

# EAGLES

## MAKING A SPLASH

**MCC**  
**EAGLES**  
SWIMMING



# CONNECTIONS

MAGAZINE





## MCC ADMINISTRATION

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

**Drew Edwards, CPA**  
Chief financial officer

**Cedric Gathings, Ed.D.**  
Vice president for engagement

**Leia Agnew Hill, Ed.D.**  
Vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation

**Joseph Knight**  
Vice president for workforce solutions

**Michael Thompson**  
Vice president for academic affairs



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## MCC FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

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

# HITTING IT OUT OF THE PARK

I know it's summer, but we just finished a fantastic spring semester and it's a good time to reflect on what made it special. I have to admit, it was a particularly good year.

As a guy who has spent a lifetime loving baseball, I am always excited by the unique cracking sound of a baseball hitting a bat right before it launches from the batter's box to some point past the wall in the outfield. For those who don't know, when that happens it's called a home run, and they are an important part of the game of baseball because the player who hit the ball instantaneously scores runs, and the crowd cheers like crazy.

Our students transition every spring from MCC to their own version of a home run. Hundreds move to four-year universities equipped with confidence, a feeling of purpose, and two years of low-cost but highly effective general education. Others complete a degree or certificate that allows them to jump straight into the workforce. Did you know, for example, that many of our programs boast 100 percent job placement rates in career opportunities that are, by virtue of their starting salaries, transformational?

Like a home run in baseball, their decision to attend, persist, and graduate from MCC can have an immediate impact on the game of life. It's a big deal and graduation is our version of a crowd cheering like crazy. We are so proud of our graduates!

A few weeks ago I returned from a trip to Germany where a team from MCC met with government, education, and industry officials to talk about our programs and to have conversations about how we can partner to create opportunities for companies who wish to locate in Lauderdale County. It was fantastic and I was reminded,

**From certification passage rates to job placement rates, from university scholarships to invitations to compete and participate, MCC graduates find themselves equipped to meet their personal goals and exceed the expectations of the opportunities afforded to them when they leave our classrooms, labs, and competitive venues.**



Dr. Tom Huebner

again, how the preparation students receive at Meridian Community College absolutely prepares them to be competitive in a global marketplace.

Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, our region, and our country need what we produce at Meridian

Community College. Every day I see students who find themselves, discover their purpose, embrace opportunities, challenge their environments, and rise above the obstacles that might, otherwise,

hold them back. When students find their wings they are lifting themselves, of course, but they are also making a difference for their families and for the places they live.

I'm proud MCC is a place for home run hitters! A place where students – no matter who they are, how old they are, or where they come from – can learn what it takes to have an instant impact and lift themselves and those around them to achieve dreams and accomplish goals they could not have imagined before arriving on campus.

**Go Eagles!**

## ► NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

# GRATITUDE AND PROMISE



Dr. Leia Agnew Hill

Access to quality education is vital for any community. At Meridian Community College, we firmly believe financial barriers should never hinder deserving students from pursuing their dreams. Thanks to donors' extraordinary generosity and unwavering support to the Foundation, MCC has maintained a transformative Tuition Guarantee program for over 27 years.

**Tuition Guarantee has opened doors for countless students and empowered them to reach their fullest potential.**

MCC's Tuition Guarantee program catalyzes hope for aspiring students from all walks of life. It symbolizes the collective belief in the power of education to transform lives, families, and communities. Through this program, we assure incoming students that their tuition costs will be covered, enabling them to focus on their studies without the constant worry of financial burden.

### **The Impact of Giving**

The success of MCC's Tuition Guarantee program would not be possible without the remarkable generosity of our donors. Individuals, businesses, foundations, and local organizations have recognized education's critical role in shaping lives and strengthening our

community. Their commitment to making Meridian Community College accessible has empowered countless students to pursue their passions and embark on fulfilling careers. Their contributions have laid the foundation for a more prosperous future where talent is nurtured, dreams are realized, and Meridian and Lauderdale County thrive.

### **Changing Lives, One Scholarship at a Time**

These scholarships do more than just cover expenses; they instill confidence and self-belief in students who may have doubted their ability to pursue higher education. The transformative impact of a scholarship goes far beyond the classroom; the dollars empower individuals to become leaders, change-makers, and contributors to their families and communities.

### **A Promise of Gratitude**

To our donors, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your unwavering support has kindled a flame of hope and promise within the hearts of our students. You have shown them that their dreams matter and given them the means to turn them into reality.

The ripple effect of your generosity will be felt for years as these students graduate, enter the workforce, and become active contributors to society.

As we express our heartfelt thanks to the donors who have made MCC's Tuition Guarantee program a resounding success, we must also reiterate our commitment to upholding the promise of accessible education.

At MCC, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide unparalleled educational opportunities and empower our students to thrive. The continued support of our donors ensures that the flame of education burns bright, igniting the potential of every student who walks through our doors.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leia Hill".

## MCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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



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



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



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



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



## MCC FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

C.D. Smith, president  
 Russell Thompson, vice president  
 Alan Lamar, treasurer  
 Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, corp. secretary  
 R. Jeffrey Smith, past president  
 Drew Edwards, advisor  
 John Anderson  
 BB Archer  
 Dr. Ray Denton  
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 Larkin Kennedy  
 Donnie Massey  
 Jeff McCoy  
 Dr. Tommy McDonald  
 Mark McPhail  
 Chris Phillips  
 Tony Pompelia  
 Gerry Purvis  
 Dr. Tom Sikes  
 Greg Slay  
 Donnie Smith  
 Robert Smith  
 Hampton Thames  
 Buster Thomas  
 Tyler Walton  
 M.L. Waters  
 Alex Weddington  
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# COLLEGE GAINS INTERNATIONAL WORKFORCE TRAINING CERTIFICATION

Meridian Community College is one of four community colleges in the nation that has earned certification from the Transatlantic Business and Investment Council (TBIC), demonstrating the College's commitment to workforce training.

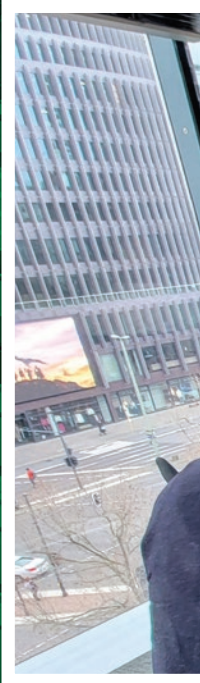
The TBIC Community College Certification, a rigorous and months-long process, acknowledges MCC's commitment to aligning its curriculum with European standards and its overall preparedness for international investment.

The certification signifies the College's readiness to address workforce training needs for the world, said MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner. "It's a big deal and a testament to the excellence we embrace in our classrooms," he added.

Joseph Knight, MCC vice president for workforce solutions, said this certification proves the College's programs, including Precision Machining Engineering Technology and Industrial Maintenance Technology, meet the training standards of the European market.

"I am grateful that we have instructors, equipment, and curriculum demonstrating our commitment to providing a skilled workforce in advanced manufacturing," Knight said.

To get an in-depth look, MCCers including Dr. Huebner, Knight, Max Dickerson and Stanley Bishop, instructors in the Industrial Maintenance Program, and Lori Smith, dean of workforce education, and Rob Smith, Lauderdale County School District director of career and technical education, traveled to Berlin, Germany, and networked with industry and government officials, training providers, and others.



"We met with a German Chamber of Commerce for Industry representative and learned about the German vocational training system. We spoke openly about our challenges in developing today's workforce. We followed that meeting with another in the office associated with the German Parliament as we visited with staff members affiliated with an influential member leading the effort to address labor shortages, technology deficiencies, and skills gaps in Germany," said Dr. Huebner.

Others see the certification as significant for the local community. "This allows international companies considering a location in Mississippi to interact with a community college whose workforce training program is already familiar to the company," said Bill Hannah, president and chief executive officer for East Mississippi Business Development Corp.

Hannah added the certification "absolutely enhances our chances of success."

**TO LEARN MORE**



Max Dickerson, Stanley Bishop, Lori Smith, Rob Smith, and Joseph Knight listen during presentation.



Stanley Bishop, Max Dickerson, and Joseph Knight





## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



**"Service ... Not Excuses" Since 1979**

Purvis Business Machines' motto, "Service ... not excuses," is more than a catch phrase, it is a business model for the Meridian-based office equipment supplier.

As a local, independent dealer, the company offers customers digital imaging products, document management solutions, and software applications. Digital copiers, color copiers, printers, multi-function devices, scanners, fax machines, shredders, folders, and document management solutions are just some of the resources they offer.

The company supports 12 employees, with an average tenure of more than 20 years.

Gerry Purvis, president of Purvis Business Machines, founded the business in 1979; he credits his success to Meridian Community College.

"I made an interesting discovery around the age of 25-30. Regardless of the question, education is the answer. Education becomes the solution to most problems in life," he said.

After graduating from high school, Purvis entered the Army, trained as an electronics technician, and later landed a job in Meridian as an office equipment technician with a national company.



"Then came marriage, the birth of our daughter, a few years of work as a part-time radio disc jockey, and then a decision to go to MCC at night in hopes of getting an associate of arts degree," Purvis explained as his route to a better life.

**"When I started attending MCC, an awakening occurred; something about college-level work seemed to motivate and excite me," he said.**





With a degree in hand, he applied for a management position with the company he worked for, and company officials sent him and his wife Betty to Savannah, Georgia, where they would live for two years. "I came up with the idea to move back to Meridian to start my own business," Purvis said. "The rest is history."

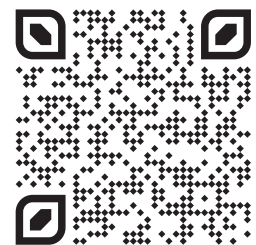
He added, "None of this would have happened without MCC - the education, the motivation I received from that institution."

So, giving back and paying it forward is important to him, his family, and his business. "My life was truly transformed by my MCC experience. It's our pleasure to support MCC with a scholarship through our business and personally giving annually to the Tuition Guarantee program."

Purvis also gives his time by serving on the MCC Foundation Board, ensuring future generations can benefit from the same opportunities he received, and others can access the transformative power of education.

To learn more about the MCC Foundation and Tuition Guarantee, visit [meridiancc.edu/foundation](http://meridiancc.edu/foundation).

#### TO LEARN MORE



# MCC: COMMUNITY CONNECTED, SUPPORTIVE

## OCTOBER 2022

### Queen City Race for Life and Street Strut

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter orchestrated the annual Queen City Race for Life and Street Strut. The proceeds collected were donated to the Anderson Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund.



### My College Cares

From weeding a community garden to power washing the entrance of a non-profit agency to stuffing giveaway bags, students, faculty, and staff offered many helping hands during its annual My College Cares Day.

### Candy Cruise

This community trick-or-treat outreach event moved to the College's track where some 1,150-plus trick-or-treaters joined the College's third annual Candy Cruise.



## NOVEMBER 2022

### Veterans Day

Grateful for the opportunity to salute campus and community veterans, the College hosted its annual Veterans Day Tribute. Keynote speaker Cmdr. Karen J. Teague, NAS Meridian's Naval Technical Training Center commanding officer, spoke on honor.



**DECEMBER 2022**

**Canned Food Drive**

MCC students, faculty, and staff have a can-do attitude, especially when it's a food drive at stake. More than 1,600 cans of food were collected for the first MCC vs. Mississippi State University-Meridian Canned Food Drive. A friendly competition was cooked up for who could collect the most canned foods for this food drive; donations were to add to Hope Village and MCC's food pantries. MCC gathered the most cans for the event.

**JANUARY 2023**

**MLK Celebration and Meridian MLK Parade**

Guided by the theme of "We Are the Dream," the College's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration spotlighted the talk by MCC Trustee Rev. LaBaron Hedgemon. Students, faculty, and staff marched in the City of Meridian's MLK Parade.



**FEBRUARY 2023**

**Black History Month**

MCC students, faculty, staff, and community residents participated in the music-filled program, "Embracing the History and Culture of Gospel Music: Something to Sing About," and joining them were members of the Magnolia Middle School Choir and moderator Amber N'Spire Walker.



**APRIL 2023**

**Celebrating Unity**

MCC alumna Roxanne Alexander was one of three speakers at the first L(able)d: Celebrating Unity Program, which focused on highlighting capabilities instead of disabilities. Alexander serves as director of operations for Northwestern Mutual in the Scottsdale, Arizona, area. The current Ms. Arizona shared her struggles with anxiety and depression and the life-changing impact her service dog, Nash, has had on her.

# COLLEGE FOR KIDS



It's a blast ... the College for Kids program, that is. Providing both fun and educational experiences for children aged 6 through 12, College for Kids offered a wide array of classes. Whether exploring scientific concepts - including rocket building - or cooking for fun, students got the chance to explore a world of adventures.





# MCC PROGRAM AND CANADIAN GROUP TEAMING UP TO HELP STUDENTS



A Canadian-based job board company focused on the computer numerical control (CNC) industry has partnered with Meridian Community College's Precision Machining Engineering Technology Program to help find scholarships for MCC students.

Both are addressing the growing demand for skilled professionals in the industry.

Jon House of Waterloo, Ontario, co-founder and CEO of hireCNC.com, donated \$2,600 to the MCC Career and Technical Education program led by Brian Warren. House noted Warren is actively promoting the CNC trade on social media channels, and it was on LinkedIn where the two connected.

The website hireCNC was founded to better connect CNC tradespeople with employers. "Manufacturers across the USA and Canada are struggling to recruit, hire and retain skilled labor. hireCNC can help broker the introduction



between employer (machine shop) and applicant (CNC machinist), but ultimately we as an industry still need to increase new workers entering the trades," House said. He added that this job board website makes it unique because it provides a niche and quality experience for both the job seeker and the employer.

The CEO noted that when founding hireCNC, the company decided it was essential to set aside funds to sponsor schools with similar missions.

"When I connected with Brian Warren at MCC, I was impressed with his story and the program he runs at MCC, making the program a great fit for the donation," House added.

Warren said what caught his eye about the site was it filled a void. "It allows students to post specific CNC skill sets and the employers to do the same to help find a more perfect match. In fact, I like it so much that I have shared it with all my students, graduate network, and across my social media network."

House noted that those entering the workforce need to be exposed to the opportunities that CNC machining offers and be provided with educational opportunities. Warren and the College are opening doors for those to gain sought-after skills. "I think Brian and the MCC Precision Machining Engineering Technology Program are changing lives in Mississippi."

To learn more about MCC's Precision Machining Engineering Technology Program, go to [meridiancc.edu/precisionmachining](http://meridiancc.edu/precisionmachining). To find out more about hireCNC, visit [hireCNC.com](http://hireCNC.com).

# SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE CNC MACHINISTS

Thanks to Meridian Community College and the Gene Haas Foundation, 20 students will have the opportunity to receive a \$2,000 scholarship to be used for MCC's Precision Machining Engineering Technology.

These scholarships can only be used at MCC's Haas Center, which houses the machining program, said Brian Warren, program coordinator and instructor. "The scholarships are open to anyone who does not receive full federal financial aid," Warren said.

For incoming students who will be taking advantage of the Meridian Community College Foundation Tuition Guarantee, combining the Gene Haas Foundation scholarship will yield no out-of-pocket expense on their tuition for four semesters.

He added, "We're not only investing in the students, but also the future of our industry and community as well."

For details, visit [meridiancc.edu/precisionmachining](http://meridiancc.edu/precisionmachining).



**TO LEARN MORE**

# CAMPUS RENOVATIONS REVEAL NEW LOOKS, SPACES

There's a saying, design is not just about making things beautiful; it's about making them better.

With Meridian Community College's current renovations and construction projects, that adage holds true. Take for example the new L.O. Todd/Billy C. Beal Success Center. This space will serve as a







centralized hub for students, offering library resources, advising, tutoring, study spaces, math and writing centers, and a computer lab. It's a one-stop-spot to give students comprehensive support to overcome obstacles and succeed in college. This facility will be open for students for the Fall 2023 semester.



This new comprehensive success center is designed to cater to students' needs, featuring a range of computer stations ready to help with their educational journey.

# CAMPUS RENOVATIONS REVEAL NEW LOOKS, SPACES



Artists' Rendering

The Phil Hardin Foundation made a significant donation to renovate a space on the first floor of the L.O. Todd/Billy C. Beal Success Center. The newly revamped space will become the Phil Hardin Honors College, equipped with faculty offices, a state-of-the-art classroom, meeting and study rooms, and a dedicated area for honors students to relax and gather.

As a result of the project, students coming from the direction of the Quave

Student Life Center will encounter a revitalized entrance to the Honors College and the first floor of the center. Hardscaping will be incorporated into the renewed landscaping so students can gather and enjoy the outdoors.



Artists' Rendering

Meanwhile, MCC's baseball fans are enjoying the upgraded facilities at Scaggs Field. Recent enhancements include state-of-the-art lights, a new digital video board - the largest among Mississippi community colleges - and two new outfield decks, offering an improved viewing experience for Eagle fans.



The student-led project, Phi Theta Kappa Courtyard of Scholars, is now in place, located in the outside space at the Davidson Fine Arts Center. All-weather seating, a water feature, and outdoor speakers create an ambiance that is attractive and functional.

On the horizon is the addition of multiple sidewalks on campus and lighting in newly renovated pedestrian-friendly areas. The College received a Mississippi Department of Transportation grant from its Transportation Alternatives Program, or TAP, to make these campus improvements.

Further developments at MCC will involve the transformation of the Tommy Dulaney Center into the Mississippi Transportation Technology Training Center. The facility will house new career and technical programs, such as diesel and automotive technology, with plans for an aviation technology program in the pipeline.

To learn more, visit [meridiancc.edu](http://meridiancc.edu).



## COLLEGE CELEBRATES ALUMS WITH HALL OF FAME CEREMONY

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

Inaugurated in the Hall of Fame Class of 2023 were Randy E. Carroll, Pamela Speights Harrison, and Debroah Bourrage Stokes. Harrison and Stokes are retired College employees. Harrison served as chief financial officer; Stokes was an Associate Degree Nursing Program instructor. Carroll is the chief executive officer of East Mississippi Electric Power Association.

Carroll, who was once a non-traditional student who worked full-time during the day and took classes at night, was grateful to the College for giving him wings to hold various positions with EMEPA over the years. "Thank you for choosing me to soar with these distinguished Eagles," he said.

Stokes, who worked at MCC for 32 years, said her years at the College were both rewarding and challenging, and her greatest joy was her students. "These students are making a positive difference in promoting excellence," she said.

Harrison, who previously held auditing positions at community colleges and a university before working at the College, said she loved the work and the people at MCC. Admitting there never seemed to be enough time to enjoy everything fully, Harrison said she wouldn't trade it for the world. Harrison credited everything she accomplished at MCC to others doing their work.



Randy E. Carroll



Debroah Bourrage Stokes



Pamela Speights Harrison

# COLLEGE CELEBRATES ALUMS WITH HALL OF FAME CEREMONY



Dr. Tom Huebner, Randy E. Carroll

In paying tribute to the Hall of Fame honorees, MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner said, "Many have contributed so much to this college. No place is better than the people who have walked the hallways." MCC Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the MCC Foundation Dr. Leia Agnew Hill noted that it is important to recognize the achievements of those who have made significant contributions to the College and community.

"I hope this tradition continues to inspire and motivate others to strive for excellence and positively impact their communities," she added.



Dr. Leia Agnew Hill

Also recognized during the program were Kay Thomas and Michael Thompson, the newest MCC Talon Club members, honoring employees with a minimum of 30 years of service. Thomas is the director of public information; Thompson is vice president for academic affairs and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2019.



Michael Thompson



Kay Thomas



Wayne Henson and Dr. Tom Huebner

Scan the QR code to view the Hall of Fame ceremony.



TO WATCH EVENT



Randy E. Carroll



Kay Thomas



Michael Thompson, Joseph Knight



Debroah Bourrage Stokes, center



Pamela Speights Harrison, Dr. Leia Hill



Dr. Tom Huebner, Randy E. Carroll, Pamela Speights Harrison, Debroah Bourrage, Kay Thomas



Debroah Bourrage Stokes, Dr. Tommy McDonald

# BREWERS FOUND THEIR CAREERS IN EDUCATION THANKS TO MCC



Elliot Brewer and Betsy Mitchell Brewer

Husband and wife duo Elliot Brewer and Betsy Mitchell Brewer began their collegiate journey at Meridian Community College, paving the way for successful careers in the educational arena.

"I'm so glad that I did attend MCC. I was able to get involved in so many different organizations. I loved everything about my time at MCC," said Betsy. Elliot added he came to MCC to take advantage of the College's signature Tuition Guarantee program. He graduated with an associate of arts degree from MCC in 2007, and a year later, Betsy earned her associate of arts degree from the College.

Today, Betsy is employed with the Lauderdale County School District (LCSD) as a speech language pathologist with certification through the American Speech Language and Hearing Association. "I primarily work with preschoolers





and complete developmental testing. Now entering his 15th year as an educator with LCSD, Elliot said he is transitioning jobs from the head principal of West Lauderdale Elementary to his new role as assistant principal of Northeast Middle School.

Betsy has a bachelor of science degree in speech language pathology and audiology and a master of science degree in speech language pathology from the University of Southern Mississippi. Elliot holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in educational leadership from Mississippi State University. High school sweethearts, Elliot and Betsy have been married 13 years. They have three children, Mitchell and Caroline, 7-year-old twins, and 2-year-old Beau.

It was a career interest test that Elliot took while at MCC that pointed him to a career in education.

Both Brewers were active on campus and fondly recall their days at the College. "I was a part of the performing groups, Encore and Dimensions; I was also an Ivy League recruiter and acted in numerous productions in the McCain Theater," Elliot said. "My favorite memories of my time at MCC were definitely performing with Encore and Dimensions," Betsy added.

Elliot said his advice for those considering college is simple. "Find something you can study and achieve employment on the other side," he said. He also noted that MCC offers a multitude of different options. "They are the best possible option for anyone considering a degree path or a certificate program," he said.

"A traditional college degree is definitely not for everyone, but an education is. A degree or certificate, either one can be earned at MCC," Elliot added.

Betsy echoed the sentiments. "MCC has so many options to explore in the area of workforce development and certifications," she said, adding, "Going to MCC is without a doubt one of the best choices I have made."

# DONORS AND SCHOLARS CONNECT AT FOUNDATION LUNCHEON



When the MCC Foundation hosted its Scholarship and Endowment Donor Appreciation Luncheon, students had the opportunity to meet the donors who fund their scholarships.

Donors discovered first-hand how their gifts are making a real difference in the educational journeys of MCC students and how these funds continue to make a lasting impact.

More than 200 scholarships and 135 endowments are funded through The MCC Foundation, whose mission is to attract private investment to the College by fostering individual and corporate philanthropy so the College can strengthen its commitment to excellence.



Dr. Leia Agnew Hill

To give to The MCC Foundation, contact Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, at 601.484.8612 or [leia.hill@meridiancc.edu](mailto:leia.hill@meridiancc.edu) or visit [meridiancc.edu/giving](http://meridiancc.edu/giving).



Martin Francis and Betty Purvis



Jet Scarbrough, Brandy Hill, Amanda Bratu, Theresa Hogan, Dr. Leia Agnew Hill



Shirley Nell Goodman, Andi Adams, Dr. Tommy McDonald, and Dr. Bobby Adams



Al Brown and Dr. Leia Agnew Hill



Pete Willis and Alan Lamar



Diane Delk and C.D. Smith



C.D. Smith



Gloria Brown, Patrick Martin, and Jamila Brown-Coleman



Guest are treated to a video highlighting scholars.



Hannah Dover, Maggie Freeman, and Jaylen Vance



Pamela Speights Harrison, Scott Culpepper, Lance Burnham, and Fred Gray



Dr. Tommy McDonald, Lita and Wayne Williams

# NURSING GRAD NAMED NEW CENTURY WORKFORCE PATHWAY SCHOLAR



Destiny Little, a 2023 MCC grad, was named New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar.

The New Century Workforce Pathway Scholarship program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Foundation with additional support provided by Phi Theta Kappa, the international academic honor society for community and junior college students.

More than 2,400 applications were received and evaluated on academic achievement, leadership, service, and significant endeavors. Only one New Century Workforce Scholar was selected from each state; Little received the highest score in Mississippi.

"I am beyond honored," said Little when she learned of receiving the honor. "It is an amazing opportunity, and I am so thankful."



Dr. Constance Bradley and Destiny Little



Destiny Little and Dr. Lara Collum

tremendous honor and a testament to her drive to succeed. We are incredibly proud to have Destiny as a student at our College, and we have no doubt that she will continue to excel in her future endeavors," he said.

The Coca-Cola Foundation is the global philanthropic arm of The Coca-Cola Company. Since its inception in 1984, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants to support sustainable community initiatives around the world. For more information about The Coca-Cola Foundation, please visit [coca-colagivingback.com](http://coca-colagivingback.com)

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more

Little, 24, a graduate from MCC's Associate Degree Nursing Program, commuted from her home in Ridgeland to attend class and her clinical duties. "I usually carpoled with other nursing students. Traveling a distance can be challenging at times - especially for the morning classes. We always made it work and we enjoyed each other, so we keep it going," she said.

Her desire to become a nurse stemmed from her work with an ambulance company. "I wanted to transition from pre-hospital to hospital care and further my education that way," she said, noting that she continues to work for the Jackson-based emergency rescue service.

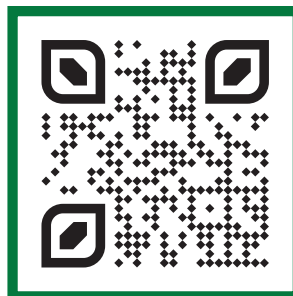
Little plans to work in emergency room or intensive care unit in Jackson. She also aspires to return to college and earn her bachelor of science degree in nursing and master of science in nursing.

As a New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar, Little received a \$1,250 scholarship and will be recognized during the Association of Community College Trustees' (ACCT) Leadership Congress, held from Oct. 9-12, in Las Vegas, Nevada. "We congratulate Destiny for receiving this prestigious scholarship, and we are honored to partner with Coca-Cola Foundation to recognize these outstanding achievements," said Phi Theta Kappa's 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."

MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner said Little's accomplishments demonstrate excellence. "To be recognized as a top community college student is a



Destiny Little



**TO LEARN MORE**

than 3.8 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 countries, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges. Learn more at [ptk.org](http://ptk.org).

For details about MCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, please visit [meridiancc.edu/ptk](http://meridiancc.edu/ptk).

# GRADUATES TAKE THEIR PLACE IN CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE



Forty-one Meridian Community College students were chosen as Spring 2023 Circle of Excellence members. The students, who were announced during graduation, studied in the College's University Transfer and Career and Technical Education programs. They were saluted for their academic achievement, leadership, community service, and spirit.

College administrators applaud the honorees' efforts. "To be chosen for this honor means a student performed exceptionally well academically and was also a contributor to their community in serving others," said Joseph Knight, MCC vice president for workforce solutions. "Simply put, they are students who strive for academic excellence and help others along the way."

MCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Thompson agreed. He noted that the College established the tradition of naming Circle of Excellence honorees to applaud outstanding students nominated by faculty and staff.

To see MCC's graduation ceremonies, scan the QR codes.



**UNIVERSITY TRANSFER  
GRADUATION**



**CAREER & TECHNICAL  
GRADUATION**

# AWARDED: TOP SCHOLARS GAIN THE SPOTLIGHT



William McCullough

Outstanding academic and athletic achievements were spotlighted in Meridian Community College's annual Awards Programs.

Two ceremonies were held in the McCain Theater in Ivy-Scaggs Hall.

MCC sophomore William McCullough received the Ivy Outstanding Student Award. This award is given to the top graduating sophomore active on campus who has positively impacted the school and surrounding area. McCullough, who is from Brookhaven, was a University Transfer Program student who plans to major in biochemistry at Mississippi State University.

To see videos of the Awards Night programs, scan the QR codes.



UNIVERSITY TRANSFER AWARDS NIGHT



CAREER & TECHNICAL AWARDS NIGHT

MCC Foundation award winners include Maggie Freeman, the Royalty Education Scholarship; McCullough, Lucile Reisman Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship; and J.D. Voss, Robert F. Cochran Memorial Scholarship.



Maggie Freeman



J.D. Voss

# PHIL HARDIN FOUNDATION AND DR. H.M. IVY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Five members of the Class of 2023 will get a financial helping hand to continue their academic studies at senior institutions. The honorees were announced during the College's University Transfer Program commencement.

The Phil Hardin Foundation Scholarships were awarded to Ali Grace Applebee and Jaylen Elijah Vance, and the H. M. Ivy Scholarships were presented to Joel Parrish Linton, Madison Elise Moore, and Garrett Bryan Riggs. The Hardin Scholarships, which are \$5,000 awards to



Jaylen Vance



Ali Grace Applebee



Joel Linton

each honoree, pay tribute to the life of businessman Phil Hardin and his philanthropic endeavors to support education. The Phil Hardin Foundation funds these awards through the Meridian Community College Foundation.

Dr. H.M. Ivy, the founding father of Meridian Community College, is remembered through the Ivy Scholarships. This year marks the 50th 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 will get another \$3,600 for their senior year of study. These awards, based on academic excellence, extra-curricular participation, financial need, and faculty appraisals, are funded through an endowment established by the Phil Hardin Foundation.

Applebee and Vance are from Meridian and have a 4.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Applebee was a member of the Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College at Meridian Community College, the Baptist Student Union, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Scholars, and the Evans Phi Theta Kappa scholarships, all funded through the MCC Foundation.

Linton, from Meridian, plans to study business administration at Mississippi State University this fall. He was a member of the Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Government Association, Baptist Student Union, and PTK. Pursuing a degree in elementary education, Moore, from Meridian, will be attending MSU-Meridian and plans to continue her education to earn a master's degree in counseling. Moore was a member of the Honors College, BSU, and co-vice president of PTK. A Hanceville, Alabama, native, Riggs, will attend the University of Alabama - Huntsville to earn a degree in mechanical engineering and work for the Department of Defense. He also hopes to earn a degree in aerospace engineering.



Madison Moore

She plans to attend Mississippi State University and major in kinesiology, and her career goal is to work as a pediatric occupational therapist. Vance will be attending Mississippi College in the fall and has a career goal of becoming a dentist, possibly specializing in pediatric dentistry. He was named to the National Technical Honor Society and served as co-president of MCC's PTK chapter. While at MCC, he received the Eddie Holladay, the Courtyard of



Garrett Riggs

# COLLEGE CELEBRATES ITS OWN AT END-OF-YEAR EVENT



MCC faculty and staff accomplishments and dedication were applauded when the MCC Foundation and MCC Faculty Staff Association hosted an end-of-the-year celebration.

The event kicked off with a breakfast, followed by an awards program in the McCain Theater, featuring a campus address by MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner.

Among the notable highlights were the announcements of the winners of the T.J. Harris, Dr. Clarence W. Roberts "Teacher of the Year," John A. Johnson, Holladay Family Professional

Development, the MCC Foundation's Enrichment through Travel, and the MCCer of the Month awards.

"The MCC Foundation is very excited to host this again ... and this is our chance to show how much you mean to us," said Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, as she addressed the McCain Theater audience of faculty, staff, and administration.

The Holladay Family Professional Development Award, with a \$2,500 stipend, provides professional development opportunities for College faculty and staff. Chandler Chance, biology instructor; Kristy Dickerson, Associate Degree Nursing Program instructor; and Whitney Stevens, financial aid director, received these awards.

The MCC Foundation's Enrichment through Travel Awards, which are \$2,500 each, were given to recipients to enrich their lives and further MCC's mission through travel. Recipients were



Dr. Constance Bradley, Dr. Melanie Janelle Jones, and Dr. Vanessa Norman, ADN program instructors.

JaWanda Huggins, biology instructor, was named the T.J. Harris Award recipient. This recognition spotlights the work of an MCC team member who has contributed beyond their regular job description to the community and College. Huggins holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master of science degree in biology from Mississippi College. She is also an ordained minister and church administrator of the First Apostolic Church.





In continuing the tradition of recognizing employees for years of service to the College, pins were presented during the celebration, recognizing employees with five, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service.

Receiving the John A. Johnson awards were MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner, Stacey Carlisle, Valerie Bishop, and Deborah Nettles. Carlisle is an information technology technician; Bishop is the dean of Institutional Effectiveness; and Nettles is a career and retention advisor. The Johnson Award comes with a \$500 honorarium each, and recipients are peer 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.

Retirees Richard Benefield, Stuart Brown, Ron Bullock, Beth Calderon, Evette Cooper, Diane Delk, Doug Jernigan, Lacy Johnson, Cynthia Kennedy, Beverly Long, Becky Pierce, and Annie Whigham were also recognized.

The Dr. Clarence W. Roberts Outstanding Teacher Awards celebrate outstanding work, innovative techniques, and service to the College and community, with a \$500 gift to each recipient. Recognized were Christena Brown-Bradley, Respiratory Care Practitioner Program coordinator and instructor; Dr. Angela Paige Pennington, director of dental programs, Dental Hygiene Program coordinator and instructor; and Orion Walker, adult basic education instructor.

To learn more about the MCC Foundation, contact Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, vice president for institutional advancement, at [leia.hill@meridiancc.edu](mailto:leia.hill@meridiancc.edu) or call 601.484.8612.

Dr. Pennington joined the MCC faculty in 2015 and holds a bachelor of arts degree from Converse College and a doctor of dental medicine from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Brown-Bradley, an alumna of MCC with degrees in associate in arts and associate of applied science, graduated with a bachelor's degree from UMMC and has a master's degree from Mississippi State University. She began teaching at MCC in 2016 and transitioned to becoming a program coordinator in 2018. Walker has taught full-time in the Adult Education division for 19 years and worked as a part-time instructor before 2003.



The MCCer of the Month recipients were also applauded. Caleb Benson, a biology instructor, was recognized for the honor for April; Courtney Pitts, college outreach and communications specialist, was named for May.





# APPLAUSE

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

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



## JANUARY | JIMMY RIGDON

Industrial Technology Division  
Chair and Commercial Truck Driving  
Coordinator and Instructor

*"I'm very fortunate to work with faculty and administrators who share the same commitment and vision to work with individuals within the community. It makes my job easier and more enjoyable."*



## FEBRUARY | SAMANTHA SHELBY

Health Information Technology Instructor

*"The best part of my job is helping students grow in their knowledge of Health Information Technology."*



MARCH | **JESSI BECKMAN**

Math Lab Coordinator

*"The thing I like best about MCC is knowing I can make a difference in peoples' lives and helping them achieve their dreams. My favorite thing about helping students is building them up so that they believe they can achieve whatever they put their minds to."*



APRIL | **CALEB BENSON**

Biology Instructor

*"Friendly atmosphere and camaraderie among colleagues."*



MAY | **COURTNEY PITTS**

College Outreach and Communication Specialist

*"How my coworkers have become like family."*



JUNE | **KRISTI WILLIAMSON**

Librarian

*"The thing I like best about MCC: Lifelong friendships made while being here."*

# MCC LANDS EIGHT TEAMS IN THE NATIONAL TOP 25

Baseball: The Eagles ended the season 38-12 and ranked third in the NJCAA DII baseball poll. In conference play, the Eagles finished second in the MACCC at 22-6. Cole Boswell (University of Southern Mississippi signee) was named MACCC pitcher of the year, first-team All-MACCC and All-Region. Gunnar Dennis (Ole Miss signee), Dalton McIntyre (USM signee), and freshman Blaise Priester were named first-team All-MACCC and All-Region. Chris Watson and Brennen Study were second-team All-MACCC, and Cooper Chaplain and Caleb Hall received MACCC honorable mentions.

Basketball: The Eagles finished the season as the NJCAA Region 23 champions with a record of 20-9. The Eagles lost in the first round of the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas, but had a historic season this year, culminating in the team's

first trip to the NJCAA national tournament since 1999. This year's group of sophomores led the team to back-to-back 20-win seasons and back-to-back appearances in the NJCAA Region 23 championship game. Chris Terrell (Delta State signee) was named Region 23 tournament MVP and first-team All-MACCC. Makeem Roberts and Randarius Hughes were named to the All-Region

tournament team, and Hughes was second-team All-MACCC. Head coach James Green was named NJCAA Region 23 Coach of the Year.

The Lady Eagles finished their season 24-4 and 12-2 in MACCC play. Shakira Wilson was first-team All-MACCC, and Callie Cowan and Amberly Brown (Mississippi Valley State signee) were second-team All-MACCC. Lizzie Walker (MVS signee) made the Region 23 All-Tournament team.



Track and Field: The men's outdoor track team finished 24th at the NJCAA National Track meet in Hobbs, New Mexico, and the women's team finished 16th. In indoor track, the men finished 25th, and the ladies finished 12th. Privilege Chikara was named the National Women's Track Athlete of the Year for winning the gold in the 800m and in the mile at the NJCAA National Championships.



Golf: Head coach Lance Strickland led the MCC golf team to an 11th-place finish at the NJCAA National Golf Championship at Swan Lake Golf Resort in Plymouth, Indiana. Noah Bumgarner and Lexton Ford (Southeastern Louisiana signees) were named to the NJCAA Division II Ping All-Region Team East. Bumgarner was named first-team All-MACCC, and Ford and Wesley Pippins were named second-team All-MACCC.



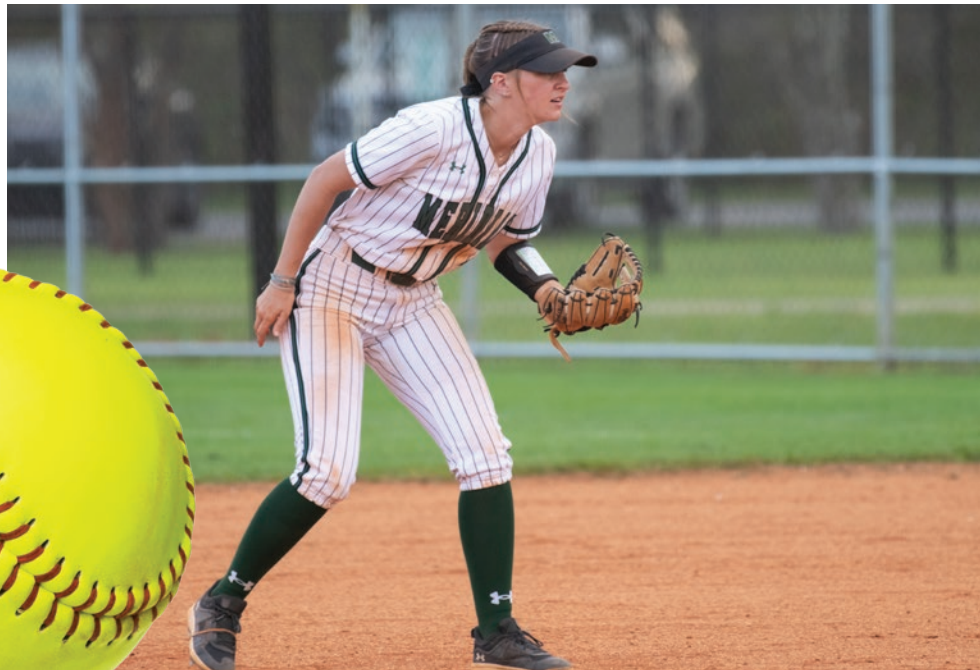
# MCC LANDS EIGHT TEAMS IN THE TOP 25 THIS SEASON



Soccer: The Lady Eagles finished their season 5-10-1 and 3-6-1 in MACCC play. The Ladies made the MACCC playoffs for the second consecutive season finishing seventh in the MACCC standings. Brooke Robinson made second-team All-MACCC.

The Eagles finished their season 2-11-2 and 1-8-1 in MACCC play.

Softball: The Lady Eagles softball team finished the season 14-33 and 9-19 in MACCC play in head coach Brad Grinstead's first season. Mattie Granberry (Delta State signee) was named second-team All-MACCC.







Tennis: MCC Lady Eagle's tennis team finished 18th at the NJCAA National Tournament in Tyler, Texas. The No. 1 doubles team of Ana Julissa De Mata and Isabella Quintero were the MACCC doubles champions and were also named the first team All-MACCC.

The MCC men's tennis team finished 17th at the NJCAA National Tournament in McKinney, Texas.

Sebastian Hernandez was named the MACCC player of the year. Will McCullough was named first-team All-MACCC.

McCullough also received the prestigious Arthur Ashe Jr. Leadership and Sportsmanship Award for NJCAA Division 1 tennis. This award is presented to the national student-athlete with outstanding sportsmanship, leadership, and academic, extracurricular, and tennis achievements.

# GETTING INTO THE SWIM OF THINGS: NEW TEAM FORMS THIS FALL



Meridian Community College is adding another team to the Eagle athletic roster: swimming, making MCC the only community and junior college in the state to offer it as a sport.

“Our plan is to build a small squad this fall and watch it grow. Our belief is our program will grow and become the flagship swimming program for students in the southeastern United States,” said MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner.

Dr. Huebner noted the College’s swimming facilities located at the campus’ Damon Fitness Center are competitive; the pool is a sanctioned 25-meter swimming pool.

Leading the team will be Wade Heggie, MCC fitness center director, who has been involved with the Meridian Swim Association as its coach for a number of years as well as with the Mississippi Swim Association and its board. “In 2017, Wade was awarded the Outstanding Service Award by the U.S. Swim Association for his service to Mississippi swimming,” said MCC Athletic Director Sander Atkinson.



“We have slogan here - find your wings,” Heggie said. “That’s what we’re going to do. We’re going to get swimmers here, athletes here,” he said, adding, “Coaching has been my life, but it’s not just that,” he said. “I love the water. This is my second home... my family knows this. I spend a lot of hours up here, because we want to provide a healthy, safe environment,” he said.

He added, “I can’t wait to get my feet wet.”

The new swimming program will offer a variety of events, including freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, and butterfly and it will compete against other National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) teams.

Adding swimming as a sport is part of MCC’s ongoing commitment to providing opportunities for students to participate in athletics and promote physical fitness. Swimming is a highly competitive and demanding sport that requires discipline, hard work, and dedication, aligning with MCC’s values and mission, college officials noted.



Wade Heggie



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## JOIN OTHER ALUMS

**THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE - AND THAT INCLUDES BECOMING A MEMBER OF MCC'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.**

Courtney Pitts, Lifetime Quest and alumni association coordinator, said there are no fees to join the association. The membership benefits are plentiful, including being informed of College events, networking with other alumni, and advocating for an institution that provides quality education.

To Join - alums can go to [www.meridiancc.edu/alumniassociation](http://www.meridiancc.edu/alumniassociation)

There's also a social media channel [facebook.com/groups/mccalumniassociation](https://facebook.com/groups/mccalumniassociation)

For details, contact Pitts at MCC at 601.484.8696, or email [courtney.pitts@meridiancc.edu](mailto:courtney.pitts@meridiancc.edu).



# ELC PROGRAM DEVELOPS MCC LEADERS



Left side: Victoria Liddell, Marlo Turner, Cyndy Bratu, Brandy Hill, and Mitch Brantley. Right side: Whitney Stevens, Mandy Hurtt, An Howard Hill, Kristi Williamson, and Tony Boutwell.

Ten MCCers celebrated a significant milestone: They were the first graduates of the innovative program Eagles Leadership Convocation (ELC).

This program is an academic year-long professional development and leadership program designed to equip participants with the skills they need to excel in their roles. The first cohort included Tony Boutwell, Mitch Brantley, Cyndy Bratu, AnHoward Hill, Brandy Hill, Mandy Hurtt, Victoria Liddell, Whitney Stevens, Marlo Turner, and Kristi Williamson. They met monthly to cover a range of leadership topics and network with lecturers and college cabinet members.

The group collaboratively crafted a project focused on identifying a College need and developing a program/solution. This first ELC class project: Welcome Wings.

In explaining the project to the College cabinet members, Brandy Hill said new employees face an enormous amount of information when first arriving

at the College to begin work. "Our Human Resources department does a fantastic job of presenting HR information, payroll information, and things that pertain to their area of the College, but there's so much more a new team member needs to know other than just payroll and benefits. And it is impossible for them to absorb it all at once," she said.

The ELC's solution for the information overload is to create a committee to serve as a resource for new employees from meeting face-to-face, giving campus tours, crafting time-specific emails, gifting College branded items, and checking in with the new employees.

"I couldn't be happier about this project," said MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner to the group. "Your work will make a difference and be very important to us," he added. Vice President for Workforce Solutions Joseph Knight offered kudos to the participants and applauded the project. "I think it demonstrates that when a group of people come together and try to solve a common



Tony Boutwell

problem, there's always a way to improve the process. I was impressed."

Reflecting on their ELC experience, participants expressed a sense of bittersweetness at the program's completion. "I'm excited to implement what I've learned through this leadership course, but I'm also sad that it's ending because I have enjoyed learning more about my coworkers and getting to know them on a more personal level," said Hurtt.



Cyndy Bratu

Turner agreed that by joining the program, she better understood herself and how to work with others who may differ from her.

"This was a huge growth experience," said Brantley about his ELC participation. "At first, I was out of my comfort zone with the group, but I developed leadership skills, and I knew I needed that." A bonus for Brantley was the opportunity to be mentored by Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, who oversaw the ELC, along with Dr. Huebner.

"It was just a wonderful experience, and I highly recommend it," Brantley added.

The cohort for 2023-24 includes Shaquita Hopson Alfonso, Laureta Chislom, Tim Cole, Jamila Brown Coleman, Eric Griffin, Christopher Haralson, Edwina Jeannette Howell, Angie Pickard, Erin Richardson, and Terrell Taylor.

To learn more about the Eagles Leadership Convocation, contact Dr. Leia Agnew Hill at [leia.hill@meridiancc.edu](mailto:leia.hill@meridiancc.edu), 601.484.8612.



Mitch Brantley



An Howard Hill



Mandy Hurtt



Brandy Hill



Victoria Liddell



Whitney Stevens



Marlo Turner



Kristi Williamson



# SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT HONORS MEMORY OF JACKIE BATES SLAY

If only one word could describe Jackie Bates Slay, it would be humble.

"She always stressed humility to my brother Phillip and I. She was a very patient and giving person, and she always put the Lord first in all that she tried to do," said Greg Slay about his mom, Jackie, who passed away in February 2017.



The Jackie Bates Slay Memorial Scholarship Endowment has been established and funded through the MCC Foundation to honor her memory. "She would be very humbled and honored by knowing that the scholarship was named in her memory," Greg said. "She would have felt very grateful that God had made her fortunate enough to be a blessing in the lives of the young people who receive the scholarship, and she would be hopeful that it would better their lives and the lives of their families."

Jackie was born in Bessemer, Alabama, and lived most of her life in Meridian, graduating from Meridian High School in 1962. She was a member of Oak Hill Baptist Church. Described as a very loving wife, mother, and grandmother, Jackie relished working in her yard and serving her church. An avid Mississippi State University football fan, Jackie served on the board of directors for the Greater Meridian Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "She was passionate about seeing local young people come to know Jesus Christ through sports," Greg added.

The scholarship, which will be awarded this fall, is earmarked for a child of an employee of Slay Steel or an Oak Hill Baptist Church member. The MCC student must be enrolled full-time with demonstrated financial need.

To learn more about MCC endowments, visit [meridiancc.edu/foundation](http://meridiancc.edu/foundation).



**SUPPORT MCC**



# EDWARDS' DEDICATION TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY LIVES ON THROUGH NEW ENDOWMENT

The story of Thomas Maxwell "Little Max" Edwards Jr. is one of dedication, hard work, and a deep love for his family and community.

Edwards' legacy continues thanks to the establishment of the Max Edwards Endowment, which is funded through the Meridian Community College Foundation by the Ernestine L. Lenoir Charitable Trust.

Edwards passed away in 2017 at the age of 78.

Born in Butler, Alabama, Edwards was the oldest of six siblings. Throughout high school, he worked alongside his father at his dad's business, Edwards Plumbing & Electrical Co., and would join the company full-time after graduating. Although he never had the opportunity to attend college, Edwards was an avid reader and constantly sought to improve his trade, taking numerous classes and expanding the family business to include air conditioning, heating, and even an ice plant.

His commitment to his family was solid; he and his sister Jane helped to raise their four younger siblings,

who would also work in the family business. "He loved hiring his nieces, nephews, and his friends' teenage children to work at his ice plant. For many of these young people, it was their first job," said Edwards' wife, Kim

Trawick Edwards. The Edwards were married for 37 years until his passing.

In addition to his strong work ethic, Edwards was also passionate about helping his community. He was a member of the Butler Volunteer Fire Department for over 50 years, serving as chief for three decades. He was key in forming the Choctaw County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. Edwards helped Kim with Choctaw County's American Cancer Society fundraiser, Relay for Life, for over ten years.

"He had a love for animals, especially his dogs," Kim said. And, "in his spare

time he loved cooking for his family and friends, fishing and hunting. He was also well known for his barbecue cooking."

To learn more about MCC endowments, visit [meridiancc.edu/foundation](http://meridiancc.edu/foundation).



Max Edwards and Kim Trawick Edwards



# GOODMAN CRAFTS NEW CAREER THANKS TO HELP FROM SCHOLARSHIP

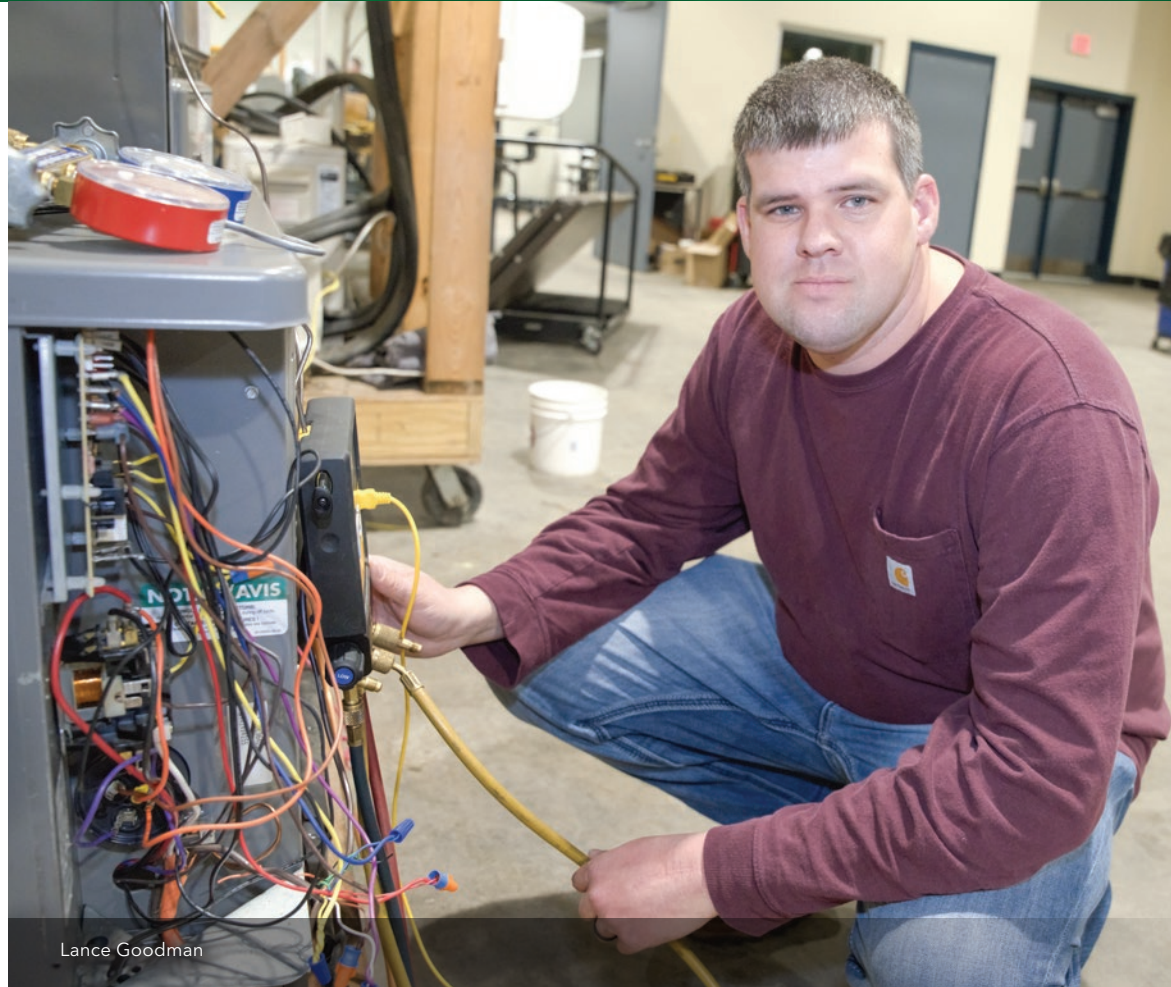
Lance Goodman, a 34-year-old master sergeant from Collinsville serving with the Mississippi Air National Guard for 10 years, is the first recipient of the Max Edwards Scholarship, which is funded through the Meridian Community College Foundation.

The scholarship is earmarked for students pursuing a degree in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning; Goodman, who began his studies in this MCC career and technical education program, completed HVAC I in May. Next year, he plans to finish HVAC II.

But this wasn't his first time studying at MCC. "Right after high school, I came to MCC in the Fall of 2007 and got my associate of arts degree. Then I went off to motorcycle mechanics school, MMI, in Orlando, Florida," Goodman said. Working with his hands was rewarding, but he realized he needed more, so he followed a family tradition of joining the Guard. In his service, Goodman works as an aircrew flight attendant - tending to the safety equipment for the pilots and aircraft; his interest in troubleshooting and electrical components continued to develop.

When his wife's grandfather introduced him to HVAC, it sparked Goodman's interest in the field. And so he enrolled in MCC's program.

"I've enjoyed the class so much," he said, noting that some of his motorcycle repair knowledge has overlapped with that of HVAC. "I've learned that when you work in



Lance Goodman

HVAC, there are so many different sections, too. You can be the service guys that check the unit, replace parts, or you can be the guys that work with commercial grade stuff, or you can do the install - the ductwork," he said.

"It's a lot to it - electrical and mechanical - and they're always trying to improve it," Goodman said.

Goodman and his wife, Emily, have a three-year-old son, Harvey. "I love working on mechanical stuff," he said, adding it is a trait he hopes to pass along to his son.

To learn more about MCC endowments, visit [meridiancc.edu/foundation](http://meridiancc.edu/foundation).



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# FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



**MERIDIAN**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

## 2022-2023 FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



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### **Makayla Thompson**

Dr. William J. Anderson, III Memorial Scholarship

### **James Germany**

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### **Kayla Joiner**

AT&T Scholarship

### **Isabella Sanders**

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### **Brittany Thomas**

Laurie M. Autry Memorial Scholarship

### **David Vick**

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### **James Wilson**

C. B. Bailey Memorial Scholarship

### **Christopher Blanks**

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### **Briton Brassfield**

Barnett All-America City Scholarship

### **Kittra Hudnall**

Barnett All-America City Scholarship

### **Asauni Rainey**

Leonard Corydon Barrell Family Scholarship

### **Brittany Thomas**

Howard Beeland Memorial Scholarship

### **Jaeden Carney**

Sallie Mae Bell Memorial Scholarship

### **Whitney Blackwell**

Cameron Scott Boggan Memorial Scholarship

### **John Hollingsworth**

Cameron Scott Boggan Memorial Scholarship

### **Savannah Cooksey**

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

### **Beatrice Bonner**

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

### **Rayleigh Floyd**

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

### **Idasha' Glenn**

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

### **Alexis Hamilton**

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

### **Courtney McPherson**

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

### **Kodi McKay**

Thomas and Norma Bourdeaux Scholarship

### **Camryn Gray**

Harry & Vivian Boureau Music Scholarship

### **Kristian Speed**

Susan Partridge Boyette Memorial Scholarship

### **Samuel Downs**

Gloria Blackshear Brown High School Equivalency Scholarship

### **Cody Crawford**

Margaret Butler Memorial Scholarship

### **Jada Kendricks**

Madeline Scott Callahan Memorial Scholarship

### **Karlee Spivey**

Carney-Nelson Scholarship

### **Khadeja Johnson**

The Carter Foundation Scholarship

### **Kishona Davis**

Cater's Market Culinary Scholarship

### **T'Yunna Pierce**

Cater's Market Culinary Scholarship

### **Breanna Hodges**

Alta and Ivan Chisolm Memorial Scholarship

### **Anna Card**

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### **Sabrina Gordon**

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### **Rachel Thaggard**

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### **Jaylen Vance**

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### **Mallory Lee**

Winnie P. Crampton Nursing Scholarship

**Marionna Evans**

Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship

**Idasha' Glenn**

Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship

**Olivia Gray**

Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship

**Maci Manning**

Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship

**Peyton Simpson**

Clifton "Buddy" Davis Memorial Scholarship

**Halle Smith**

L. J. Davis and Winifred Davis Memorial Scholarship

**Elijah Rank**

Marshall and Miriam Deonier Memorial Scholarship

**Stacy Brown**

Toni L. DeVaney Memorial Scholarship

**Brittany McDaniel**

Margaret Reed Dulaney Scholarship

**Kimberly Brewer**

Earnest Workers King's Daughters and Sons Scholarship

**Eli Huebner**

Eva Mae Gilbert Edwards Memorial Scholarship

**Lance Goodman**

Max Edwards Workforce Training Scholarship

**Peyton Parker**

William H. Entrekin Family Music Scholarship

**Anita Craven**

Erika's Hope Memorial Scholarship

**Rachel Thaggard**

Evans PTK Scholarship Award

**Jaylen Vance**

Evans PTK Scholarship Award

**Alexander Coleman**

Don and Donia Evans Scholarship

**Martika Lewis**

Future Nurses Scholarship

**Raven Sanders**

Future Nurses Scholarship

**Ali Grace Applebee**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

**Maggie Freeman**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

**Lauren Kirchhefer**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

**Joel Linton**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

**Wynecia Willis**

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

**Randaius Gully**

Kimberly Renata Govan Scholarship

**Jillian Miller**

Gayle Gray Memorial Nursing Scholarship

**Kellie Payton**

Gayle Gray Memorial Nursing Scholarship

**Savanna Hill**

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

**Reaghan Davis**

Shirley Griffin Nursing Scholarship

**Millaree Keely**

Debbie Gunn Memorial Scholarship

**Anna Pippin**

Debbie Gunn Memorial Scholarship

**Danielle Chambliss**

William Gunn, Esquire Memorial Scholarship

**Ivan Barnard**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Lane Davis**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**David Downs**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Samuel Downs**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Anthony Gammill**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Marisol Garcia**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Sebastian Hendricks**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Michael James**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Daniel Johnson**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**William McMullan**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**David Mixon**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Kyra Moore**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Joel Ortiz**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Elon Presley**

Gene Haas Scholarship

**Joseph Stephens**

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**Noah Stephens**

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**Alexandra Rangel**

Phil Hardin Foundation Scholarship

**Henry Zheng**

Phil Hardin Foundation Scholarship

**Heather Wood**

Lou Weddington Hart Memorial Scholarship

**Sarah Cooksey**

Mattie D. Hart/Emma Donald Music Scholarship

**Patrick Martin**

Mattie D. Hart/Emma Donald Music Scholarship

**Jasmyne Henry**

Judy Hartzler Scholarship

**Timberlee Drummond**

Katherine Chisolm Hester and Lamar Hester Memorial Scholarship

**Peyton Coleman**

T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial Scholarship

**Hannah Dover**

T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial Scholarship

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**Victoria Spears**

T. K. Dobbins, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

**Nicholas Bennette**

Downtown Optimist Club/Bill Herndon Memorial Scholarship

**Jayla Vance**

Downtown Optimist Club/Bill Herndon Memorial Scholarship

**Tyler Lofton**

Don and Donia Evans Scholarship

**Gwendolen Moore**

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**Cohen Hurst**

Hugh and Katherine Foster Memorial Scholarship

**Gregory Bounds**

Marmion Loving Francis Scholarship

**Mattie Granberry**

Bebe Roberts Freeman Scholarship

**Courtney Coleman**

Jacob Chester Frist Memorial Scholarship

# FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



## **Heather Streeter**

Dr. Jeff Hollingsworth Memorial Scholarship

## **Sebastian Hendricks**

Home School Student Scholarship

## **Jasmine Carter**

Paulette Aycock Hopkins Memorial Scholarship

## **Aarionna Dumas**

Catherine Hovious Nursing Scholarship

## **Ashley McLelland**

Catherine Hovious Nursing Scholarship

## **Kyleigh Turner**

Richard Harper Howarth, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

## **Sadrea Brown**

Dr. George Howell Nursing Scholarship

## **Joy Kelley**

Dr. George Howell Nursing Scholarship

## **Avery Bryan**

H.M. Ivy Scholarship

## **Caleb Clearman**

H.M. Ivy Scholarship

## **Jacob Vance**

H.M. Ivy Scholarship

## **Sarah McCoy**

Austin and Alice James Accounting Scholarship

## **Sarah Clay**

John and Ann Johnson Scholarship

## **Abbey Sistrunk**

Reuben S. Johnson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

## **Gracie Bunyard**

Walter and Cora Thompson Johnson Memorial Scholarship

## **Mallory Leake**

Walter and Cora Thompson Johnson Memorial Scholarship

## **Colin Hartman**

Wilton B. (Bill) Johnson Scholarship

## **Mary Ashley Culpepper**

Ann and Ken Joyner Book Scholarship

## **Olivia Harwell**

Ann and Ken Joyner Book Scholarship

## **Autym Brashier**

Lucy Kahlmus Dental Hygiene Scholarship

## **Daniel Johnson**

Key Brothers Memorial Scholarship

## **Tyla Hutcherson**

Gondine Kittrell Memorial Scholarship

## **Lauren Hines**

Edward T. Lafferty Scholarship

## **Madison Alford**

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship

## **Hannah Buchanan**

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship

## **Jarrica Carey**

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship

## **Sade Gammage**

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## **Mallie Hudson**

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship

## **Brinnon Powell**

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship

## **Russell Brooks**

Oscar Lewis Estates (OLE) LLC Scholarship

## **Jeremy Roberson**

Oscar Lewis Estates (OLE) LLC Scholarship

## **Darrell Sims**

Oscar Lewis Estates (OLE) LLC Scholarship

## **Jennifer Anthony**

LFW Ministries Scholarship

## **Shantel Moore**

Stennis "Judge" Little Memorial Scholarship

## **Shanta Williams**

Stennis "Judge" Little Memorial Scholarship

## **Matthew Bowling**

Lockheed STEM Scholarship

## **Sarah McCoy**

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

## **Peyton Esslinger**

Jason Marshall Memorial Scholarship

## **Katherine Cerda**

MCC Foundation Board of Directors Scholarship

## **Jonathan Marshall**

MCC Foundation Board of Directors Scholarship

## **Katie Taylor**

MCC Foundation Board of Directors Scholarship

## **Christian Wilkins**

MCC Foundation Board of Directors Scholarship

## **Courtney Carney**

MCCF Miscellaneous Scholarship

## **Lauren Brewer**

Kathleen Newby McDaniel Memorial Scholarship

## **Bradon Epting**

Kathleen Newby McDaniel Memorial Scholarship

## **Kayli Warren**

Kathleen Newby McDaniel Memorial Scholarship

## **Amanda Farr**

Emily Louise McDonald Nursing Scholarship

## **Monica Potts**

Emily Louise McDonald Nursing Scholarship

## **Olivia Keyes**

Percy R. McLemore Scholarship

## **Anna Kate Touchstone**

Percy R. McLemore Scholarship

## **Jacob Touchstone**

Medical Lab Technology Scholarship

## **Brinnon Powell**

Meridian Area Dental Association Scholarship

## **Olivia Willard**

Meridian Area Dental Association Scholarship

## **Allison Beard**

Meridian Exchange Club/Bo Russell Memorial Scholarship

## **Edward Rackley**

Meridian Media Group Scholarship

## **Madeline McIlwain**

Meridian Rotary Club Scholarship

## **Gary Gibson**

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship

## **Jake McElroy**

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship

## **Rawson Polizzi**

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship

## **Meadow Smith**

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship

## **Jamesha Jones**

MHS Class of 1978 Scholarship

## **Ana Julissa De Mata Rodriguez**

Thomas Y. Minniece Memorial Scholarship

## **Geneva Agent**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

## **LaTrisha Aldridge**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

## **Tamara Brister**

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship

**Amber Brunson**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Bradley Collins**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Miranda Cumberland**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Memory Day**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Summer Dorman**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Baleigh Ellis**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Marquita Epps**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Andrea Evans**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
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**Kabriyah Ford**

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Scholarship

**Semica Foster**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Chiara Gressett**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Kandy Griggs**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Victoria Hand**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Lateshia Harris**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Amber Hernandez**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Brittani Howard**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Jada Jennings**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**MarTika Lewis**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Destiny Little**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Sharika Lopez**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Briantionette Mathis**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Kimberly McDonald**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Autumn Mize**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Shantel Moore**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Monica Morgan**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Kellie Payton**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Karen Perrett**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Bilishia Powell**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Tysheonna Rainey**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Shannon Robinson**

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**Kamryn Rodriguez**

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**Iyonna Satcher**

Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Scholarship

**Briana Robinson Scott**

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Mississippi Board of Nursing  
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**Chiquita Slaughter**

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Mitchell Companies Scholarship

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Scholarship

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G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery  
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**Cora Bucurel**

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery  
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**Olivia Joles**

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery  
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**India Whittle**

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**Emma Winstead**

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**Miracle Brock**

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Moore Hudson Memorial  
Scholarship

**Christina Dixon**

Dr. William R. Moore, II Memorial  
Scholarship

**Erica Dean**

Joyce Morrison Memorial  
Scholarship

**Benjamin Goudy**

Mott Foundation Commercial  
Truck Driving Scholarship

**Justin Humphrey**

Mott Foundation Commercial  
Truck Driving Scholarship

**Derricus Johnson**

Mott Foundation Commercial  
Truck Driving Scholarship

**LaSandra Jordan**

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Truck Driving Scholarship

**Samuel Simpson**

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Truck Driving Scholarship

**Tayana Campbell**

National Board for Respiratory  
Care Scholarship

**Rebecca Coonce**

National Board for Respiratory  
Care Scholarship

**Bionnica Hurst**

National Board for Respiratory  
Care Scholarship

**Ashley Viverette**

National Board for Respiratory  
Care Scholarship



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## **Madison Moore**

Ruth Van Dyke Nelson Memorial Scholarship

## **Shameka Mitchell**

Virginia Price Nelson Scholarship

## **Meagan Cade**

Gloria Nuckolls Memorial Scholarship

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## **Kesia Gray**

Gerald Price Memorial Scholarship

## **Quinton Lowery**

Rev. George Pugh Memorial Hospitality Scholarship

## **Stephanie Valle**

Rev. George Pugh Memorial Hospitality Scholarship

## **Maria Byrd**

Elizabeth Riley Memorial Scholarship

## **Sadie Kirkland**

Elizabeth Riley Memorial Scholarship

## **Camille Smith**

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## **John Carpenter**

Richard F. Riley, M.D. Scholarship

## **Lauren Lewis**

Miriam Roberson Nursing Scholarship

## **Linda'see Little**

Miriam Roberson Nursing Scholarship

## **Seth Jackson**

Ardell Moffett Rogers Memorial Scholarship

## **Riley Crawford**

I. A. Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship

## **Joy St. Clair**

Lucile Reisman Rosenbaum Scholarship

## **Christopher Hines**

S. A. Rosenbaum Scholarship

## **Megan Oliver**

Royalty Education Scholarship

## **Miranda Anderson**

Rush Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship

## **Alzier Smith**

Judie Bounds Rutledge Memorial Scholarship

## **Christopher Hines**

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## **Cole Boswell**

Melvin Sanderford Memorial Scholarship

## **Brickley Jackson**

Big and Ham Sanders Scholarship

## **Mia Adams**

Joe Charles and Mai Keen Sanders Memorial Scholarship

## **Jentzen Moore**

Doris and Cecil Seale Memorial Scholarship

## **Katelyn Reding**

Daniel P. and Ruby Self Scholarship

## **Laquandra Lewis**

Jackie Bates Slay Memorial Scholarship

## **Cody Britt**

Lee Anne Smith Memorial Scholarship

## **Reaghan Davis**

Margaret and Bill Smylie Scholarship

## **Kataria Barber**

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## **Mathishia Wilson**

State Farm Companies Scholarship

## **Skyler Allen**

Structural Steel Services Scholarship

## **Zackary Goforth**

Structural Steel Services Scholarship

## **Lee Kauerz**

Structural Steel Services Scholarship

## **Sidney Taylor**

Structural Steel Services Scholarship

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A. Wayne Sullivan, M.D. Memorial Scholarship

## **Edwin Trejo**

Walter H. Thompson Memorial Radiologic Technology Scholarship

## **Felecia Hales**

Dr. Dan Thornton, Jr. Scholarship

## **LaToya Flowers**

Mae Carroll Thornton Scholarship

## **Chezzie Massey**

Mae Carroll Thornton Scholarship

## **Mallory Holloman**

Jacob Toney Memorial Scholarship

## **Emma Watson**

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## **Peyton Miller**

Les Wallace Memorial Scholarship

## **Madison Carlisle**

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## **Francine Adams**

Norma Webb Scholarship



## **Jabria Hopkins**

Nurse to Nurse Scholarship

## **Marqueshia Pass**

Nurse to Nurse Scholarship

## **Larasha Wooten**

Nurse to Nurse Scholarship

## **Deonna Brandon**

Alexander Ott/The Crossings Memorial Scholarship

## **Heather Champion**

Alexander Ott/The Crossings Memorial Scholarship

## **Marquita Epps**

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

## **Devonna Gilmer**

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## **Ethan Wooldridge**

Gerry Wayne Purvis Scholarship

## **Ronald Ries**

Radio People Scholarship

## **Tyson McIntosh**

C. B. "Dough" & Alice Rawlings Scholarship

## **Jahaliya Moore**

C. B. "Dough" & Alice Rawlings Scholarship

## **Rayleigh Floyd**

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## **Destiny Redmond**

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## **Thomas Spivey**

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Tommy Webb Business Scholarship

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**Tanner Haguewood**

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

**Isaac James**

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

**Josie Reid**

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

**Karlee Sullivan**

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

**John Bryant, Jr.**

W. C. Winstead Scholarship

**Taryn Dumas**

WTOK-TV Broadcast Communication Scholarship

**Leyton Thomas**

Charles L. Young, Sr. Cosmetology Scholarship

**Christopher Beckham**

Charles and Doretha Young, (MLK) Scholarship

**Breanna Gordon**

Charles and Doretha Young, (MLK) Scholarship

**Mesheila Harris**

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**Abdurahman Alsadi**

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# NAMING NAMES

Is there a notable MCC alum who deserves to be a member of the MCC Hall of Fame? If so, send us their resume and nominate them as part of the 2024 MCC Hall of Fame recipients.



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