



# MCCB Newsletters

2019 and 2020

*This document contains an interactive Table of Contents.  
Click on any link in the Table of Contents to navigate to that page.*

# Table of Contents

I.	<b>2019 Newsletters .....</b>	<b>3</b>
	February 2019 .....	3
	May 2019 .....	5
	July 2019 .....	7
	August 2019 .....	9
II.	<b>2020 Newsletters .....</b>	<b>11</b>
	May 2020 .....	11

# Mississippi Community College Board

February 2019

## Early Childhood Academy

By Dr. Micca Knox

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” –Aristotle

The Office of Early Childhood Academy has experienced a great deal of expansion and growth over the past few months. This has allowed staff at both the state office and colleges to have a greater reach and serve more childcare providers and families.

Coach and Professional Development Specialists at the colleges and Families First locations have been participating in a yearlong coach certification process with Ms. Monica McCarthy of Leading for Children, based out of New Jersey. This certification consists of face to face seminars, remote coaching experiences, development of a portfolio and practicum opportunities. The Coaches are learning to provide support to classrooms through a “strengths-based” model. The book “Coaching with Powerful Interactions” provides the premise and rationale behind all activities of the coach certification process. The next face-to-face seminar will take place March 19th-21st in Jackson.

Coach and Professional Development Specialists began making contact with Childcare Center Directors to gauge interest in participating in ECA Coaching services. Currently, there are approximately 603 childcare centers that have been designated as a Standard Childcare Center. We hope to soon begin working with those centers to assist them with achieving the Comprehensive designation, but in the meantime Coaches are working with those who have expressed interest with building relationships, completing questionnaires to gain a better

understanding of current operations, and providing assistance with supplying centers with items and materials that will be needed to ensure the coaching process is effective.

To increase traffic in the Academies, several Resource and Referral Associates have worked with ECA Family Engagement Specialists to conduct “ECA Roadshows” where they take materials from the Academy into the community to showcase what each Academy has to offer. We have seen great success with this effort and look forward to expanding this initiative to all Academy locations. Additionally, Resource and Referral Associates are continuing to conduct monthly engagement activities to draw attention to Academy resources and services.

Starting in January, all Academy locations along with some Families First locations have conducted a professional development series centered on assisting childcare providers with gaining a deeper understanding of the MDE’s Early Learning Standards. The Early Learning Standards assist classroom teachers with implementation of best practices in early childhood classrooms to meet the developmental needs of young students. At the conclusion of each session, attendees receive a binder with a full copy of the ELs, lesson plans, suggested activities, and ideas for thematic units. Due to the overwhelming response of this training, Academy locations will repeat this training through May. ECA Business Advisors and Family Engagement Specialists have implemented “Lunch and Learn” sessions that are specific for Directors and families.

Our office is still beaming from the announcement of being a recipient of the PDG-5 grant that will assist all Academy locations with expanding our current scope of work and providing greater access for children and families to high quality early learning and care. To oversee the operations and functions of this grant, we are excited to welcome Austin Smith, Project Manager; Jim Miller, Alignment Specialist; and Katelynn Bowman, Administrative Assistant to the team. There will be much to accomplish within the year time frame.

We recognize our Early Childhood Academy of the Month: Northwest Community College. Ms. Marti McCloud, Coach and Professional Development Specialist, believes education is the most valuable commodity one can get from their community, their parents, their teachers, and their friends. School for all ages is a place to help children develop understanding of one another, a place for developing confidence, and a place to forge strength in concepts and independence. It is a vehicle for social justice, a place for binding communities together, and a place for asking and researching hard questions. Marti has enjoyed 20 years in the classroom, and it has been incredibly rewarding. She has worked to gain a Masters in Early Childhood Education and later completed a Masters in Educational Leadership. Throughout her career, Marti has spent time as an instructional support coach, a new teacher trainer, a curriculum writer, and preschool special education teacher. All of these experiences have led to the Early Childhood

Academy at Northwest Mississippi Community College. For Marti, it has been exciting to connect with teachers and directors through Professional Development classes and through time in Early Childhood Learning Centers and classrooms. The Resource and Referral Center on the Northwest campus is a hub for learning, teaching, and growing. The center is visited regularly and often filled to capacity with teachers after each professional development class. It is bustling with enthusiasm for themes, favorite books, and hands on learning materials. One of Marti’s favorite family engagement events was the 2018 launching event for NAEYC’s Week of the Young Child. Northwest was so busy with a vibrant community participating in the festivities, and she looks forward to that time again this year! It will be here before we know it.

Ms. Heather Perryman is the Early Childhood Academy Resource and Referral Associate at Northwest. Heather graduated from Northwest Mississippi Community College with an Associate of Applied Science degree in December 2016. She was blessed with a job offer from the Early Childhood Academy in February 2017 and was hired on March 6, 2017. She has been with the Early Childhood Academy for almost two years. Heather has always had a love for children. Her favorite part is working with families and children to make a difference in the world today.

## Career and Technical Education

### By Valerie Williams

Career and Technical Education Month®, or CTE Month®, is a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country. In honor of Career and Technical Education month, community colleges shared interesting events occurring on their campuses. Please read the stories below of how CTE is making a difference in Mississippi.

#### **Northeast Mississippi Community College**

Claire, a Drafting, Design, and 3D Modeling student, has accepted an apprenticeship with Ashley Furniture. Claire is a go getter, the first to arrive to class, and one of the last to leave. She stays on top of her work and is eager to learn each day. When

she found out about the Tiger Apprenticeship Program, she applied before anyone. When asked or reminded about upcoming milestones in the process, she would always let me know that she had completed the task days or weeks ago. As you can imagine, she made a great impression on the companies interviewing her. I hoped they would see in a short meet and greet what I was able to witness each day. Ultimately, she was hired and has already made a mark with the company. Not only did she find employment in her first semester in my program, she is being trained for a leadership position in one of the region's and the country's largest manufacturers. It has been a blessing in her life. She is in the early days of a long and prosperous career with a great

company and is enjoying her job. I have spent the first part of the story telling you about Claire. It is important to realize that blessings work both ways. This organization, because of its willingness to participate in the Tiger Apprenticeship Program, has also been blessed with Claire, a young go getter with a desire to contribute to the positive growth of the company for years to come. The Tiger Apprenticeship Program truly provides a win-win situation for all parties. As the Program Director for Drafting, Design, and 3D Modeling, I am thankful for the opportunities it provides.

#### **Mississippi Delta Community College**

Mr. Joe Galey, Automotive Mechanics Technology Instructor, completed the requirements to become a Master Technician

through the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Mr. Galey worked diligently to obtain this certification and MDCC is very proud of him.

Mr. Galey and fellow Automotive Mechanics Technology instructor, Mr. Tindle are working towards ASE Program Certification through the ASE Education Foundation. Both Mr. Galey and Mr. Tindle are expected to complete the process in the fall of 2019. In addition to their accomplishments, the Automotive Mechanics Technology program received two 2016 Corollas through Bryan Oakes Toyota in Greenville Mississippi to assist students prepare for the workforce.

## Technology Division

### By Tina Bradley

The 2019 Creating Futures Through Technology Conference will kick-off on Fat Tuesday, March 5th. The National Science Foundation (NSF) team will start things off with a grant writing workshop scheduled from 1:00 until 5:00 pm.

This year's format for Wednesday, March 6th, will consist of MCCB/community colleges' statewide meetings and NSF breakout sessions. There will be an opening reception

Wednesday evening that everyone is invited to attend. Considering the timing of this event - the end of the Mardi Gras season and the start of CFTTC, the opening reception will take on a Mardi Gras theme. Thursday, March 7th, will feature a Virtual Reality (VR) – Augment Reality (AR) Fest that will consist of hands-on demonstrations and the Exhibit Show. A keynote luncheon will also be held Thursday, where General

Augustus L. Collins will talk about cyber security and how the use of AR/VR technology is being used to teach students and to train our workforce. Presenters from the community colleges, universities and K-12 will conduct breakout sessions Thursday and Friday morning. The conference ends on Friday, March 6th, with a closing luncheon featuring the highly anticipated "Dexter Show" where attendees will have many opportunities to win prizes.

As its popularity continues to grow beyond the boundaries of this State, a record number of attendees are expected again this year. You do not want to miss CFTTC-2019. This event will take place starting March 5th and ending on March 8, 2019, at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, MS. Register at [www.cfttc.org](http://www.cfttc.org).

## Employee Recognitions

Congratulations to Kim Verneuille for being named Employee of the Quarter, Brooke Doggett for work with the Cisco Network Academy, and Ed Roberson for being selected by the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services to serve on the State Rehabilitation Council!

# Mississippi Community College Board

May 2019

## 2019 Moody Institute Fellows

By Audra Love Kimble

During the April meeting of the Mississippi Community College Foundation, four community college faculty members were named as Moody Institute Fellows. The Moody Institute Trust Fund (MITF) was established in 1990 in honor of Dr. George V. Moody, the first Executive Di-

rector of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. The purpose of the Moody Institute is to provide funds for enrichment experiences for faculty members employed in Mississippi's public community and junior colleges.

Interested faculty members submitted applications outlining their proposed professional development experiences as it related to their respective teaching areas. To make the selection, the MITF Board evaluated the applications on the originality of the activity and

how it could enhance the individual's professional knowledge and ability to be a better teacher.

The 2019 Moody Institute Fellows are Sherry Davis from Itawamba Community College, Jonathan Morrison from East Mississippi Community College, Cathy Wilburn from Northwest Missis-

## 2018-2019 Institute for Teaching and Learning

By Falana McDaniel

The Office of Curriculum & Instruction's Professional Development office recently held its face-to-face training for the 2018-2019 Institute for Teaching & Learning. 52 faculty members from all fifteen community colleges participated in the 2018-2019 cohort. The Institute for Teaching & Learning is a robust faculty training program that involves 40 contact hours of active participation and reflection that encourages instructors to build classroom competence

and professional confidence.

Training topics included a variety of best practices for interactive teaching techniques.

Topics and presentations were:

- Technology in the Classroom: Margaret Britt, Computer Science Instructor, Copiah-Lincoln Community College;
- Multiculturalism: Dr. Ruthie Stevenson, Associate Professor & Coordinator, Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program, Missis-

sippi College;

- Understanding Curriculum: Dr. LaToya Sterling, Curriculum Specialist, MCCB; and

- The Connection Between Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment: Dr. Kimberly Jones, Assistant Director of Assessment, MCCB

The speakers shared knowledge that provided instructors with meaningful tools to use in the classroom. IHL

participant Teri Selby (Northwest Mississippi Community College) states, "I enjoyed this training very much. The meeting Wednesday in Jackson was wonderful! All of the guest speakers captivated my attention, and I took away a lot of information to use in my classroom. I am thankful to have been chosen by my college to participate in this training."

Enrollment for the 2019-2020 Institute for Teaching and Learning cohort opened May 1, 2019.

## Navigating Assessments with Technology

By Krystal Adcock

The MCCB Assessment staff had the privilege of presenting at the 2019 Creating Futures Through Technology Conference.

Shamiko Allen's Navigating the Assessment Canvas Course presentation provided an overview of the Assessment Canvas course, which is currently being used as an online assessment ordering tool. Her session detailed how to navigate modules, upload documents, submit assessment orders, and check feedback comments.

Dr. Kimberly Jones held an Assessment Q & A session for all college staff to ask Assessment-related questions. Dr. Jones presented an overview of the Mississippi National Credentials Initiative (MNCI) and highlighted the goals and objectives of the initiative.

My session, Navigating the NCCER Registry System, provided an overview of the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Registry and focused on topics related to submitting modules, verifying credentials, validating roles and responsibilities, and issuing student and staff certifications and credentials.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Mr. Tim White, Hinds Community College Electrical Technology Instructor, for collaborating with us to provide the audience greater insight from a Craft Instructor's perspective of tasks required to navigate the NCCER Registry.

## Becoming Virtual in Mississippi Community College Classrooms

By Dr. LaToya Rembert-Sterling

Virtual Reality is the new buzz word that we are hearing. It provides an experience to live in a 3D world. Virtual reality places the user in a digital environment to make them feel as though it's a reality (Zantal Wiener, 2018). When one thinks of virtual reality, they think of gaming. This new wave of virtual reality has flourished to come to the surface in many businesses, industries, and the military.

Lobaki Inc., a cutting edge Mississippi company, has provided an inside look to create a program for the world of virtual reality. It creates and sells VR applications and trains high school students to create their own virtual reality experience. As a result,

students have the opportunity to learn and create virtual reality apps and scenes. Earlier this year, I visited the Lobaki Lab to experience the 3D animations created and how it can be used in training, teaching and learning.

I was amazed when introduced to this amazing tool. I also visited the lab where the students were engaged in work. I was able to look inside a heart and lung. Now, I am able to see many things in our world 3D. This too can change traditional teaching and learning as we know it.

On a tour at the Nissan Training Facility, I was provided with another approach of seeing Virtual Reality in another sector. Virtual Reality is being used as

a tool for supervisors in the plant. Supervisors are able to receive the training needed to become more astute with their supervision of an employee by undergoing a series of training sessions before sharing their results with employees.

Under the guidance of Dr. Scott Kolle, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment at the MCCB, I have been working closely with Josiah Jordan and Jason Parker of Lobaki to design a Virtual Reality curriculum. This curriculum will provide Mississippi community and junior colleges the option to offer a 15-hour accelerated career pathway certificate, 15-hour short term certificate, career certificate, technical and an AAS degree

at their institutions. The design of this curriculum will offer Mississippi a new platform to business, industry and the workforce. This curriculum can potentially provide hundreds of jobs to our state to help sustain local communities.

### Reference

Zantal-Wiener, A. (2018, December 18). The State of Virtual Reality: Where We Are, and What's to Come in 2019. Retrieved March 06, 2019, from <https://blog.hubspot.com/new-s-trends/state-of-virtual-reality>

## TeachLive: Teacher Training Using Virtual Reality

By Dr. LaToya Rembert-Sterling, Krystal Adcock, and Falana McDaniel

The Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment recently visited the University of Mississippi's TeachLive Virtual Reality simulation. According to Dr. David Rock, Dean of the School of Education, they are the largest user of TeachLive in the United States. "TeachLive is a mixed-reality classroom with simulated students that provide teachers the opportunity to develop their pedagogical practice in a safe

environment that doesn't place real students at risk."

TeachLive simulates the realities of teaching by providing practical experiences to prospective teachers. The Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment understands the importance of implementing effective instructional practices designed to support and enhance faculty teaching skills and abilities to promote world-class education for a

more prosperous Mississippi.

Additionally, the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment visited the Haley Barbour Manufacturing Center for Manufacturing Excellence to explore Maker Space. Maker Space is a place where students have an opportunity to discover their own interests; determine how to use both physical and virtual resources; and cultivate creative projects. Bridging the gap between

education and industry collaboratively is our ultimate goal.

Students at East Mississippi Community College Golden Triangle Campus currently use Maker Space. Dr. LaToya Sterling had the privilege of observing students producing screws and bolts using Maker Space. Maker Space gives students opportunities to be creative.

# Mississippi Community College Board

July 2019

## Mississippi Apprenticeship Program

By Matthew Riley and Johna Peyton

The Mississippi Community College Board recently participated in the Mississippi Department of Corrections 2nd Annual Re-entry Symposium. The event took place June 20, 2019 at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison. The symposium brought together hundreds of practitioners and re-entry stakeholders from Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana that shared best practices and successes in their state. Resource organizations were there to provide information and services about their programs including staff from the Mississippi Apprenticeship Program (MAP), MIBEST, and SkillUP Mississippi.

Finding employment remains one of the barriers many returning citizens face once released. There has been a statewide push to identify employers that will provide employment opportunities for returning citizens. Governor Bryant made a pledge to create employment opportunities for all Mississippians, including those who have been formerly incar-

cerated. To support this vision, the Mississippi Community College Board worked closely with the Governor's Job Fair Network, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, the U.S Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi, Mississippi Department of Corrections and Department of Veterans Affairs to host a job fair on June 26, 2019 at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson. This collaboration was the first in the state among partnering agencies.

With more than 25 employers (from various industry sectors) and resource organizations present for this event, more than 300 job seekers attended the event with the goal of beginning their new careers. Representatives from Ingalls Shipbuilding, Mississippi Army National Guard, Clark Beverage Group, Averitt Transportation, Kelley Services, Tyson Foods, and Onin Staffing were present to share with job seekers information and opportunities about their companies. Families First for Mississippi also

provided free resume building and job interviewing techniques during the job fair.

The MAP team is excited to announce the addition of two new partnerships in the expansion of Registered Apprenticeship across our state!

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College recently partnered with MAP to collaborate efforts in expanding and promoting apprenticeship in Mississippi. MAP will work with the college to provide resources to support MGCCC's ongoing apprenticeship work in several industry sectors including Hospitality & Tourism, Maritime, Finance, Healthcare, Technology, and Energy.

Over the course of a year, MGCCC worked closely with Keesler Federal Credit Union in developing the Bank Branch Manager Apprenticeship Program. This is the first financial-industry registered apprenticeship program in the state, as well as the only online-registered apprenticeship program in Mississippi. Because

Keesler Federal apprentices are working full time in their regular positions and gaining on-the-job training, the instructional portion of the program is completely online through MGCCC. This program allows for Keesler Federal's current and future employees to advance in their careers while earning college credit at the same time.

MAP has also partnered with Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi. ECM recently registered their 4-year Lineman Apprenticeship Program. ECM is a service organization owned by and serving Mississippi's 26 member-owned electric power associations. These associations distribute electricity to more than 1.8 million Mississippians throughout the state and provide employment for nearly 2900 individuals. ECM, serving in the role as RA sponsor, is currently working with these member cooperatives to enroll them into the registered apprenticeship program.

## Community Service

By Shamiko Allen

The Mississippi Community College Board's Community Service Committee worked diligently to collect items to fill treat bags to donate to Mississippi Family for Kids Adoption Agency. Our goal was to assist Mississippi Family for Kids in providing snacks for 32 at risk children when they attended a field trip to the Museum of Arts during the Easter break. Some of the treats that were included in the bags were Easter candy, juice, chips, cookies, socks, frisbees, an Easter basket, etc., which were all donated by MCCB staff members.

I am pleased to announce that the Mississippi Community College Board exceeded the expectations of the Mississippi Family for Kids Adoption Agency. They were delighted to receive the plentiful treat bags for the children they serve. To them, we delivered more than a bag of treats but merely a gift of love.

## Jails 2 Jobs Program

By Matthew Riley

Northeast Mississippi Community College invited MCCB to attend its Jails to Jobs graduation ceremony on May 1, 2019 at the Alcorn County Justice Complex in Corinth. The program celebrated its third graduation ceremony since the program began in the fall of 2017. Brent Johnson, Jails to Jobs Program Navigator, said the focus of the program is to reduce recidivism through education that will help students transition to student life once released. The program is catered to inmates with less than two years remaining on their sentence. So far six students have completed the Jails to Jobs program and been released. All are employed and none have returned to prison. Tuition and supplies are paid for through a grant from The Foundation for the Mid-South. The program is composed of three classes: Career Preparation, Introduction to Manufacturing, and Introduction to Electrical Maintenance. In addition to the three courses, students receive 10 hours of training for an Occupational Safety and Health Administration certification, they also earned credit hours.

During the ceremony, Dr. Rickey Ford, President at Northeast, along with program staff, awarded certificates of completion and provided insightful encouragement to the eight completers. He said it was a great day and expressed gratitude for the partnerships with Alcorn County Correctional Facility and the Alcorn County Sheriff's Department. With strong and overwhelming support from the community, the support is what makes the program a success.

I attended the ceremony and congratulate Northeast Mississippi Community College with the success of the program and their continuous effort in providing educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals that are preparing for release.

## MCCB Community Service

By Dr. Sheriece Robinson

The cornerstone of MCCB's mission and core values is community service. In an effort to uphold the agency's mission and values, the Community Service Committee addresses the needs of communities, commits to the cause, cultivates civic responsibility, and provides economic mobility and sustainability. As we continue to coordinate efforts to provide access and assistance to communities and families, we foster an environment that promotes our connection and commitment to serve. Therefore, we could not fulfill our mission without your continued support.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, we made a difference by completing three community service projects. Those projects included: donating school supplies to In His Steps Ministries, donating treat bags to Mississippi Family for Kids, and donating clothes to In His Steps Ministries for a family that lost their home as a result of a fire. We were also committed to assist with Parent and Community Day at Oakley Youth Development Center, but that event was cancelled as a result of the weather.

Earlier this year, the Community Service Committee held a planning meeting to discuss the 2019-2020 community service calendar. During that meeting, we planned several projects that we would love for you to be apart of. This year's upcoming community service projects include:

- July- Fill the Bus" School Supply Drive
- September- "PAWS for a Cause" Pet Supply Drive
- November- Serving at the Stew Pot
- December- Ringing Bells for Christmas with the Salvation Army
- February- Senior PROM @ a Nursing Home

I would like to extend a special thank you to our Community Service Committee for their time, service, and contributions in all community service initiatives held during the 2018-2019 calendar year. Thank you Beth Little, Shamiko Allen, Krystal Adcock, Falana McDaniel, Shelika Hooker, Megan Akins, and Angenette Dixon!

On behalf of the Community Service Committee, we would like to thank MCCB for your support and contributions to our community service projects. It is because of you that we are able to help others and make a difference in the community.

## Agency Pictures



MCCB staff recently collected items for the Mississippi Family for Kids Adoption Agency.



Dr. Ricky Ford, President at Northeast Mississippi Community College, presents a certificate at the Jails to Jobs graduation ceremony held in May.

# Mississippi Community College Board

August 2019

## Mississippi Apprenticeship Program

By Matthew Riley

On August 3, I attended the annual Ingalls Apprentice Graduation to celebrate the most recent graduating class of the Ingalls Apprentice School. The ceremony was held at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum in Biloxi. Nine different crafts were represented among the 159 graduates who completed the competitive programs where they worked full-time while learning their trade through a combination of classroom instruction and on-the-job training.

Ingalls leaders; community stakeholders; Dr. Mary S. Graham, President of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; and others attended the event. Speaker Philip Gunn delivered the keynote address. "The prosperity of Mississippi begins with people like you," he said. "The careers for which you are now prepared are the backbone of America. Over 60 percent of the jobs in America are held by people like you who make up a skilled and educated workforce. So, when I say the work you do is the backbone of America, I am not exaggerating. It is the truth."

Since 1952, Ingalls Apprentice School has produced nearly 5,000 graduates trained to fulfill the shipyard's operational needs. Housed at the Haley Reeves Barbour Maritime Training Academy, the program offers a comprehensive two, three, and four-year curricula in partnership with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College for students interested in shipbuilding careers. MCCB congratulates our MAP partner, Ingalls Shipbuilding, as they continue leading the way in innovative apprenticeship training.

## Career-Tech Professional Development

By Falana McDaniel

The CTE Training and Professional Development office understands the significance of quality teaching and leadership development in increasing student success. The Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment at the Mississippi Community College Board seeks to provide novice community college administrators and instructors with professional development and resources to become more effective and efficient by promoting a strong culture of excellence.

On July 11-12, the 2019-2020 CTE Leadership Academy began with a new cohort of nine participants from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, East Mississippi Community College, Hinds Community College, Holmes Community College, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and Pearl River Community College. Topics covered in the two-day training included Effective Communication, the Socioeconomic Impact on Lower Income College Students, Building Employee Morale, Ethics in the Workplace, Community College Budget, Community College Stigma, and Diversity on the College Campus. The CTE Leadership Academy meets again on October 24-25.

The 2019-2020 Institute for Teaching & Learning kicked off its training on August 1-2 in Ridgeland. 83 faculty members from all fifteen community colleges registered to participate in the cohort. Training topics focused on interactive teaching techniques, classroom management, multiculturalism, and the alignment of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. The Institute participants will participate in monthly webinar trainings and will complete monthly practical application exercises that can be directly applied to their courses. The PD Office will visit each faculty member to observe and offer guidance and feedback for developing their instructional approach with the goal of improving student achievement. The training will continue into the spring with webinars, video reflections, and face-to-face training. We look forward to an exciting academic year with the faculty!

## MCCB Community Service

By Dr. Sheriece Robinson

The Mississippi Community College Board's mission and core values embodies community service. To uphold the agency's mission and core values, the Community Service Committee is committed to planning and executing initiatives in an effort to provide assistance to communities by fostering active engagement through service and leadership.

To commence the 2019-2020 school year, the committee organized a school supply drive. Our goal was to "Fill the Bus" with school supplies to ensure students at Obama Magnet School are equipped to learn this school year. On August 2, Tunga Otis, Krystal Adcock, and I delivered the school supplies. We were greeted by the principal, Mr. John Johnson, who expressed his appreciation for MCCB's thoughtfulness, kind gesture, and contribution.

On behalf of the Community Service Committee, we extend our appreciation and gratitude to MCCB for your liberality in giving and supporting this initiative. We appreciate your efforts in making a difference in the lives of children. Your contribution helps ensure the administrators and teachers fulfill their mission to provide "students with a strong foundation for lifelong learning." Thank you again for making the "Fill the Bus" School Supply Drive a success!

Agency Pictures



159 graduates recently participated in ceremonies at the Ingalls Apprentice Graduation.



# Mississippi Community College Board

May 2020

## Mississippi Apprenticeship Program

By Tonya Neely

The demand for skilled labor is increasing across the United States and in our cities and towns right here in Mississippi. Business and industry leaders are looking to fill positions in trades such as construction, transportation and logistics, energy, shipbuilding, manufacturing, agriculture, and the list goes on and on. In addition to these more traditional trades, companies are looking to fill highly specialized roles in fields such as banking and finance, health care, and information technology. Many of these positions do not require workers to complete a four-year degree, which offers an important opportunity for people in our state who are not interested in or financially able to enroll in a traditional higher education program—apprenticeship.

Our state has joined states across the nation to address the shortage of skilled workers is through a coordinated and comprehensive effort to grow ap-

prenticeship opportunities by investing in the creation and implementation of the Mississippi Apprenticeship Program (MAP). MAP, housed at the Mississippi Community College Board, is a grant-funded program that exists to help expand Registered Apprenticeship (RA) programs and demonstrate that apprenticeship is a viable workforce strategy in Mississippi.

The program is in its fourth cycle of grant funding from the United States Department of Labor (DOL). The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) serves as the fiscal agent of the project with other key partners that support and promote apprenticeship as a workforce development strategy in Mississippi, including the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) and the Mississippi Governor's Office.

MAP currently works with five of the state's 15 community colleges to promote RA and has established partnerships with

statewide business and industry within the advanced manufacturing, automotive, energy, banking and finance, shipbuilding, and transportation fields. The program boasts 12 partner companies and more than 1,700 apprentices. These numbers continue to grow because more and more organizations are recognizing the value of a customized training program that helps them recruit and retain talented employees.

During 2020 MAP plans to emphasize emerging apprenticeship fields such as healthcare and information technology with a focus on the rapidly growing cybersecurity sector. In addition to working with our community college partners to expand apprenticeship in their regions, we plan to work with the Mississippi Office of Apprenticeship to become a sponsor for RA in 2020. By becoming a sponsor, we will be able to work with businesses and industries

statewide to help them establish and manage their RA programs.

MAP will soon be incorporating a new business engagement funding strategy that will allow our program to incentivize the hiring of apprentices. We are currently working with MDES on the specifics of the model and will soon make an official announcement. This new incentive is just one of many ways we are working on expanding apprenticeship capacity in Mississippi.

We will continue our efforts to raise awareness of the benefits of apprenticeship to various industry sectors while supporting our sponsor community college and statewide business and industry partners. Ultimately, our goal is to assist in making Mississippi a place where every Mississippian has the opportunity to earn a decent living wage to provide for their families, and companies can benefit from investing in work-based learning models like apprenticeship to meet their workforce needs.

## MIBEST Program Turns Dropout to Registered Nurse

Courtesy: WTVA, May 11, 2020

The MIBEST program with Northeast Mississippi Community College (NEMCC) has given multiple high school dropouts a second chance at a career.

"I honestly never thought I would be able to get into the nursing program," graduate Megan Brady said.

Brady is now a registered-nurse.

"I left high school early because I had become pregnant and the doctor took me out of school," she said.

Brady provided for her family by working jobs that did not require a GED until she got laid off and could not find another good-paying position.

She enrolled in the MI-BEST program through NEMCC.

MIBEST or the Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training Program is an accelerated program for high school dropouts and other non-traditional students.

Through the program, students can receive their GED, and the program also functions as a gateway to a career.

"There were several classes they paid for; they even give us gas and they also paid for our lunch at the school every day."

Brady finished the program and continued by joining the nursing program.

Today, she is an essential front line worker as a registered nurse, and thanks to MI-BEST, she said she's ready.

"I don't think that I would have made it through nursing school had it not been meant for me to be out there helping others," she said.

"I'm scared but God has given me peace about it because I know this is what I'm supposed to do."