strategy, managed services, and large-scale technology projects.

His responsibilities include aligning technology with MCC's mission, strengthening cybersecurity, improving operations, supporting student success, and making tools such as artificial intelligence useful and accessible. He also will provide strategic leadership and oversight for the College's Enrollment Services areas, including Recruiting, Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar, and Records.

"My goal is to build systems, processes, and relationships that make it extremely easy for students to begin and complete their educational goals at MCC." – Will Nathan

"Every student. Every interaction. Every opportunity. We will leverage the most modern technology to support our people, data to inform our decisions, and strategic methods to create the best and most effective end-to-end experience for our students," Nathan said.

Dr. Huebner added, "Our Cabinet members understand the importance of collaboration. Their work helps ensure that MCC remains focused on students, responsive to workforce and community needs, and prepared for the opportunities ahead."

EAGLES IN ACTION

MCC'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



SEPTEMBER 2025

POW/MIA Salute

MCC hosted a POW/MIA flag-raising ceremony outside Ivy-Scaggs Hall. Students, employees and community members gathered to honor those who served and those still missing.



OCTOBER 2025

My College Cares

More than 600 volunteers took part in MCC's annual *My College Cares*. Students, faculty, and staff served across the community, helping local agencies and food pantries.

Candy Cruise

Candy Cruise 2025 brought more than 2,500 people to MCC's track. Campus groups hosted themed booths, handed out thousands of pieces of candy, and welcomed families for a night of fun.



Queen City Race for Life and Street Strut

MCC hosted the *Queen City Race for Life and Street Strut*, drawing nearly 100 participants. The event celebrated breast cancer survivors, honored patients, and raised support for the Baptist Anderson Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund.



NOVEMBER 2025

Veterans Day

MCC honored veterans during its annual *Veterans Day Program*. Lt. Col. Charles Schellbach, commander of the 186th Operations Group at Key Field Air National Guard Base in Meridian, served as keynote speaker.



FEBRUARY 2026

Blood Drive

Students, employees and community members donated blood during MCC's two-day *campus blood drive*. Hosted with Mississippi Blood Services, the event drew 40 donors and helped support patients in need.

MARCH 2026

Honor Stride Walk

MCC's *Honor Stride Walk* brought the campus and community together to honor veterans and service members. The event also remembered Sgt. Robert "Shane" Pugh and raised awareness for veterans and service members.



MCC Performing and Fine Arts Celebration at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience

Students performed music and displayed artwork during the *MCC Performing and Fine Arts Celebration at the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience*, marking the first college showcase hosted at The MAX. The free event featured the Concert Choir, Dimensions, Guitar Ensemble, Resurrection Jazz Band, and Screaming Eagle Community Concert Band, along with student artwork. Officials praised the students' talent and said the event successfully connected the college's creative programs with the community.



APRIL 2026

Walking on Wednesday

MCC launched its Special Olympics Club with its first Walking on Wednesday event. The club promotes ability, inclusion, and friendship, and MCC is the first community college in Mississippi to establish a Special Olympics Club.



**Special
Olympics**
Mississippi



**MCC
Club**

COLLEGE FOR KIDS

BRINGS HANDS-ON LEARNING TO LIFE

From rockets and slime to goat milking, Meridian Community College's College for Kids brought children ages 6-12 to campus for two weeks of hands-on learning, discovery, and fun.

More than 500 children took part in this year's annual camp, which offered a safe, supportive environment for young explorers to try new things, make friends, and get a taste of college life at an early age.

Each day brought something different, as students learned, created, and discovered alongside their peers.

"College for Kids is one of the ways MCC reaches out to families in our community, giving young students an early, exciting introduction to college life," said Veronica Fox, recently appointed community engagement coordinator for College for Kids, alumni relations, and Foundation events.

"It's a chance for them to explore, ask questions, and discover things they might not get to try anywhere else, all while feeling right at home on campus."

The program is built around curiosity, confidence, and connection while giving kids a space to meet new people, try new things, and walk away with memories they'll carry with them.

Fox, who will direct College for Kids in 2027, is already looking ahead to next year's class.





NEW CENTER MOVES MCC INTO HIGH GEAR

Meridian Community College has received a \$475,000 grant from the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) under the State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) program.

The grant, which was the only one issued to an educational institution in Mississippi, is earmarked for the College's Transportation Technology Center (TTC).

"This is great news, and we are truly excited," said MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner. "This grant accelerates our vision for high-quality training in transportation technologies. It strengthens our ability to give students relevant, hands-on skills while helping employers find the talent they need to grow," he added.

Three years ago, MCC received a special state appropriation of \$2 million for construction and a federal grant of approximately \$615,000, facilitated by U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, to purchase equipment for a new Transportation Technology Center. Those funds enabled the College to acquire a former car repair business and initiate renovations to the facility, which now houses two new programs.

Although the College's original plan was to cover all construction costs within its existing budget, the opportunity to apply for the SEID grant arose, and the grant application was subsequently approved.

The TTC will provide hands-on training in diesel and automotive maintenance, addressing critical workforce shortages in our region. College officials predict that, by partnering with multiple employers, the TTC will prepare students for high-demand careers.

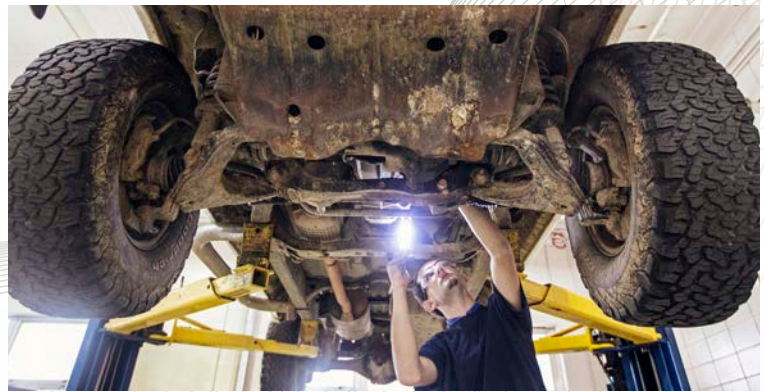




The Automotive Technology and Diesel Mechanic Technology programs will open in their new facility in Fall 2026.

The SCRC grant program is designed to revitalize communities and spur economic development across counties in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Visit meridiancc.edu for details.



THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

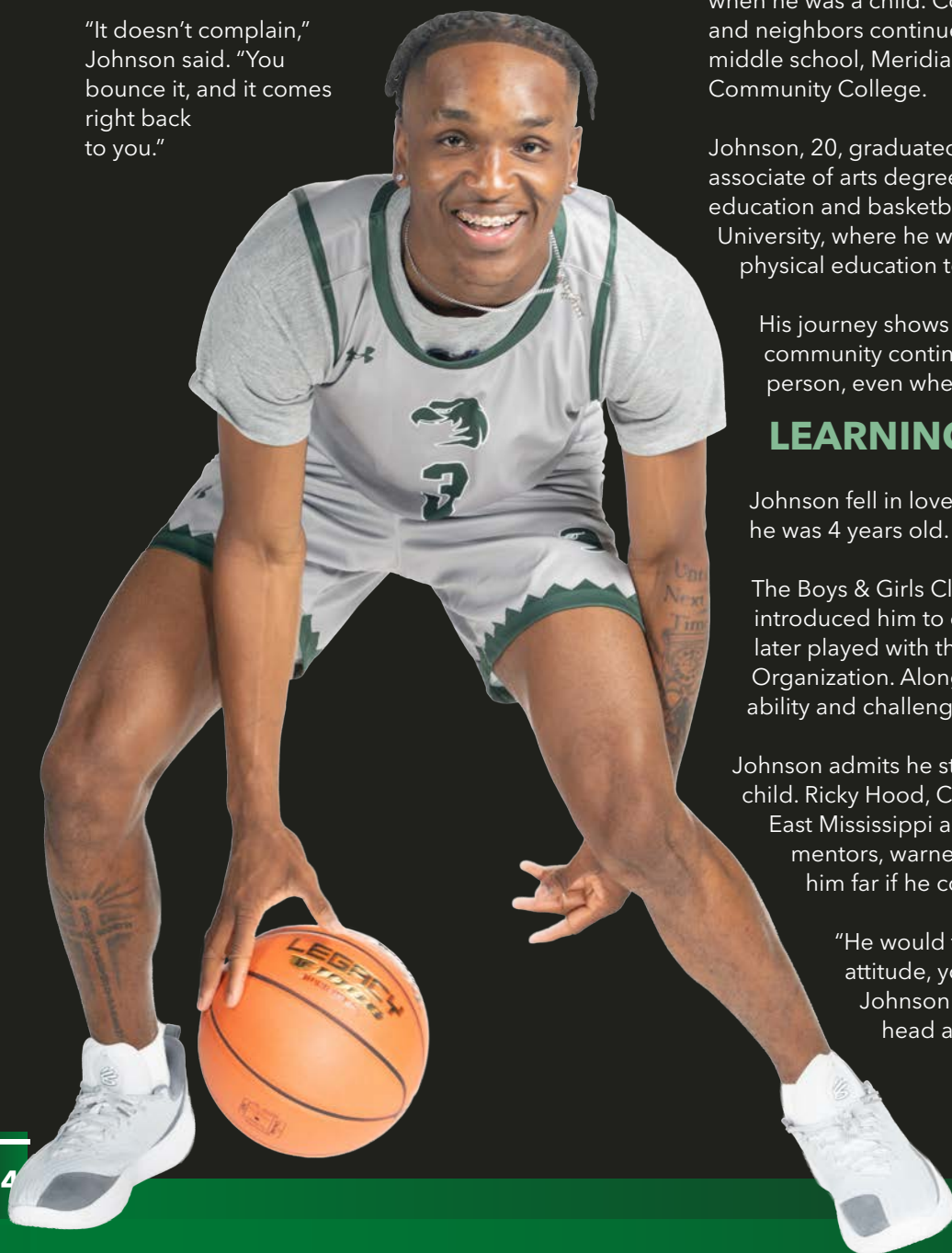
HOW SUPPORT HELPED ONE MCC STUDENT UNLOCK A FUTURE OF UNLIMITED POTENTIAL

With encouragement and assistance from MCC and the surrounding community, one student found the resources and confidence to pursue his goals.

Dantwaine “DJ” Johnson learned early that a basketball will always come back.

He can push it away, drive it toward the floor or send it toward the rim. Each time, the ball returns to his hands.

“It doesn’t complain,” Johnson said. “You bounce it, and it comes right back to you.”



For Johnson, basketball has been more than a game. It has been a safe place, a source of direction and a connection to the people who helped shape his life.

The Meridian community began investing in Johnson when he was a child. Coaches, teachers, mentors and neighbors continued that investment through middle school, Meridian High School and Meridian Community College.

Johnson, 20, graduated from MCC in May with an associate of arts degree. He plans to continue his education and basketball career at William Carey University, where he will work toward becoming a physical education teacher and coach.

His journey shows what can happen when a community continues to believe in a young person, even when the path forward is difficult.

LEARNING TO KEEP GOING

Johnson fell in love with basketball when he was 4 years old.

The Boys & Girls Club of East Mississippi introduced him to organized basketball, and he later played with the Mississippi Express Basketball Organization. Along the way, adults recognized his ability and challenged him to grow.

Johnson admits he struggled with his attitude as a child. Ricky Hood, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of East Mississippi and one of Johnson’s longtime mentors, warned him that talent would not take him far if he could not control his emotions.

“He would tell me, ‘Son, if you don’t fix your attitude, you aren’t going to get far in life,’” Johnson said. “I had to keep that in my head and replay it over and over.”

The lesson became clearer when Johnson's attitude affected his playing time in middle school. At Meridian High School, basketball coach Ronald Norman continued to push him.

Norman had known Johnson since he was a fifth-grade student in his wife's class. He saw a young player who wanted the opportunities and success others had and was determined to prove that he belonged.

"He is what I call an overachiever, and a better word might be an overcomer," Norman said. "He overcame everything that was presented against him. He never let anything deter him."

Hood watched Johnson respond to difficult expectations with persistence.

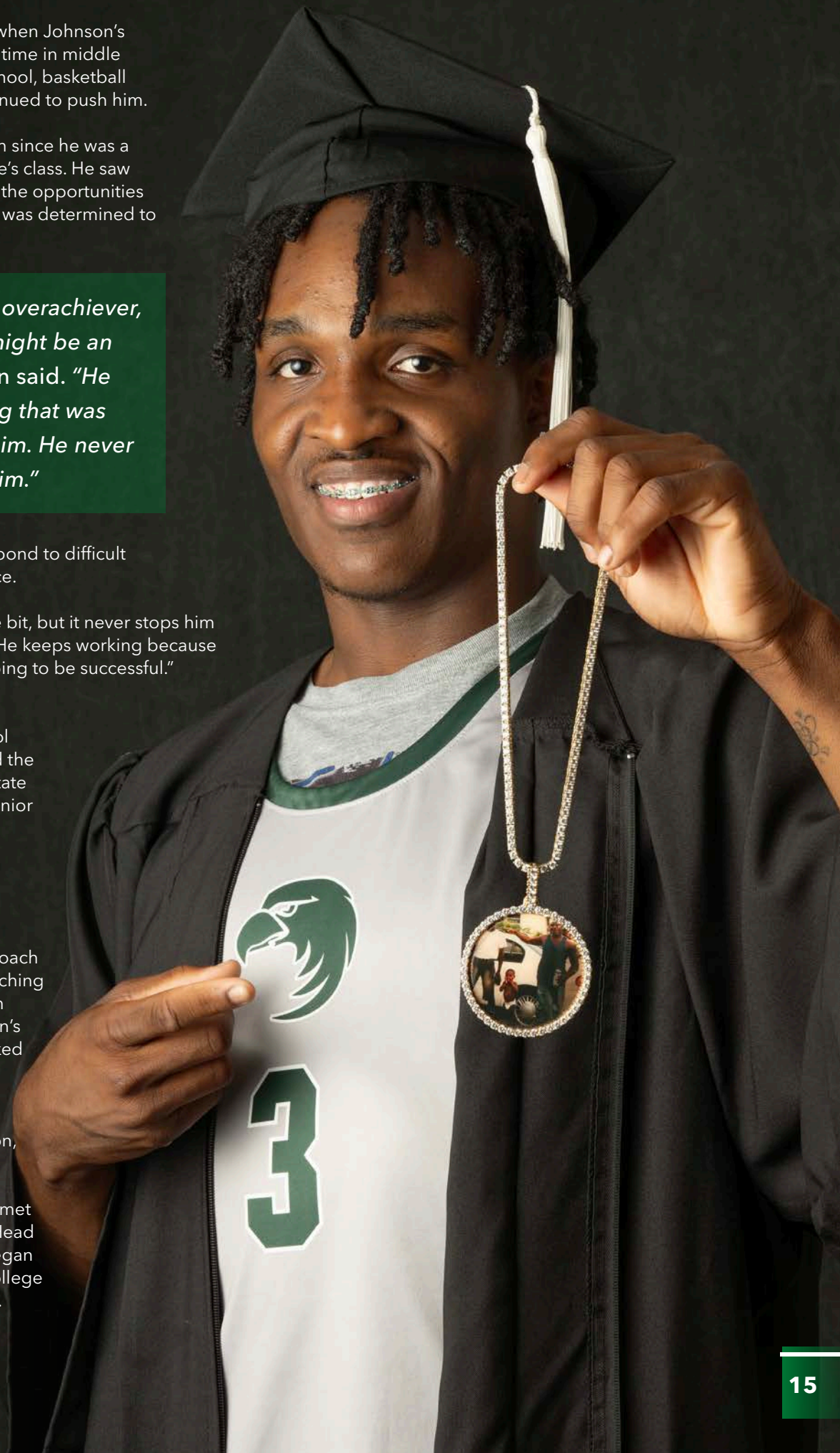
"He gets discouraged a little bit, but it never stops him from working," Hood said. "He keeps working because he has decided that he is going to be successful."

Johnson earned his place on the Meridian High School basketball team and helped the Wildcats win the Class 7A state championship during his senior year in 2024.

EARNING HIS OPPORTUNITY

MCC Assistant Basketball Coach Eric Washington began watching Johnson while he was still in high school. During Johnson's senior year, Washington asked whether he would consider playing at MCC.

The Rev. LaBaron Hedgemon, an MCC Board of Trustees member, took Johnson to campus for a visit. Johnson met with then-MCC Basketball Head Coach James Green and began picturing himself playing college basketball in his hometown.



After Green retired in June 2024, new Head Coach Clarence Weatherspoon called Johnson and asked whether he still wanted to attend MCC.

Johnson said yes.

He joined the team as a walk-on.

Nothing was guaranteed.

"He wasn't the first choice when he went to Meridian Community College," Hood said. "He wasn't the first choice when he played in high school, but he developed into one of the top players."

Johnson worked his way into the lineup, started several games and helped MCC reach the playoffs during his first season.

"DJ gave consistent energy every day," Weatherspoon said. "During a long season, it is easy for guys to get lazy or complacent. DJ brought the energy every day and set the tone."

Norman said MCC gives local students a chance to continue their education and athletic careers without leaving the community that helped raise them.

"They are able to realize they can achieve their goals of success in basketball right at home at Meridian Community College," Norman said.

CARRYING A PRIVATE LOSS

Johnson's college experience changed after his father, Jonus Johnson, died in April 2025.

Johnson returned to class carrying a loss that few people knew about. Some days, he completed his work and left campus as quickly as he could. Other days, he struggled to attend.

"I was barely coming to school," Johnson said. "I wasn't telling anybody."

He missed assignments and exams as he tried to manage school, basketball and grief on his own. His instructors noticed something was wrong and worked with him, allowing him to complete assignments and encouraging him to continue.

Johnson had not realized how many people at MCC were willing to help because he did not think he could go to them with his problems.

"The teachers, they love you for real," he said. "They pray for you. I had to find that out when I was going through everything."

Dr. Cedric Gathings, MCC vice president for student affairs, got to know Johnson through conversations in his office.

"His confidence and his drive to want more for himself stood out," Dr. Gathings said. "DJ always believed he could accomplish more, and he was willing to put in the work to get there. He just needed support and guidance."

Basketball also became one of the ways Johnson worked through his grief. He would put on his headphones, walk through his neighborhood while dribbling a ball or go to the gym alone to work out.

"For that short amount of time, you don't even think about it," Johnson said. "You don't have to worry about anything."



Johnson wears a two-sided medallion featuring a photo of himself and his father. A message on one side reminds him that his father remains with him spiritually.

"I see it, and it helps me get through the day," Johnson said. "I know he's always with me spiritually."

Johnson returned for his second season at MCC. When the anniversary of his father's death approached, the grief became difficult again. This time, he spoke with his instructors and accepted their help.

"I needed to get to school," Johnson said. "I didn't have time to let my people down."

He also remained focused on becoming the first person on his mother's side of the family to graduate from college.

A COMMUNITY BEHIND HIM

Hedgemon said Johnson's determination reflects both the challenges he has faced and his desire to honor those who helped him.

"He has been a benefactor of other people's compassion and concern," Hedgemon said. "He wants to make good on their choice and favor toward him."

The strength of that support became visible during sophomore night at MCC, when about 60 family members, friends, coaches, teachers and other supporters walked onto the court with Johnson.

"It was a blessing and an honor to hear everybody clap for you," Johnson said. "Stuff like that adds up. People don't know that you appreciate them until you tell them."

MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner said Johnson represents what can happen when people see beyond a student's present circumstances.

"DJ is a prime example of what happens when a community gets behind a person," Dr. Huebner said. "He has a huge fan club that includes teachers, instructors, coaches, friends, advisors, housekeepers, pastors, leaders, servants and a community of people who believe in what he can be."

Norman said that support followed Johnson because he represents the city that raised him.

"He's that kid who showed everyone, 'I can do it,'" Norman said. "He was proud to wear the blue and white jersey, and he was proud to wear that green

and white Meridian jersey. He represents what a Meridian kid is about."

Johnson uses one word to describe what community means to him.

"Family," he said. "A second family."

GIVING BACK

Johnson is already beginning to offer younger players the same guidance others gave him.

"There are a lot of good kids out here, but they have an attitude," Johnson said. "I can tell them my story because I went through the same stuff. They can look up to me."

He coaches younger players and talks with them about their struggles.

"He knows that we gave something to him, so now he is paying it forward," Hood said. "He understands the importance of giving back what was given to him."

Johnson is now preparing to leave Meridian, continue his education, and find a new community at William Carey.

"I need to step out of my comfort zone," he said.

He will carry with him the expectations of his coaches, the patience of his teachers, the guidance of his mentors and the encouragement of a city that repeatedly chose to invest in him.

Now, Johnson is ready to make that same investment in someone else.





MCC HALL OF FAME HONOREES CELEBRATE FAITH, OPPORTUNITY, COMMUNITY

Meridian Community College's newest Hall of Fame inductees each took a different path after leaving campus, but their messages struck a common theme: MCC opened doors that helped shape their lives.

The MCC Foundation hosted the annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony in McCain Theater, honoring four alumni who have excelled in their professions and communities. This year's class included Lane Burroughs, head baseball coach at Louisiana Tech University; the Hon. Larry Gill, mayor of Marion and businessman; William "Skip" Scaggs, executive director of the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association; and Sela Ward, an award-winning actress.

Gratitude, faith, and opportunity were woven throughout the remarks as the honorees reflected on the people and experiences that influenced them. Many pointed to MCC as a place where their futures began to take shape.



Dr. Leia Hill



Dr. Leia Hill, Dr. Thomas Huebner, and Barbara Rose



Dr. Thomas Huebner and Barbara Rose, Burroughs's mother



Dr. Thomas Huebner and Hon. Larry Gill



Dr. Thomas Huebner and William "Skip" Scaggs



Sela Ward



Lane Burroughs, Hon. Larry Gill, William "Skip" Scaggs, and Sandy Clark



Lane Burroughs



Hon. Larry Gill



William "Skip" Scaggs and Hon. Larry Gill



William "Skip" Scaggs



Sela Ward

"None of this would be possible without God's grace, mercy, and favor over my life," Gill said. He added that the award belonged not only to him, but to those who helped him along the way. "When one person opens a door, and a community walks through it together, amazing things can happen."

Burroughs, the first person in his family to attend college, joined the Eagles baseball team after high school and played under legendary coaches Corky Palmer and Scott Berry. In a video message, he said the recognition was humbling.

"I'm truly honored and, quite frankly, it's surreal," he said.

His time at MCC changed the direction of his life. "That's where I decided I wanted to become a coach," Burroughs said. He also credited the College's professors, instructors, staff, coaches, and students with helping make him the man he is today.

Gill spoke about faith, community, and the importance of people who invest in others.

For Scaggs, the honor carried special meaning because MCC has been part of his life for as long as he can remember. His father, Dr. Bill Scaggs, was the first president of Meridian Community College.

"This is a humbling opportunity," Scaggs said. "It's rewarding to know my alma mater thinks enough of my efforts to award me with such recognition."



Dr. Thomas Huebner, Craig Hitt, Bert Stephens, and Dr. Leia Hill



Joseph Knight and Sandy Clark

Ward, who also shared remarks by video, encouraged current students to recognize the value of the place they are in and the possibilities ahead of them.

"You're in a place that believes in your potential," she said. "Never underestimate what somebody from Meridian, Mississippi, can do."



Shannon Sheppard, Sandy Clark, Luke Clark, and Carolyn Clark

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE **TALON CLUB** *30 years of service*

The ceremony also recognized longtime employee Sandy H. Clark, who was inducted into the College's Talon Club for 30 years of service. Clark described working at MCC as a blessing, saying, "It's such an honor to work at such a great place."



Dr. Leia Hill and Barbara Rose

WATCH VIDEO



SCAN HERE



Barbara Rose, Hon. Larry Gill, William "Skip" Scaggs, and Sandy Clark

ALUMNA'S MCC START LEADS TO STATEWIDE HEALTH CARE IMPACT



Ashley Darby found her future when she watched a CT scan for the first time.

The image on the screen showed the job-shadowing high schooler what was possible in health care.

"That moment, I knew I wanted to pursue a career as a radiologic technologist," Darby said.

Today, Darby is executive director of health system clinical operations at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. In this role, she oversees radiology, cardiovascular services and neurophysiology, working with teams across Mississippi who are focused on providing quality care to patients.

Meridian Community College helped her take the first step.

Darby graduated from MCC, in 2005, with a degree in Radiologic Technology. At the time, the Louisville native was looking for a college that was close to home, affordable, and strong in her chosen field.

MCC offered all three.

"MCC was a natural fit," she said. "It offered me an academic scholarship, and it was fairly close to home. The combination of opportunity, accessibility, and a strong program made it an easy decision."

While attending MCC, Darby began working at Rush Health Systems, now Ochsner Rush, in Meridian as a student X-ray technologist. After graduation, she moved into a full-time role, advanced into CT and later earned her ARRT CT certification.

Over the next nearly 18 years, Darby built a career at Rush in clinical and leadership roles in X-ray, CT and ultrasound. Along the way, she continued her education, earning a bachelor of science in health sciences from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, an associate degree in sonography technology from Jones College, and both a master of health administration and a master of business administration from Louisiana State University Shreveport.

In 2021, she joined UMMC as imaging manager for Children's of Mississippi and later was promoted to director of imaging services. In 2025, she transitioned to her current role.

"I always knew I wanted a career in health care, but what drew me specifically to imaging was the ability to see inside the human body and directly impact patient care," she said.

Darby said diagnostic imaging plays a key role in patient care because it gives physicians the information they need to diagnose, treat and plan care.

The field also keeps changing.

"Technology is constantly evolving, and even today, I'm just as fascinated by it as I was when I first saw that CT scan," she said. "I truly love what I do."

Her future goals include helping strengthen the health care workforce through leadership and skill development. She also wants to help guide decisions that improve operations and lead to better health outcomes.

Darby still remembers the support she found at MCC. She said the small class sizes and hands-on instruction created a learning environment that helped her succeed. Her favorite memory came at commencement, when she was surprised with the Circle of Excellence award, an honor that celebrates graduates for their academic achievement, leadership, community service, and spirit.

"It was an incredibly meaningful recognition, and it still hangs in my office today as a reminder of where my journey started," she said.

Darby now lives in Union with her husband, Justin Darby, who also graduated from MCC. The couple has been married for 17 years and has two children, ages 14 and 11.

For students who are thinking about college, Darby encourages them to explore their options and learn what different careers look like before choosing a path.

"Take the time to explore your options, especially through job shadowing if you can," she said. "It's one of the best ways to understand what a career truly looks like day to day."

For those considering health care, she said MCC is a strong place to begin.

"MCC offers excellent, affordable programs that can get you into the workforce quickly while still providing a strong foundation for future growth," Darby said. "It's a great place to start and build your career."

Visit meridiancc.edu for more information.





Alan Hart, Tyler Walton, and Lloyd Gray

MCC LUNCHEON PUTS FACES WITH THE GIFTS THAT CHANGE LIVES

Scholarships are often measured in dollars, but their value is found in the lives they change.

That impact was celebrated at the Meridian Community College Foundation's annual Scholarship and Endowment Donor Appreciation Luncheon, where donors, scholarship recipients, and campus leaders gathered to recognize the power of giving.

The event gave the Foundation an opportunity to thank those who invest in MCC while connecting them with the students whose lives are directly affected by their generosity.

"At the Meridian Community College Foundation, we talk often about impact," said Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, chief of staff and vice president for institutional advancement and operations, and executive director of the MCC Foundation. "But what makes today so special is that the impact is sitting right here in this room."

Dr. Hill said donor support helps make education more accessible, removes barriers for students, and creates lasting legacies through scholarships and endowments. She reported that the Foundation now has 156 endowments and 256 named scholarships. In the past year, the Foundation helped 416 students with more than \$662,000 in assistance beyond Tuition Guarantee support.



Carolyn Smith, Ann Alexander, and Dr. Thomas Huebner



Marmion Francis, Dr. Thomas Huebner, and Barbara Jones

MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner thanked donors for believing in the College and its students, noting that scholarships represent more than financial aid. They reflect sacrifice, generosity, and confidence in a student's future.

"Those dollars represent a sacrifice on the income someone made so that you have this opportunity," Dr. Huebner said. "That's so meaningful."



Karlee Pierce and Betty Purvis



Dr. Tommy McDonald and C.D. Smith



Rebecca Combs Dulaney and Dr. Leia Hill



MCC EARNS NATIONAL NOD AS ACHIEVING THE DREAM LEADER COLLEGE

Helping students succeed often begins with removing the barriers that stand between them and their goals. At Meridian Community College, that work is ingrained in the College's culture.

MCC has been named a 2026 Leader College by Achieving the Dream, a national organization that partners with community colleges to strengthen student success, economic mobility, and community impact.

The designation recognizes colleges that demonstrate measurable progress in expanding access, improving student momentum and retention, and using data-informed strategies to better support students.

"MCC's partnership with Achieving the Dream has strengthened our focus on helping students succeed," said MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner. "This recognition reflects the intentional work taking place across our campus to remove barriers, support students, and help them reach their goals."

PROUD TO BE A 2026 LEADER COLLEGE!



Achieving
the Dream

Recognized for our unwavering
commitment to student success
and institutional transformation.

MCC joined the Achieving the Dream Network in 2022 and is one of 36 community colleges honored with Leader College status in 2026.

Achieving the Dream President and CEO Dr. Karen A. Stout said the selected colleges demonstrate "sustained commitment and measurable progress in advancing student success" and serve as examples for institutions across the national network.



Achieving
the Dream

MCC GRAD NAMED AS NEW CENTURY WORKFORCE SCHOLAR



Josie Reid was at work between X-rays when she checked her phone and saw the message.

"I was shocked," Reid said. "I had just finished a few chest X-rays and checked my phone. I didn't think I would get anything."

Reid, a 21-year-old Meridian Community College graduate from Collinsville, was named a 2026 New Century Workforce Scholar. The honor includes a \$1,500 scholarship and recognizes one student from each state for academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to career goals.

The program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. More than 2,300 students from nearly 1,400 colleges were nominated nationwide.

Reid graduated from MCC's Radiologic Technology program in May, following in the footsteps of her mother, who completed the same program in 2008.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do at first," Reid said. "I got my associate of arts degree in 2024 and then moved into the Rad Tech program. My mom loved what she did, so I wanted to try it."

That choice quickly became a calling. Reid said she enjoys learning how the body works and seeing it through medical imaging.

"Every part of the body connects and works together," she said. "I really love what I do. I enjoy going to work every day."



Josie Reid

While completing the program, Reid balanced classes, clinicals, and work in X-ray at Baptist Anderson Regional Medical Center. Her weekly schedule included clinicals on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and work in between.

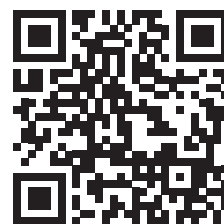
Her dedication showed in the classroom. Reid earned all A's while completing her associate degree and was named to the President's List. She also volunteered in community events.

Reid plans to continue working in radiologic technology and is considering specializing in mammography.

"We congratulate Josie for receiving this prestigious scholarship, and we are honored to partner with The Coca-Cola Foundation to recognize these outstanding achievements," said Phi Theta Kappa President and CEO Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner.

"Scholarship programs like this are integral for creating opportunities for students to succeed as they prepare to enter the workforce and for putting college completion within reach."

LEARN MORE



SCAN HERE



Dr. Thomas Huebner and Dr. Cedric Gathings

FOUR COMMENCEMENTS SPOTLIGHT GRADS' SUCCESSES

Cheers, applause, and some tears could be repeatedly heard and seen throughout Meridian Community College's Graham Gymnasium as the College celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2026 with four commencements, honoring students from Career and Technical Education and University Transfer Programs, marking the end of one chapter and the start of another.

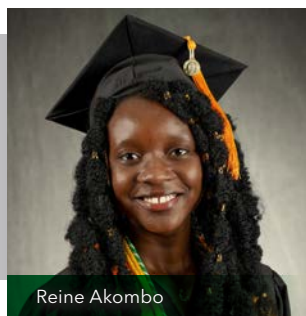
MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner praised the graduates for their hard work and determination.

"MCC has helped these students find their potential and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed," he said. "Watching them reach for their dreams reminds us why we do this work."

The highlights of the ceremonies were the announcements of two scholarships: the H.M. Ivy Scholarships, presented to Reine Akombo of Yaounde', Cameroon; Nicholas Lewis of Meridian; and Aleah McMullan of Decatur, and the Phil Hardin Foundation Scholarship awarded to Abdulhalim Obid and Emma Sowell, both of Meridian.



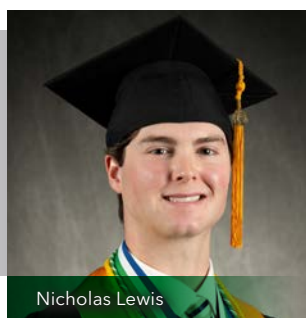
Dr. H.M. Ivy, the founding father of Meridian Community College, is remembered through the **Ivy Scholarships**. This year marks the 52nd year for outstanding graduates to receive scholarships. The honorees each receive \$3,600 for their junior year of study, and if their academic excellence continues, 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.



Reine Akombo

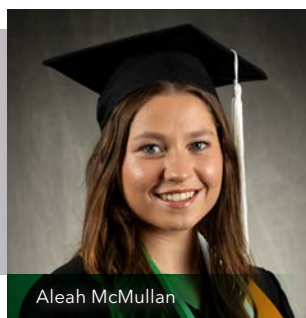
become a civil engineer focused on sustainable infrastructure, bringing innovative and eco-friendly solutions to improve communities in her home country and beyond.

Akombo is a civil engineering major with a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale. An international student-athlete and member of the Women's Varsity Tennis Team, she is actively involved in Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), Ivy League Recruiting, and numerous campus and community service initiatives. Akombo plans to transfer to an engineering program while continuing her tennis career. Her long-term goal is to



Nicholas Lewis

Lewis is a political science major with a 3.85 GPA and plans to attend the University of Mississippi. He serves as president of PTK and is actively involved in the Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College at Meridian Community College, Ivy League Recruiting, and campus music programs. Lewis plans to pursue a law degree and build a career in public service, contributing to policymaking and governance.



Aleah McMullan

McMullan is a broadcast meteorology major with a 3.63 GPA and plans to attend Mississippi State University. She has been involved in the Honors College, PTK, Baptist Student Union's Lead Team, and MCC's tennis and inaugural volleyball teams. McMullan's goal is to become a broadcast meteorologist.

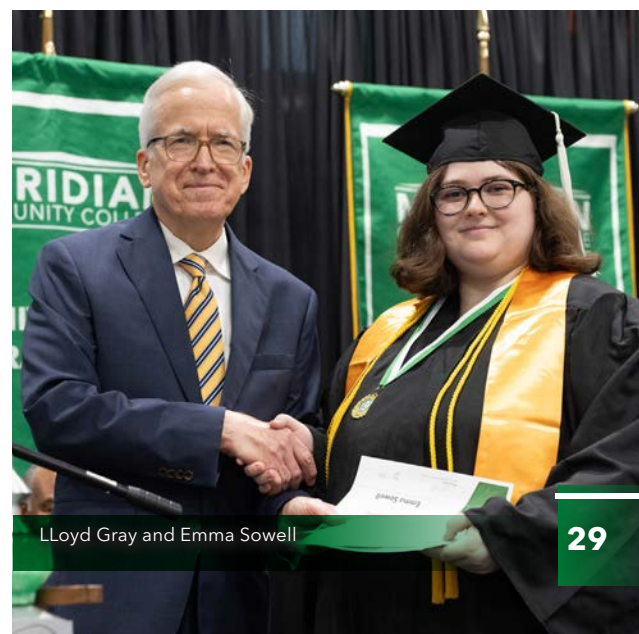
The Hardin Scholarships, which are \$5,000 awards to each honoree, pay tribute to the life of businessman Phil Hardin and his philanthropic endeavors to support education. These awards are funded by the Phil Hardin Foundation through the MCC Foundation.



Lloyd Gray and Abdulhalim Obid

Obid, a University Transfer student with a 3.97 GPA who plans to attend Mississippi State University, is one of two Phil Hardin Foundation Scholarship recipients. As a member of PTK, he has been actively involved in community service through campus initiatives. Obid aspires to become a mechanical engineer, designing tools and systems that improve daily life while promoting energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

Sowell is a conservation biology major with a 3.82 GPA and plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a member of PTK and the Honors College and has volunteered with organizations such as Care Lodge and Habitat for Humanity. Sowell's goal is to work in wildlife conservation, helping rehabilitate animals and return them to their natural habitats.



Lloyd Gray and Emma Sowell



Also, during the ceremonies, 33 graduates were chosen as members of the Spring 2026 Circle of Excellence. The 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.

Dr. Huebner said MCC has a long history of outstanding graduates, and the Circle of Excellence is one way the College recognizes these students who excelled at MCC.

"These students have made an impact on this place, and we look forward to watching them take flight and impact the world," Dr. Huebner said.

Named were: Daniel Espin of Ambato, Ecuador; Karlee Pierce of Bailey; Avery Dronet of Biloxi; Clayton Phillips of Brandon; Reine Akombo of Yaounde', Cameroon; Katherine Bruner, Oscar Fields, Steven Lewis, Josie Reid, Elizabeth Shirley, Laken Williams, all of Collinsville; Aleah McMullan of Decatur; Ariadna Magana of Flowood; Chelsea Hillhouse of Forest; Derek Byrd of Jackson; Austin Tate of Little Rock; Jasper Molden II of Loxley, Alabama; Tausha Bianchi, Reagan Dyess, Macy Galyean, Daylon Horton, Nicholas Lewis, Abdulhalim Obid, Caleb Purvis, Emma Sowell, Hanna Tingle, and Alayham Zaidan, all of Meridian; Makayla Feasel of Noxapater; Elijah Griffin of Philadelphia; Evyn McDaniel of Preston; Presley Black of Richton; Brittany Martin of Ridgeland; and Maggie Diamond of Toxey, Alabama.



University Transfer Circle of Excellence students



Nursing Circle of Excellence students



Career and Technical Education Circle of Excellence students



Health Education Circle of Excellence students



**2026 SPRING
UNIVERSITY TRANSFER
COMMENCEMENT VIDEO**



**2026 SPRING
CAREER & TECHNICAL
COMMENCEMENT VIDEO**



**2026 SPRING
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING
& HEALTH EDUCATION
COMMENCEMENT VIDEO**

E.L.C. CLASS OF 2026 COMPLETES YEAR WITH CAMPUS SERVICE PROJECT



Veronica Fox



JaWanda Huggins



Eric Jones



Chris King



Parker Manley



James Runnels



Rhonda Smith



Crystal Sterling



Dr. Tommy Winston

Pressure washing sidewalks, changing light fixtures, and cleaning up campus may sound like a simple to-do list. For Meridian Community College's Eagles Leadership Convocation Class of 2026, it became a way to serve the place they call their "second home."

The newly graduated class completed the yearlong leadership development program with the presentation of their project, "My College Cares, Campus Edition," focused on service, campus pride, and beautification.

The Class of 2026 included Veronica Fox, community engagement coordinator, College For Kids, alumni and Foundation events; JaWanda Huggins, biological science instructor; Eric Jones, Welding Program coordinator and instructor; Chris King, director of bands; Parker Manley, workforce project manager; James Runnels, director of IT and systems analyst; Rhonda Smith, college and career navigator; Crystal Sterling, mathematics instructor; and Dr. Tommy Winston, Physical Therapist Assistant Program coordinator and instructor.

Sponsored by the MCC Foundation, E.L.C. is a nine-month professional development program designed to strengthen leadership skills, build campus relationships and deepen employees' understanding of the College. MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner

and Dr. Leia Hill, chief of staff and vice president for institutional advancement and operations, and executive director of the MCC Foundation, serve as program facilitators, with Courtney Pitts serving as program assistant.

Dr. Hill said the class brought something special to the program.

"Every group is different. They have their own vibe, personalities and quirks, but this group has been truly special," Dr. Hill said.

The group's project grew from MCC's My College Cares community service effort. After volunteering off campus, class members began looking for ways to bring that same spirit of service back to MCC.

"As much as we reach out to the community, it's also doing for ourselves," King said.

Members identified needs around campus including cleanup and other beautification efforts. Manley said the goal was to take pride in the place where employees spend so much of their time.

Smith said the project – and the year – came down to three words:

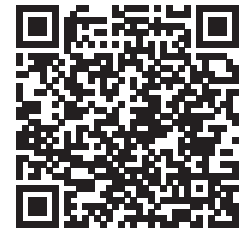
“Teamwork, service, collaboration.”

E.L.C. will continue with the 2026-27 class, which will include Mya Adams, operations coordinator; Heather Ammon, Practical Nursing Program instructor; Mark Brentnall, director of visual media; Anthony D’Angelo, Information Systems Technology Program coordinator and instructor; Marquita James, Workforce office coordinator; Will Nathan, vice president for enrollment services and institutional technology and chief technology officer; Janet Parrett, assistant to the registrar; Brandi Pickett, Wellness coordinator and instructor; Tracy Stockton, Eagles Nest Bookstore assistant manager; and Erica Stokes, communications instructor.



Eric Jones

LEARN MORE



SCAN HERE



Members of the E.L.C. Class of 2026 include Parker Manley, Chris King, JaWanda Huggins, Veronica Fox, James Runnels, Crystal Sterling, Rhonda Smith, Eric Jones, and Dr. Tommy Winston



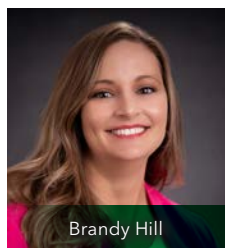
Dr. Thomas Huebner

COLLEGE CELEBRATES EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE, YEARS OF SERVICE

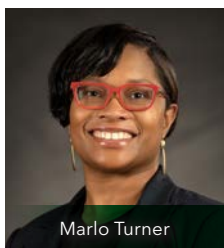
Meridian Community College honored its own at the End-of-Year Celebration, hosted by the MCC Foundation to recognize the work and achievements of College faculty and staff.

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

The Holladay Family Professional Development Award, which includes a \$2,500 stipend, provides professional development opportunities for College faculty and staff. Recipients were Brandy Hill, associate vice president of operations and foundation finance; Marlo Turner, director of employee relations and compliance; Jerri Lynn Spears, coordinator and instructor of the Radiologic Technology Program; Jamila Brown Coleman, director of adult education; Heather Ammon, instructor of the Practical Nursing Program; and Candace Rainer, mathematics division chair and co-chair of the Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College at Meridian Community College.



Brandy Hill



Marlo Turner



Jerri Lynn Spears



Jamila Brown Coleman



Heather Ammon

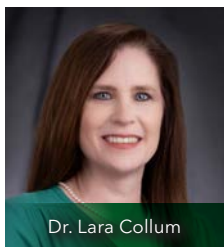


Candace Rainer

Dr. Chad Graham, dean of Academic Affairs, was named the T.J. Harris Award recipient. This monetary award spotlights the work of an MCC team member who has contributed beyond their regular job description to the community and the College. Dr. Graham, an MCC employee for 20 years who has served as an instructor, division chair, and dean, has been described as a strong advocate for both faculty and students.



Dr. Chad Graham

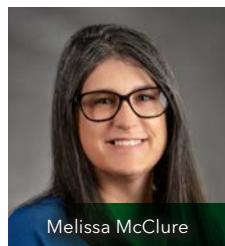


Dr. Lara Collum



James Runnels

Dr. Lara Collum, James Runnels, and Melissa McClure received the John A. Johnson Award. Dr. Collum is vice president for workforce solutions and dean of nursing; Runnels is the director of IT and systems analyst; and McClure is executive assistant to the vice president for workforce solutions and the dean of workforce education. Each recipient receives a \$500 honorarium. 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.



Melissa McClure



Kristy Ethridge



Gloria Adams



Win Maxey-Shumate

The Dr. Clarence W. Roberts Outstanding Teacher Award celebrates distinguished work, innovative techniques, and service



Five-year honorees



Ten-year honorees



Fifteen-year honorees



Twenty-year honorees



Twenty five-year honorees



Thirty-year honoree

to the College and community. A \$500 gift is presented to each faculty member selected. Recipients were Kristy Ethridge, coordinator and instructor of the Health Care Assistant Program; Gloria Adams, coordinator and instructor of the Medical Assistant Program; and Win Maxey-Shumate, coordinator and instructor of Early Childhood Education Technology and coordinator of the BEEP Project.

Continuing the tradition of recognizing employees for their years of service to the College, service pins were also presented during the celebration.

Honored for five years of service were Johnna Agent, Aisha Anderson, Dylan Anderson, Kelli Bounds, Veronica Fox, Jan Freeman, Dr. Cedric Gathings, Hannah Glardon, Angela Guimaray, Dr. Tammy Henderson, Brandy Hill, Cathy Lewis, Melissa McClure, Erin Richardson, James Runnels, and Jerri Lynn Spears.

Ten-year service pins were presented to Jeff Collum, Nate Gibson, Theresa Hogan, Melanie Jones, Jim Price, Steven Satterfield, Marlo Turner, and Dr. Tommy Winston, while 15-year pins were given to Wade Hollingsworth, JaWanda Huggins, Joshua Maeda, Jessica Simpson, Rhonda Smith, Colby Stamm, and Crystal Sterling.

Celebrating 20 years with MCC were Daniel Boles, Latonia Conner, Sheila Johnson, Amy Miller, Derek Mosley, John Reeves, and Crystal Webster. Twenty-five-year honorees were Susie Gibson, Stephanie Holifield, Michelle Martin, Jerome Moffite, and Clint Wilkerson.

Sandy Clark received her 30-year pin.



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



MARION WHITING

Director of Housing
and Student Activities

"From supervisors to coworkers to those I supervise, I have been immensely blessed with people who are like-minded and kind to work with. They truly are my family and some of my dearest friends!"

FEBRUARY



VERONICA FOX

Community Engagement
Coordinator, College For Kids,
Alumni and Foundation Events

"The best thing about MCC is that the faculty and staff truly care about one another and our students. We're more than coworkers; we're family."

MARCH



JIM PRICE

Director of Facilities
Management

"I love working with the talented faculty and staff across campus and the sense of family."

APRIL



ALBERT ESPEY

Carpenter

"The people I work with and being able to use my carpentry skills."

MAY



JOHNNA AGENT

Director of Clinical Education,
Physical Therapist Assistant
Program

"MCC fosters an environment where everyone feels valued, supported, and important. There is something truly unique about an environment like that."

JUNE



KAY THOMAS

Director of Public Information,
College Communications

"MCC has a way of making people feel connected, supported, and at home."

MCC'S TONY BOUTWELL LEADS AI DIRECTION



Meridian Community College is preparing students for a workforce where technology is changing almost every job.

Tony Boutwell is serving as director of AI and creative technologies, where he helps faculty, staff, students, and local businesses understand how to use AI in practical and responsible ways.

"The AI space is moving incredibly fast, so my role requires keeping up with those innovations and then helping the College understand how to safely put them to work in practical ways that benefit our teachers and students," Boutwell said.

Boutwell's work includes AI training, campus tool development, and support for creative fields such as graphic design, video production, marketing and digital media. He said the goal is not just to teach AI as a coding or data tool but to help people use it to solve real problems.

"It is important to the College because it is important to our students," Boutwell said. "Our future graduates will be entering a workforce that not only expects them to understand AI but to use it responsibly and be accountable for what it produces."

Meridian Community College is among a small group of community and technical colleges in the Southeast to establish dedicated director-level leadership for artificial intelligence.

Boutwell said his top priorities are faculty and staff training, building AI tools that help the College, and making sure AI use protects student privacy and meets standards for responsible adoption.

"The first concern would be how to integrate AI so it is not used as a tool for getting around learning or homework but instead used in a way to increase a student's engagement and learning potential," Boutwell said.

Accuracy is also important, he said. AI tools can give wrong answers, so users must learn how to check information and take responsibility for what they produce.

Boutwell said community colleges have a key role in helping students, adult learners, and local businesses understand AI.

"Community colleges sit at the intersection of education and the local workforce," Boutwell said. "That puts us in a position to help transform AI from something abstract or intimidating into a real tool that helps individuals and businesses in our community grow."

Dr. Leia Hill, chief of staff and vice president for institutional advancement and operations, and executive director of the MCC Foundation, said the AI role positions the College to lead in innovation and responsibility.

"Boutwell's work with AI and creative technologies helps us prepare students and employees for tools that are already changing the workplace," she added.

Boutwell holds a master of arts degree in integrated marketing communications from the University of West Alabama and a bachelor's degree in graphic design and computer animation from Mississippi State University. He and his wife, Amy, have two daughters.

For more information, visit meridiancc.edu.

BASEBALL

The Eagles finished 24-23 and remained in postseason contention through the final conference series. MCC ranked third in the NJCAA with a .368 team batting average and placed in the national Top 10 in on-base and slugging percentage. Jacob Driver earned First Team All-MACCC honors, while Chris Fox received Second Team recognition. Matthew McKinley led the NJCAA with a .521 batting average and gained national attention with the No. 1 play on ESPN's SportsCenter Top 10. Head Coach Dillon Sudduth also recorded his 400th career MACCC victory.



BASKETBALL

The Lady Eagles posted one of their strongest seasons in recent years, finishing 24-6 overall and 11-3 in conference play before advancing to the Region 23 Quarterfinals. Terica Smith earned First Team All-MACCC honors, received two MACCC Player of the Year votes and won four Player of the Week awards. Nataysia Willis received Honorable Mention All-MACCC recognition, and both players joined MCC's 500-point club. Three Lady Eagles signed with four-year programs.

The men finished 10-20, with several Eagles signing to continue their careers at four-year programs.



DANCE

The MCC Dance Team expanded its campus presence with performances at soccer, basketball, and baseball games, along with opening-weekend festivities for the Meridian Blues at Scaggs Field. A promising incoming group will help the program continue its growth next season.

GOLF

MCC completed one of the best seasons in program history, winning three tournaments and finishing fourth at the NJCAA Division II National Championship. Jace Duckworth was the national runner-up and joined Dax Reaux as an NJCAA DII PING All-Region selection. Reaux earned First Team All-MACCC honors, while Duckworth and Daniel Young received Second Team recognition.

Young won back-to-back individual titles, Reaux also earned medalist honors, and MCC set a school record with a 21-under finish at the Northeast Invitational. Head Coach Lance Strickland was named MACCC Coach of the Year, and three golfers signed with four-year programs.





SOCCER

The Lady Eagles finished 6-8-3 overall and 4-6-1 in conference play, advancing to the Gulf South District Quarterfinals. Flo Rigby earned First Team All-MACCC honors, while Mira Storm received Second Team recognition and was named NJCAA National Player of the Week. Several Lady Eagles signed with four-year programs.

The men finished 7-8-3 overall and 2-7-2 in conference play. Jason Guerrero earned Second Team All-MACCC honors and a conference Player of the Week award. Several Eagles also signed with four-year programs.

SOFTBALL

The Eagles completed a remarkable turnaround, finishing 31-23 overall and 17-11 in conference play. MCC recorded its first 30-win season and postseason appearance in more than 20 years.

Alex Layfield earned First Team All-MACCC honors, while Allie Loftin received Second Team recognition. Mollie Mitchell and Presley Black earned Honorable Mention honors, and Mitchell was also named MACCC Player of the Week. Head Coach Brad Grinstead earned MACCC Coach of the Year honors and recorded his 100th career conference victory.

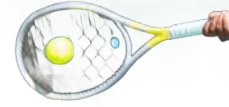
SWIMMING & DIVING

MCC continued its national rise in and out of the pool. The program led the NJCAA academically, earned Fall Team Scholar All-American honors and set multiple team records.

At the NJCAA National Championship, the men finished 10th and the women placed 11th, with multiple swimmers earning Top 15 finishes. Head Coach Wade Heggie was also elected president of the NJCAA Swimming & Diving Coaches Association.

TENNIS

The Lady Eagles finished 13th at the NJCAA Division II National Championship. Reine Akombo won the women's singles title at the inaugural UTR Sports NJCAA Individual Championship, and the program received the ITA NJCAA Women's Tennis Region III Community Service Award.



The men placed eighth nationally, one of the best finishes in program history. Jared Escobar became MCC tennis' first individual national champion by winning the NJCAA DII Singles Championship and earning First Team All-American honors. He also won the UTR Sports NJCAA individual title.

Escobar and Daniel Espin captured the ITA Southern Regional Doubles Championship, while Espin earned First Team All-MACCC honors. The program also received the ITA NJCAA Men's Tennis Region III Community Service Award.

TRACK & FIELD

The women's 4x800-meter relay team earned a Top 10 finish at the NJCAA Indoor National Championship. The men placed 15th nationally, led by T.J. Autrey's third-place finish in the high jump, Khiyon Lewis' fifth-place finish in the long jump and Jamari Page's fourth-place finish in the 60-meter hurdles.

During the outdoor season, Autrey and Lewis added Top 5 national finishes in the high jump and triple jump, respectively, at the NJCAA Outdoor National Championship.



VOLLEYBALL

In only its second season, MCC finished 10-22 and earned the first conference victory in program history. Riley Pate received conference Player of the Week honors as the young program continued laying the foundation for future success.





FORMER MCC ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

MICHELE SMITH

2026 MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPORTS

HALL OF FAME

— INDUCTEE —



Michele Smith and Dr. Thomas Huebner

Meridian Community College former athletic director Michele Maida Smith was inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame, recognizing her transformational leadership and legacy at MCC.

Each year, the Hall of Fame recognizes one representative from Mississippi's 15 community colleges for their impact and contributions to athletics throughout the state.

Smith served as MCC's athletic director from 1993 to 2001 and played a major role in shaping the modern era of Eagles athletics. During her tenure, MCC experienced tremendous growth both competitively and structurally while continuing to emphasize academic success and student development.

Under Smith's leadership, MCC added track and field and developed a new athletics complex, introduced fast-pitch softball, and added men's soccer, a program that would later capture a national championship. During that same era, the Eagles also celebrated a national championship in cross country, a national title in slow-pitch softball, and a national runner-up finish in baseball. Both the men's and women's basketball programs reached national tournaments, while MCC's golf and tennis programs consistently earned national recognition.

Reflecting on the honor, Smith said she was grateful for the people who helped make MCC athletics successful during her time leading the department.

"I am very humbled and honored to be nominated and thankful for all the wonderful coaches, faculty, staff, and students at MCC who made the programs successful," Smith said.

She added, "I wanted to make the athletic programs competitive on and off the field."

Smith first joined Meridian Community College in 1980 and later became athletic director in 1993. In addition to leading athletics, she also served as director of the Damon Fitness Center and remained in that role through 2010.

Smith now resides in North Carolina with her husband, Carey Smith.



JARED ESCOBAR MAKES MCC TENNIS HISTORY

When Jared Escobar arrived at Meridian Community College from Cali, Colombia, he brought with him a competitive drive and passion for the game of tennis.

Two years later, he leaves as the first individual national champion in program history.

Escobar made history during the 2026 NJCAA Division II Men's Tennis Championship in Plano, Texas, capturing the Flight 2 Singles National Championship and earning First Team All-American honors. His championship run helped lead the Eagles to an 8th-place national finish and marked a milestone moment for MCC tennis.

The 2026 season also introduced a new era for junior college tennis as the NJCAA separated the national tournament into Division I and Division II championships, giving Division II programs a larger spotlight on the national stage.

Entering the tournament as the No. 6 seed in Flight 2 Singles, Escobar battled through one of the toughest brackets in the championship. His road to the title included three straight victories over nationally ranked opponents.

In the quarterfinals, Escobar upset No. 3 seed Jan Bako in a three-set battle. He followed with another upset over No. 2 seed Alexander Andersen in the semifinals before defeating No. 5 seed Nicholas Tozer 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 in the championship match.

The final point secured the first individual national championship in MCC tennis history.

"This week was one of the hardest and most unforgettable weeks of my life," Escobar said. "It was not only difficult because of the opponents I had to face, but also because this was my last tournament."

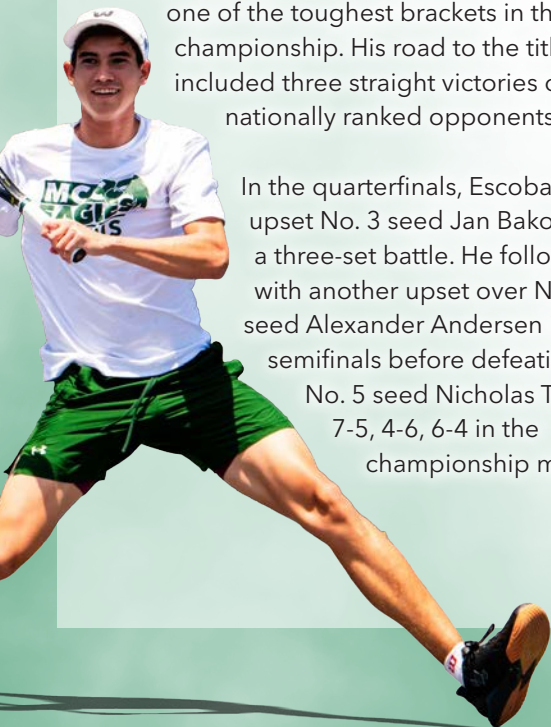
"I want to thank God," Escobar continued. "I also want to thank my team for always being there for me. Thank you to my coach for staying with me through every match. I am truly grateful for every single person who was part of this experience."

Escobar's national title capped off an impressive sophomore season that established him as one of the top junior college players in the country.

Among his accomplishments during the 2025-26 season were:

- Junior College ITA Southern Region Men's Singles Finalist
- Junior College ITA Southern Region Men's Doubles Champion alongside fellow sophomore Daniel Espin
- UTR Sports Men's Individual Tennis Champion
- NJCAA Division II Singles National Champion
- First Team All-American

Alongside fellow sophomore Daniel Espin, Escobar helped form one of the top doubles pairings in the region and elevated the national profile of MCC men's tennis.





LEGENDS OF THE GAME

CHIPPER JONES BRINGS BIG LEAGUE SPOTLIGHT TO MCC BASEBALL

For one night in February, Meridian Community College became the center of the baseball world in East Mississippi.

Fans packed campus, community leaders filled the seats, and excitement buzzed throughout the evening as Hall of Famer Chipper Jones visited Meridian for **Legends of the Game: A Night With Chipper Jones**, a fundraising event that became one of the biggest nights in recent MCC Athletics history.

What started as a vision to support MCC Baseball quickly became something much larger, a celebration of the program, a showcase for Meridian Community College, and a reminder of the strong connection between MCC Athletics and the community that supports it.

From the moment guests arrived on campus, the atmosphere felt different. Long before the crowd gathered inside McCain Theater, excitement surrounding Jones' appearance had already spread throughout Meridian and across the baseball community in Mississippi.

For Head Coach Dillon Sudduth and the Eagles program, the evening represented more than simply bringing a baseball legend to campus. It was an opportunity to continue building visibility and momentum for a program that has steadily grown both on and off the field.

"This was a huge moment for our program," Sudduth said. "The amount of support we received from the community, our sponsors, alumni, and fans was incredible. It showed what MCC Baseball means to so many people."

The evening began in perhaps the most meaningful setting of the entire event, inside the MCC Baseball locker room.

Before stepping on stage or posing for photos, Jones spent time privately with the Eagles players and coaching staff. The Hall of Famer greeted each player individually, answered questions, shared stories from his playing career, and offered advice about preparation, leadership, and handling the pressures that come with the game.

For MCC players, many of whom grew up watching Jones star with the Atlanta Braves, the opportunity created memories that will last a lifetime.

The connection carried even more meaning considering Jones' son, Matthew Jones, serves as an assistant coach for the Eagles program.

"It meant a lot to our players," Sudduth said. "They got to hear from one of the greatest players to ever play the game, but more importantly they got to see the kind of person he is and how much he cares about baseball and mentoring young players."

Following the team meeting, the attention shifted to Scaggs Field where local fan Bo Moffett cashed in on a once-in-a-lifetime raffle opportunity, playing catch with Chipper Jones on the field.

The moment quickly became one of the highlights of the evening as fans gathered around the dugouts and backstop to watch the interaction between Jones and



Moffett. The two shared stories and laughs while Jones offered instruction and tips during the memorable experience.

As the evening continued, guests made their way into the VIP Social where the excitement only continued to grow.

Voice of the Eagles Robby Atkinson served as emcee, while MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner welcomed attendees and spoke about the importance of community involvement and support for student-athletes at Meridian Community College.

Sudduth then took the stage to thank supporters before introducing the Eagles baseball roster.

When Jones joined Sudduth on stage, the conversation quickly became one of the most memorable moments of the evening.

The two discussed Jones' Hall of Fame career, his years with the Atlanta Braves, the challenges of professional baseball, fatherhood, coaching, and his growing connection to MCC Baseball through his son Matthew. Jones also spoke candidly about the importance of giving back to younger generations and investing in the future of the game.

The evening concluded with a fan Q&A session that brought laughter, stories, and standing ovations from the audience.

By the end of the night, it was clear the event had become much more than a fundraiser.

It served as a major spotlight moment for MCC Baseball and Meridian Community College as a whole, showcasing the growth of the program, the passion of the fanbase, and the strength of support throughout the community.

"All of this support helps our student-athletes on and off the field," Sudduth said. "It was a meaningful night for our team, our campus, and the entire community."

For more information, visit mcc eagles.com.

Fans enjoyed food and drinks while mingling with MCC Baseball players, coaches, sponsors, and supporters. Throughout the room, guests posed for photos with Jones and left with signed memorabilia ranging from baseballs and bats to jerseys and photographs.

The VIP experience also highlighted the strong support MCC Baseball continues to receive from the Meridian community and surrounding area.

A silent auction held during the event became another major centerpiece of the evening. Fans bid on exclusive Chipper Jones memorabilia, MCC Baseball gear, signed helmets and jerseys, and unique gameday experiences that gave supporters behind-the-scenes access to the Eagles program.

The fundraising efforts throughout the night generated significant support for MCC Baseball and helped continue the growth of the program moving forward.

Inside McCain Theater, the crowd settled in for the featured portion of the evening.





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



SCAN HERE

SHIRLEY NELL GOODMAN

BUILDING PATHWAYS TO BETTER LIVES

During her 34 years at Meridian Community College, Shirley Nell Goodman helped turn education into opportunity for generations of students.

She joined MCC in 1976 as a business education instructor, teaching bookkeeping, typing, shorthand, and other practical workplace skills. Her influence soon extended beyond the classroom as she became a department chair and later moved into College leadership.

By the time she retired in 2010, Goodman was serving as associate vice president for workforce education. She helped develop programs in industrial truck driving, welding and other short-term training areas that connected students with employment and responded to the changing needs of the community and surrounding area.

Her work helped establish an approach that remains central to MCC today: Listen to the community, identify workforce needs, and create training that prepares people to meet them.

Goodman received the Highest-Flying Eagle Award for representing the College's highest ideals and was installed in the Talon Club, which honors employees with at least 30 years of service.

In 2017, MCC named a classroom in her honor at the MCC-Riley Workforce Development Center; a year later she was inducted into the MCC Hall of Fame.

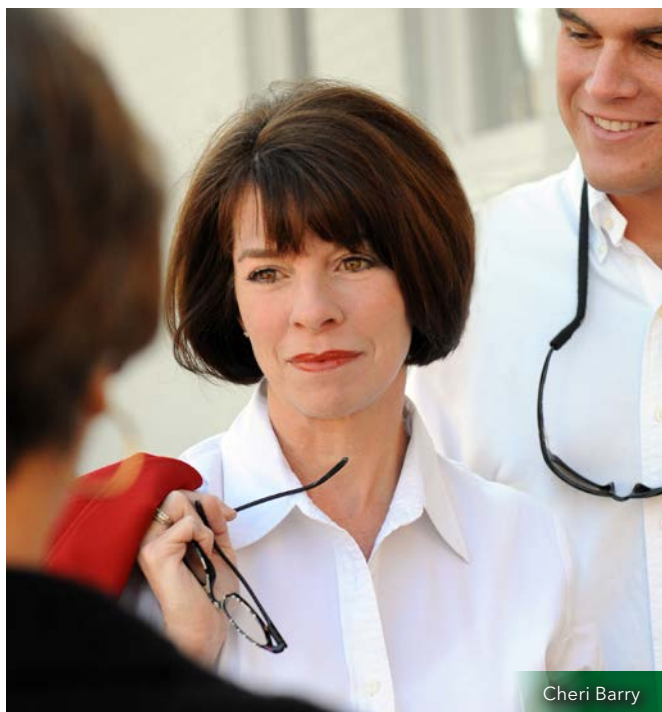
Her connection to the College continued after retirement through her support of the MCC Foundation. In 2025, she was recognized as a Bronze Wings member of the Wings of Giving Society.

Goodman died June 16, 2026, at age 81. Her family asked that memorial gifts be made to the MCC Foundation, a fitting tribute to someone who devoted much of her life to creating opportunities for others.



Shirley Nell Goodman

CHERI BARRY'S LEGACY CONTINUES THROUGH MCC ENDOWMENT



Cheri Barry built a life around public service, community involvement and helping others. She also made history as Meridian's first and only female mayor.

Barry died Dec. 24, 2023, at age 68. The Mississippi House of Representatives later adopted a resolution honoring her life and contributions to Meridian and Lauderdale County.

An endowment has also been established in her memory through the Meridian Community College Foundation. The fund will provide lasting support for MCC students while honoring Barry's commitment to education and service.

The endowment is still being built toward its funding goal, and Barry's family is leading the effort to see it fully established, inviting others who knew her to join in contributing to the endowment.

Born Cheryl Merritt on April 19, 1955, Barry grew up in Meridian and graduated from Lamar High School. She later attended Converse College and the University of Mississippi, where she met her husband, John Richard "Rick" Barry.

Barry spent much of her career serving people in need. She worked with welfare agencies in Lafayette and Lauderdale counties, with a focus on children and older adults who had experienced abuse.

She later served as executive director of the American Red Cross Key Chapter. Barry led the chapter during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and helped coordinate recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

As executive director of the Rush Foundation, she raised funds to help hospital employees, vendors, and their families during difficult times. She also owned and managed local retail businesses that had been operated by her family.

Barry was elected mayor of Meridian in 2009 and served through 2013. During her administration, the city completed renovations to City Hall, improved the 22nd Avenue overpass, built two fire stations and relocated the Meridian Police Department.

She also helped strengthen the city's partnership with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Barry received several honors for her service, including Junior Auxiliary Humanitarian of the Year and The Meridian Star's Woman of the Year.

The MCC Foundation endowment will carry her legacy forward by creating new opportunities for students and supporting the community she served.

To give, visit meridiancc.edu/foundation.

Meridian Community College is a place where dreams take flight, and much of that is thanks to the MCC Foundation's endowments.

These endowments are funds donors give to the Foundation; the money is invested, and each year the interest helps pay for student scholarships, faculty and staff development, academic programs, and other college priorities. That means the gift keeps giving – not just for one student, but for generations.

Endowments come from various sources - individuals, families, businesses, and community groups. Some are made in honor and memory of loved ones, others to support certain careers or hometown students. Regardless of the origins, endowments play a major role.

"MCC Foundation endowments are more than just financial support," said Dr. Leia Hill, chief of staff, vice president for institutional advancement and operations, and executive director of the MCC Foundation. "They are investments in people, in futures, and in our community.

"Every scholarship tells a story, and for most, it's about honoring a person's life and legacy. Behind each named endowment is a heartbeat—a parent honoring a child, a family memorializing a loved one, or a graduate giving back to the college that changed their future. These scholarships are more than financial support; they are acts of hope passed from one generation to the next," she said.

Dr. Hill added, "An endowment is a promise that the values, dreams, and spirit of someone special will live on through the achievements of future students. It's a way to say: 'Your story mattered—and it still does.' At Meridian Community College, we are honored to carry these legacies forward."

Currently, the Foundation manages more than 155 endowments.

To learn more about MCC Foundation endowments or to create one, **visit meridiancc.edu/foundation**.

MCC FOUNDATION ENDOWMENTS FUEL STUDENT SUCCESS, COMMUNITY GROWTH



**REV. WAYNE
EDWARDS
MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP**

Before he passed away in 2024, The Rev. Wayne Edwards made his life's work serving in the ministry, pastoring churches in McCool, Little Rock, Eudora, Meridian, and Collinsville. For more than 42 years, he worked with the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Baptist Children's Village and served as a trustee for 24 years. He was an adjunct professor at Meridian Community College for 24 years where he taught biblical studies classes.

Recipients will be students who exhibit leadership skills, community involvement, and are enrolled or have taken Bible/theology classes.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



SCAN HERE

If you would like to give, please visit **meridiancc.edu/foundation** and list the endowment in the designation box.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

2025-2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

ADN Donor Scholarship
Destini Keeton

Baptist Anderson Board of Directors Scholarship
Shannon Russell

Anderson Support and Development Foundation Scholarship
Katherine Bruner
Aisata Slaughter

Dr. William Jeff Anderson Memorial Scholarship
Makayla Feasel

Dr. William J. Anderson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Tatiana Jennings

Dr. William J. Anderson, III Memorial Scholarship
Tausha Bianchi

Charles Armstrong Scholarship
Akeelah Davis
Margarita Gonzalez

AT&T Scholarship
Emeline Ayala
Kenzleigh Dearman

Bill Autry Memorial Scholarship
Terrick Bryant

Laurie M. Autry Memorial Scholarship
Barbara Seals

C. B. Bailey Memorial Scholarship
Alexandria Hill
Connor McDill

Barnett All-America City Scholarship
Jonathan Parker

Leonard Corydon Barrell Family Scholarship
Blissany Bigbee
Xa'Zarria Blanks
Janiya Hill
Kameisha Houston

Shirley M. and Dr. John R. Berney Scholarship
Brittney Battle

Onnie Blakeney Memorial Scholarship
Katherine Bruner
Cade Griffin

Cameron Scott Boggan Memorial Scholarship
Mushula Tubby

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

Judie Bounds Memorial Scholarship
Anna-Leigh Purvis

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship
Destiny Chisolm
Jayla Powe

Harry & Vivian Boureau Music Scholarship
Haley Reynolds
Aidyn Way

Susan Partridge Boyette Memorial Scholarship
Morgan Campbell

Gloria Blackshear Brown High School Equivalency Scholarship
Isabella Brown

Keli Breanne Brown Memorial Scholarship
Andrew Parker

Fran and Wadell Byrd Memorial Scholarship
Ranisha Gentry

Madeline Scott Callahan Memorial Scholarship
Kiersten Hampton

Cater's Market Culinary Scholarship
Kaleigh Griffith
Christian Sturm, Sr.

Mark Chandler Memorial Scholarship
Makayla Ward

Alta and Ivan Chisolm Memorial Scholarship
Madelyn Parker

A. C. Johnson/Civitan Scholarship
Kalee Lathem
Macy Oliver
Havyn Riser

Coastal Television Scholarship
Oscar Fields

Justin and Brent Cobb Memorial Scholarship
Sydney Cooper

Robert F. Cochran Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Bruce McClung

Lynn Combest Memorial Marketing/Photography Scholarship
Pryce Bell

Chuck Nicholson/Community Bank Veteran Scholarship
Keith Dailey

Winnie P. Crampton Nursing Scholarship
Shakea Winford

Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship
Hannah Capello
Ben Cole, IV
Nykolis Stevens

L. J. Davis and Winifred Davis Memorial Scholarship
Mya Pruett
Landon Warren

Dental Hygiene Scholarship
Brittney Battle

Marshall and Miriam Deonier Memorial Scholarship
Kaleb Tucker

Toni L. DeVaney Memorial Scholarship
Steven Lewis

Glen Deweese Scholarship
Ashlynn Lofton
Hannah Rogala
Zacaree Rupert

DHUGG Scholarship
Robin Bateman

Dixie Highway High School Scholarship
Cooper Gordon
Madison Hayes
Adrian Houston
Joslyn Otto
Kyle Parten

T. K. Dobbins, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Anders Jensen
Malerie Lee
Clara Lott

Downtown Optimist Club/Bill Herndon Memorial Scholarship
Markeita Hill
Sarah Joyner

Margaret Reed Dulaney Scholarship
Dantwaine Johnson
Aaliya Mendiola
Mary Margaret Stevens

Eagle Influencer Scholarship
Hannah Beddingfield
John Barry Boldin
Katherine Bruner
Ty/Rhiana Jeffery
Aaliya Mendiola
Joshua Randall
Faith Tillery
Jardashia Williams

Earnest Workers Circle of the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons Scholarship
Tazmine Hudnall

Max Edwards Workforce Training Scholarship
Christopher Johnson



Susan M. Ellis Memorial Scholarship

Kaelyn Latting
Bethany Smith

William H. Entrekin Family Music Scholarship

Lauren Broome

Erika's Hope Memorial Scholarship

Blessing Igwe

Evans PTK Scholarship Award

Nicholas Lewis

Don and Donia Evans Scholarship

Emma O'Brien
Jacob Thompson
Natalie Verry

Hugh and Katherine Foster Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Elizabeth Warren

Marmion Loving Francis Scholarship

Savannah Hammond

Bebe Roberts Freeman Scholarship

Rylee Turner

Jacob Chester Frist Memorial Scholarship

Joslyn Broome-Tucker
Kaylin Wright

Future Nurses Scholarship

Olivia Avera
Alexis Thornton

Gameday Operations Scholarship

Shadarion Washington
David Watkins

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

Derek Byrd
Bailey Csaszar
Daylon Horton
Riley Pate
Emma Patterson
Nathan Trochessett

Kimberly Renata Govan Scholarship

Cahnesiyah Donald

Dottie and Hardy Graham, Sr. Scholarship

Christian Allen, Jr.
Hannah Beddingfield
Audrey Gibson
Anabelle Hodges
Graham Jackson
Elizabeth Shirley

Gayle Gray Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Kataria Barber
Pamela Brown
Deonna Carter
Keshawn Coburn
Mariah Cole
Sarah Cooper
Felesia Faile
Olivia Files
Tyenna Goods
Aniya Hibbler
Sherreon Jordan

Hope Knight
Jasmine Lindsey
Shaquana McAfee
Yasmin McDonald
Myia McGinty
Kellie McKinney
Hali Morgan
Angeliek Nichols
Yolanda Patterson
Chanequa Randle
Bessie Ruttley
Mariah Salazar
Meagan Slack
Jadzia Wade
Shelby Walters
Jeronn Watkins
Hailey Wilborn
Jamiya Williams
Rahchal Williams
Stacy Williams
Shakea Winford

Jerry Greene Memorial Scholarship

Trinity Wilks

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

Latarisa Ray

Debbie Gunn Memorial Scholarship

Kilah Dearman
Erika Gardner
Kloe Goodin

Mark E. Gunn Memorial Scholarship

Sara Lacy

William Gunn, Esquire Memorial Scholarship

Hannah Burkhalter

Gene Haas Scholarship

James Alsobrooks
Sadler Blackwell
Hunter Burke
Bryson Drummond
Luke Ishee
Daniel Lane
Caleb Purvis
Jimmie Smith, III

Phil Hardin Foundation Scholarship

Sarah Bounds
Tafadzwa Chikomba

Lou Weddington Hart Memorial Scholarship

Gracie Wiggins

Mattie D. Hart/Emma Donald Music Scholarship

Matthew Jackson
Scarlett Walker
Tiyanna Ward

Judy Hartzler Scholarship

Kisha Gaines

Katherine Chisolm Hester and Lamar Hester Memorial Scholarship

Angel Buckley

Adrian Michael Hill Memorial Scholarship

Macy Adams

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial Scholarship

Antoinette Brown
Samuel Hosch
Carley Pugh
Madeline Swenson

Eddie Holladay Broadcast/Marketing Scholarship

William Patrick

Dr. Jeff Hollingsworth Memorial Scholarship

Kambrianna Bailey

Richard Hollingsworth Memorial Scholarship

Jayne Wilson

Paulette Aycock Hopkins Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Andrews

Catherine Hovious Nursing Scholarship

Joshua Cannon
Demetria Fletcher
Shaqueria Polk
Madison Tullos

Linda and Billy Howard Computer Technology Scholarship

Jamal Wilkins

Richard Harper Howarth, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Caitlyn Gant

Dr. George Howell Nursing Scholarship

Sherwiana Lamb
Akira Myers
Alexue Reed

Impact Scholarship

Cahnesiyah Donald
Marley Long

H.M. Ivy Scholarship

Hannah Buchanan
Holly Gillies
Katherine Hayes
Savannah Smith

Austin and Alice James Accounting Scholarship

Jason Guerrero Blanco
Nicholas Lewis

John and Ann Johnson Scholarship

Calleigh Chaudron
Elijah Collins

Reuben S. Johnson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Matesha Johnson

Walter and Cora Thompson Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Timothy Adkins
Amalia Santiago

Wilton B. (Bill) Johnson Scholarship

Alexa Shirley

Howard and Jean Jones Industrial Technology Scholarship

Clay Shumate

Ann and Ken Joyner Book Scholarship

Samuel Burke
Daelyn Netto

Lucy Kahlmus Dental Hygiene Scholarship

Neena French

Key Brothers Memorial Scholarship

Joshua Randall

Gondine Kittrell Memorial Scholarship

Chelsea Hillhouse

Prof. Howard Lane Memorial Scholarship

Alyssa Bland

Marcella and Hubert Langford Scholarship

Grace Wade

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship

Gabrielle Hutchinson
Ariadna Magana
Linette Osuna
Jalissa Smith
Kayli Warren

LFW Ministries Scholarship

Tyra Benoman

Stennis "Judge" Little Memorial Scholarship

Kloe Goodin
Shanice Price
Lesslie White

Lockheed STEM Scholarship

Trevor Clayton

Jack Malone Memorial Scholarship

Donna Chaney

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

Madelyn Jones
Annaston Wallace

Jason Marshall Memorial Scholarship

Bailey Fortenberry
Aaliya Mendiola

MCC Alumni and Friends Scholarship

Courtney Odom

MCCF Miscellaneous Scholarship

Daniel Jackson
Sadler Blackwell

Kathleen Newby McDaniel Memorial Scholarship

Sabrina Davis
Victoria Davis
Raylee Turk

Emily Louise McDonald Nursing Scholarship

Danielle Davis
William Langley
Shaquana McAfee
Shawond Webster

Kelly Thompson McKee Memorial Scholarship

Angel Bloss



Percy R. McLemore Scholarship

Kellie McKinney

Medical Lab Technology Scholarship

SaFrench Terry

Meridian Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship

Peyton Coleman

Meridian Area Dental Association Scholarship

Natalie Pierce
Riley Sheppard

Meridian Exchange Club/Bo Russell Memorial Scholarship

Emma Crocker
Milan Greer

Meridian Lions Club Scholarship

Rebecca Dunnam
Joslyn Logan

Meridian Rotary Club Scholarship

Zeah Wilson

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship

Addyson Hover
Yajaira Huebner
Haley Sims
Lilley Worthington

Richard L. Meyer Memorial Scholarship

Chase Chandler

MHS Class of 1978 Scholarship

Zybreun Horn

Thomas Y. Minniece Memorial Scholarship

Matias Miyahira

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

Na'Kosha Adams
Jeresis Agosto
Olivia Avera
Kambrianna Bailey
Earisene Bigsby
Shunda Bilbrew
Tamera Bohannon
Nitorious Boler
Corea Brown
Tonda Burks
Travis Burns
Morgan Campbell
Joshua Cannon
Treasure Cleveland
Alexis Cole
Kandice Cotton
Tomika Darby
Laurel Davidson
LaTowina Davis
Haley Dawkins
Matthew Driskill
Adrienne Edwards
Alondrea Edwards
Felesia Faile
Chrissi Farrell
Makayla Feasel
Mikayla Figueroa
Demetria Fletcher
Kisha Gaines
Ranisha Gentry
LaShundra Gray
Thelma Hall
Tashayla Hardaway
Latisha Hicks
Daijonne Long

Rico Lott, Jr.
Jade Matfey
Erica McCaskill
Ashley Miller
Anesa Moore
Sarah Moore
Akira Myers
Shanice Oliver
Jamequecca Overstreet
DeAnn Paul
Auja Phillips
Shaqueria Polk
Shanice Price
Alexue Reed
Mariah Scarbrough
Akeila Scott
Myneshia Scott
Janeisha Simpson
Aime Stewart
Hallie Thomas
Shanderica Thompson
Madison Tullos
Shawond Webster
Adam Welborn
Erica Williams
Shannon Yarborough

Mississippi Power Heritage Scholarship

Jason Boyd, Jr.
Piper Collins
Antonio Evans
Nickalas Hickman
Jaylon Pruett
Jacob Rodgers

Mitchell Companies Scholarship

Stephon Overstreet
Aidyn Way

William D. Mobley Dental Hygiene Scholarship

Reagan Dyess
AnnaGrace Hoover
Natalie Pierce

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

Zachary Creel
Cooper Gordon
Michaela Mayerhoff
Darby Pace
Samuel Wansley

Dr. William R. Moore, II Memorial Scholarship

Destini Haney

Joyce Morrison Memorial Scholarship

Angel Jefferson

Steven Nabors Memorial Scholarship

Hannah Sanders
Meira Smith

National Board for Respiratory Care Scholarship

Brianna Curtis
Cahnesiyah Donald
Laquita Duff
Chiquita Holcombe
Jacqueline Lee
Daveyonia Loyd
Jekelcy Montgomery
Joslyn Otto
Nadiya Robinson-Doss
Savannah Sims

Ruth Van Dyke Nelson Memorial Scholarship

Reine Akombo
Autumn Gilland
Gavin Thurman

Virginia Price Nelson Scholarship

Na'Kosha Adams

Sara and Sam Niemetz Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Jackson

Gloria Nuckolls Memorial Scholarship

Carolyn Palmer

Tanya Ocampo Memorial Scholarship

Shelby Rhodes

Alexander Ott/The Crossings Memorial Scholarship

Jazmine Butler
Trinity Robertson

Katherine G. Perry Memorial Scholarship

Takiriel Stapleton

Pioneer Classes Scholarship

Keyani Grace

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

Daisha Blanford

Rev. George Pugh Memorial Hospitality Scholarship

Rendell Allen, Jr.
Caroline Cheatham
Kaleigh Griffith
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