

GAME ON

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CONNECTIONS

MAGAZINE



INSIDE THIS EDITION



MCC ADMINISTRATION

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and chief financial officer

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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.

MORE THAN A PHOTO

THE STORY BEHIND OUR COVER

You might be surprised by how much thought goes into choosing the cover photo for Connections magazine. We've had some great ones over the years, each selected to reflect the spirit of who we are and what we're striving to accomplish. This year's cover is no exception—but unless you know the story behind our new softball field and tennis courts, you might not realize just how special it is.

Trust me—it's special.

Not long after I arrived on campus in 2018, it became clear that our tennis courts and softball field were in serious need of attention. I've shared this story before: we debated locations until Dr. Leia Hill suggested the property "across the road." I wasn't sure it would work, so I sent our then-facilities director, Adam Foreman, over with a tape measure. "It'll be tight," he said, "but it's possible." That was all we needed to hear.

From there, the vision began to take shape—through conversations about state funding, a generous commitment from our friends at Citizens National Bank, the creativity of architects Mark Davis and John Purdy, and the unwavering support of our Board of Trustees. It took time, but when the dirt started moving, I knew we were on the right path.

And then something happened that I'll never forget.

I often grab lunch at the Waffle House across the street. The folks there know me well—I usually order the Breakfast Bowl with hash browns, sausage, eggs, and cheese. One day, shortly after construction began, I walked in and was greeted with cheers. I was caught off guard and asked why. Their answer?

"Because MCC is bringing LIFE to our corner!"

That moment stuck with me. Because they were right.

Some might say we were just building athletic facilities. But that's not the full story. We were—and are—bringing life to our community. Every day, in ways big and small, MCC breathes life into this place we call home.



Dr. Thomas Huebner

When students discover their passion, we bring life to our community.

When friendships are formed—in classrooms, study sessions, residence halls, or over lunch—we bring life to our community.

When a student realizes they can pass a test, finish a course, return next semester, and graduate—we bring life to our community.

And my favorite: when a child shouts, "That's my momma!" as a determined, hardworking woman walks across the stage to receive her diploma—we bring life to our community.

This is the best part of my job: knowing that what we do matters. Our faculty and staff know it too. They see it. They live it.

So if you ever wonder whether a place like Meridian Community College makes a difference, come visit. Talk to our people. Meet our students. You'll see firsthand that MCC is a powerful investment—one that's been bringing life to our community for decades.

And with your support, that will never stop.

2025-2026 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN: THIS IS HOW WINGS ARE MADE

IT STARTS WITH HOPE. IT GROWS WITH HARD WORK.
AND IT TAKES FLIGHT – BECAUSE OF YOU.

► FROM THE HEART: A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dr. Leia Agnew Hill

This spring, I experienced the kind of loss that reshapes your world. After 21 years of marriage, I said goodbye to my husband, who bravely battled pancreatic cancer. In those final weeks, we talked about legacy—what we leave behind, who we impact, and how we keep making a difference even when we're no longer here.

Together, we established an endowment in his name, a decision that brought him peace and purpose. Through the MCC Foundation, I've had the privilege of helping many families create scholarships to honor their loved ones, but now, I more fully understand the depth of what that means. The "why" feels more personal. A scholarship isn't just a line in a ledger. It's a promise. It's hope. It's the transformation of grief into purpose—and memory into momentum.

What we give lives on—in the form of someone else's opportunity.

At MCC, we know that every student's journey is unique. But what they all share is the need for support—support that lifts them, guides them, and gives them the confidence to soar. Thanks to your investment, that's exactly what we're able to provide.

Because of your gifts, our students gain access to scholarships, state-of-the-art equipment, hands-on learning, and mentorship opportunities. Your contribution is building the runway for student success. These are the moments where potential becomes power. Because of you, students gain confidence, discover their potential, and begin to believe in what's possible. This is how wings are made.

As we look ahead, we're excited about the growth happening across our campus—new programs, upgraded facilities, and expanded student services. But none of it would be possible without the generosity of donors like you. You are part of the MCC story, and your support is woven into every success our students achieve.

Thank you for believing in our mission. Thank you for continuing to invest in lives, legacies, and futures. This isn't just about funding education—it's about helping students rise.

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

MCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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



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



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



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



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



MCC FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

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 Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, secretary
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MCC SEES 12.2 PERCENT ENROLLMENT GROWTH FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2025



Meridian Community College continues its strong enrollment growth, with a 12.2 percent increase in student headcount and an 8.8 percent rise in student credit hours for spring semester 2025 compared to last spring, according to official 10th-day enrollment numbers provided by the Mississippi Community College Board.



These gains place MCC among Mississippi's top three community colleges for enrollment growth.

The latest statistics demonstrate MCC's growth is outpacing the state average, which stands at 6.4 percent for headcount and 5.8 percent for credit hours.

MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner noted that the upward count is encouraging. "Our fall enrollment increase was a record, and this percentage growth is even higher. We still have room to grow, but I'm pleased with our momentum."

Dr. Huebner attributes its success to dedicated faculty, staff, and students who help create a welcoming and dynamic learning environment.

For more information about MCC's programs and enrollment opportunities, visit meridiancc.edu.



MERIDIAN COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY

SELLING THE WORLD'S MOST
POPULAR SOFT DRINK FOR MORE
THAN A CENTURY



More than 120 years of Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company's history are depicted in brightly colored murals painted on the walls of its old bottling room, a reflection of the company's successful legacy as a centennial family business.

"Our success is based on our involvement with the community," said Hardy Graham Jr., who currently serves as president and chairman of Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company. "We try to do everything we can to support our community and be involved as much as we can, and I think doing that makes us a beverage that people think of first. We show our loyalty to the community, and the community has shown their loyalty to us and our products."

"Starting with dad, we've always felt a really strong connection to Meridian Community College, and we felt it was really important for us, personally and companywide, to support MCC because the more education we can provide the community the more our community is going to thrive," Graham said. "We can attract more businesses to the community if we've got a good education system, which will result in people getting higher paying jobs."

Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company is passionate about its investment in the community and the people it serves. Meridian Community College and the MCC Foundation are two institutions that have greatly benefitted from the company's strong leadership and sense of civic pride.

Besides sponsorships and support for the Foundation's Tuition Guarantee Program, Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling's leadership has always looked with overwhelming optimism toward the College's future. Graham currently serves on the MCC Foundation Board of Directors, a seat his father, the late Hardy Graham Sr., held for many years, which included serving as a past president. Hardy Graham Sr. was a longtime advocate for MCC and worked diligently to ensure the College's success. The College's Graham Gymnasium is named in his honor.

"The best thing for our area is for Meridian Community College to be as strong as it can be and to do as well as it can, and we at Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling are trying to do our part to make sure that happens," Graham added.

Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company was founded in 1902 as the first franchised bottler of Coca-Cola in the state of Mississippi, established as part of the Louisiana Company out of New Orleans. Unfortunately, the company fell into bankruptcy within its first two years.



Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company's history is depicted in murals.

Graham's great grandfather, Richard Newell Poindexter, who had entered the Coca-Cola bottling business in the Carolinas in 1902 on an offer from his cousin J.T. Lupton, moved to the Deep South and purchased Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling in 1904.

At that time, Meridian's population was booming on the back of the railroad lines, and the city offered promise for emerging businesses. Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling was no exception as the iconic soft drink became popular in the community.

Following Poindexter, Graham's great uncle, Zed Hawkins, ran Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling until his death in 1972. Hardy Graham Sr. returned to Meridian in 1970 to work at the Meridian bottler and took over as president in 1979. The fourth generation to helm the company, Hardy Graham Jr., returned to Meridian and the company in 1997 after spending five years working for Memphis Coca-Cola and Jackson Coca-Cola. He assumed the role of president in 2016.



Hardy Graham Jr.

A fifth generation of the family has also stepped into roles within the realm of independently owned U.S. Coca-Cola bottlers. His daughter Lilli Graham works for Coca-Cola in Jackson, Mississippi, and a nephew, Liam Morphis, works for Coca-Cola in Jackson, Tennessee.

Employing more than 90, Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Company supplies some of the most popular brands of soft drinks, waters, teas, and beverages throughout east central Mississippi and west central Alabama. Some of these iconic brands include Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Sprite, Dasani, Vitamin Water, Gold Peak Tea, Powerade, and Mello Yello. Between 300 and 350 flavors of products are distributed into all or parts of 17 counties from Macon in the north to Buckatunna and Sandersville in the south and from Forest to Eutaw, Alabama.

Graham said Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling is committed to its future and is working to ensure the surrounding community thrives. Through donations and volunteerism to schools and athletic programs, museums, festivals, nonprofit organizations, pageants, and community events, he believes Meridian Coca-Cola will continue to have a positive impact on the Meridian community.

"We have had a tremendous impact on the community going back to the very beginning. We've always had the philosophy of giving back to the community that has helped our business do so well," Graham said. "It has been our goal to be a good steward to our community and our surrounding area."

EAGLES IN ACTION

MCC'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 2024

POW/MIA Salute

Meridian Community College hosted a Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag-raising ceremony outside Ivy-Scaggs Hall, bringing together students, faculty, and community members to honor those who served and are still missing. The solemn event served as a powerful reminder of sacrifice and service.



OCTOBER 2024

My College Cares

More than 850 volunteers—including students, faculty, and staff—participated in MCC's annual *My College Cares*, lending a helping hand throughout the community. From organizing food pantries to assisting local agencies, the event demonstrated the College's commitment to service.



Candy Cruise

Thousands of visitors flocked to the MCC track for the annual *Candy Cruise*. Hosted by the Eagle's Nest Bookstore, the event featured 19 themed booths created by campus teams and programs. Each booth offered candy and treats in a festive, family-friendly atmosphere.

Queen City Race for Life and Street Strut

MCC also supported the *Queen City Race for Life and Street Strut*, with nearly 100 participants walking or running to raise awareness and honor those impacted by breast cancer.





NOVEMBER 2024

Veterans Day

In tribute to campus and community veterans, MCC presented its annual Veterans Day Program, featuring Meridian Naval Air Station Commander Capt. Luke Davis as keynote speaker.



JANUARY 2025

MLK Celebration

MCC's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration was held in the McCain Theater following the national holiday. This year's theme, *"Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence 365,"* was reflected in remarks by guest speaker Larry Gill II, mayor of Marion.



FEBRUARY 2025

Black History Month

Two events during Black History Month invited reflection and celebration. The first featured musical selections by Crestwood Elementary students and a keynote address by Dr. Amy Carter, superintendent of the Meridian Public School District, who emphasized education as a path forward while honoring the past.

Later in the month, MCC staged *The Meeting*, a dramatic performance written by Jimmie Smith Jr. The production brought civil rights icons to life, with 16 student and community actors portraying leaders such as Rosa Parks, Barack Obama, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Blood Drive

MCC also partnered with Mississippi Blood Services for a two-day campus blood drive. Students and staff lined up to donate—many for the first time. Respiratory Therapy student Jekelcy Montgomery said he gave in honor of his son, who once required a transfusion. The event, organized by Student Life, helped meet a critical need.

COLLEGE FOR KIDS UNDER THE SEA!

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





MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HARDWARE CONFERENCE



Dr. Thomas Huebner, Drew Edwards, and Derron Radcliff

MCC EARNS \$35K IN ENERGY REBATES THROUGH MISSISSIPPI POWER PARTNERSHIP

Meridian Community College partnered with Mississippi Power in 2024 to improve campus energy efficiency and reduce costs through the company's Large Commercial & Industrial Customer Program.

Through the program, MCC received more than \$35,000 in rebates for upgrades that promote responsible energy usage and help lower environmental impacts.

The College's upgrades included installing LED lighting and replacing an outdated heating system with a high-efficiency heat pump. These improvements enhanced energy efficiency and supported MCC's commitment to sustainability.

"We are proud to serve Meridian Community College and help them become more energy efficient through our programs," said Mississippi Power Market Specialist Derron Radcliff. "Through these initiatives, our customers are able to find more ways to save by enhancing and upgrading their facilities."

Drew Edwards, MCC vice president for financial services and CFO, expressed gratitude for the partnership. "We deeply appreciate Mississippi Power's unwavering support. They are not only a reliable strategic partner, but they also went above and beyond to secure these rebates for us. These funds will be reinvested into our community, benefiting everyone."

For more information about Meridian Community College, visit meridiancc.edu.



Mississippi Power

MCC FOUNDATION'S \$1.7 MILLION IN SUPPORT EMPOWERS STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS

More than a million dollars.

That's what Meridian Community College Foundation gave to the College in support of students and programs on campus for the fiscal year 2025. Specifically, the \$1,771,675.36 gift was earmarked for academic (\$19,678.83), scholarships (\$630,662.73), student services (\$538,665.59), workforce (\$125,421.60), nursing and health education (\$37,196.61), and capital improvements (\$420,050.00).

"The Foundation's gift shows not only their strong commitment to our students but also our community as well," said MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner. "Because of their support, we can continue to offer the best education and training."

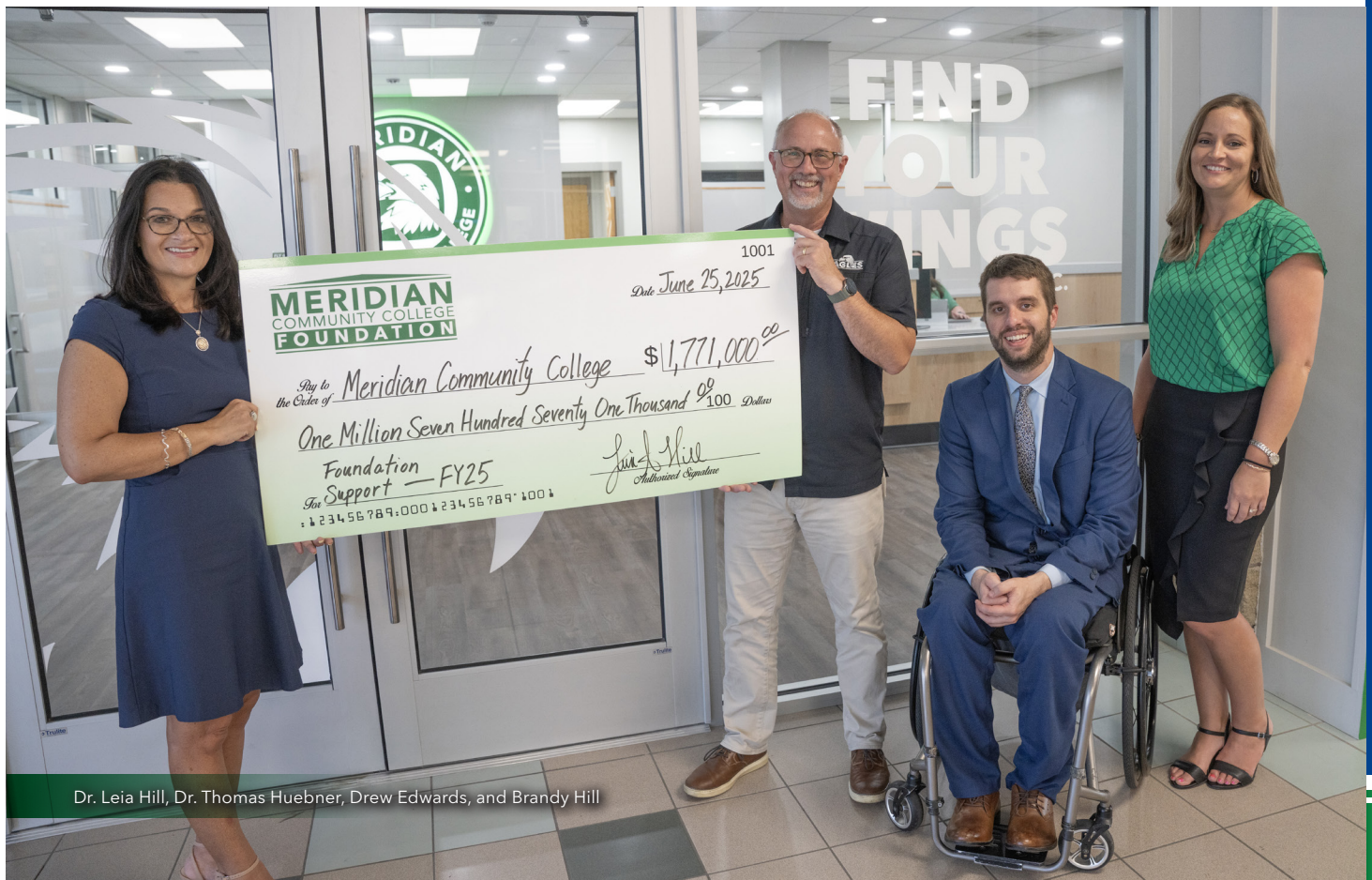
Under the leadership of Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, the Foundation

actively seeks private investment to bolster the College's mission. "This significant contribution underscores the impact of collective generosity," said Dr. Hill. "Every dollar invested through the MCC Foundation directly translates into opportunities and support for our students, faculty, and staff."

Drew Edwards, MCC vice president for financial services and chief financial officer, noted the gift was welcomed. "This generous support from the MCC Foundation empowers us to strengthen our financial infrastructure and expand opportunities for our students," Edwards said.

He added, "We're committed to using these resources to deliver top-tier educational experiences, promote community growth, and ensure lasting impact for the Meridian area."

For more information, visit meridiancc.edu/foundation.



Dr. Leia Hill, Dr. Thomas Huebner, Drew Edwards, and Brandy Hill

THE POWER OF HOME

MCC UNVEILS CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK SPORTS COMPLEX, CREATING HOME FOR SOFTBALL, TENNIS

For years, Meridian Community College's softball and tennis teams represented the College with pride while navigating challenges that few outside the programs fully understood.

Softball was played wherever space was available. Tennis players practiced on aging courts and had to travel to compete. Hosting a home match? Not possible. Feeling truly connected to campus? Out of reach.

That all began to change in Spring 2025 with the grand opening of the Citizens National Bank Sports Complex – a stunning, purpose-built facility located just across the street from MCC's main campus on Mississippi Highway 19 North.

Softball was the first to take the field, officially calling the new stadium home. The tennis program will follow soon, as its brand-new courts near completion. Together, these teams – and the students, coaches, and fans behind them – now have a place that reflects their commitment and potential.

"If we're going to field teams, then we owe it to our student-athletes to give them the environment they deserve to grow, compete, and thrive," said MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner. "This complex shows we're serious about doing just that."



EAGLES





MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EAGLES

A VISION WITH PURPOSE

The idea for the complex started with a problem and a question.

Shortly after arriving at MCC in 2018, Dr. Huebner learned the tennis program, one of the most historically successful in the country, could no longer host matches due to insufficient and deteriorating courts. Softball, meanwhile, had no field of its own. Both programs were disconnected from the campus experience.

“We had incredible athletes and dedicated coaches, but no home,” said MCC Athletic Director Sander Atkinson. “It was time to change that.”

Dr. Huebner spent months scouting locations, trying to find enough space on MCC’s landlocked campus to make something work. Nothing seemed to fit until Dr. Leia Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, suggested the former Matty Hersee Hospital site near the College.

“At first, I thought she was joking,” Huebner admitted. “There was a steep slope, and I didn’t think it could be done. But when our facilities director measured it out, we realized it was possible – and maybe even perfect.”

BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

The new complex delivers on every level.

The softball stadium, named after longtime MCC administrator Dr. Tommy McDonald, features a fully turfed field, a state-of-the-art field lighting system, an indoor hitting facility, and a modern press box with bleachers. The team played its first season there in Spring 2025 and immediately felt the difference.

“It’s hard to explain how meaningful it is to finally have a place of our own,” said Head Softball Coach Brad Grinstead. “Our players walk into this facility and feel pride. They feel like they matter – because they do.”

Nearby, the eight-court tennis complex – named for MCC coaching legend Wanda McPhail – is nearing

completion. Though not ready for the 2025 season, it’s already turning heads.

“When our players see this facility, their eyes light up,” said former Head Tennis Coach Ryan Mounce. “It’s not just a place to compete – it’s a symbol of what our program stands for and where it’s going.”

Both programs are housed in a renovated fieldhouse that also supports MCC’s golf team, offering updated locker rooms, team meeting space, and amenities that elevate the daily student-athlete experience.

“We’re no longer just making do,” said Atkinson. “Now, we’re making a statement.”



POWERED BY COMMUNITY

The complex is named for Citizens National Bank, a hometown institution with a long history of supporting MCC and the region.

"When we started looking for a partner, Citizens National Bank was the obvious choice," said Dr. Huebner. "They're deeply invested in our community, and they believe in the power of local."

That belief is already producing results. MCC has welcomed local high school teams, special events, and Challenger Baseball games to the new facility. And, there there's more to come. With tennis soon able to host matches and tournaments, MCC will become a destination for regional events.

"We're seeing more visitors, more families, and more opportunities," Dr. Huebner said. "And that means more visibility for our college and more support for our students."



MORE THAN A FACILITY

For MCC, the complex isn't just about bricks and turf. It's about belonging, momentum, and the message it sends to every student on campus – from athletes to artists, future nurses to future welders.

"When our student-athletes walk into this space, they know they're valued," said Grinstead. "That impacts how they train, how they compete, and how they carry themselves."

For Mounce, it's also about legacy.

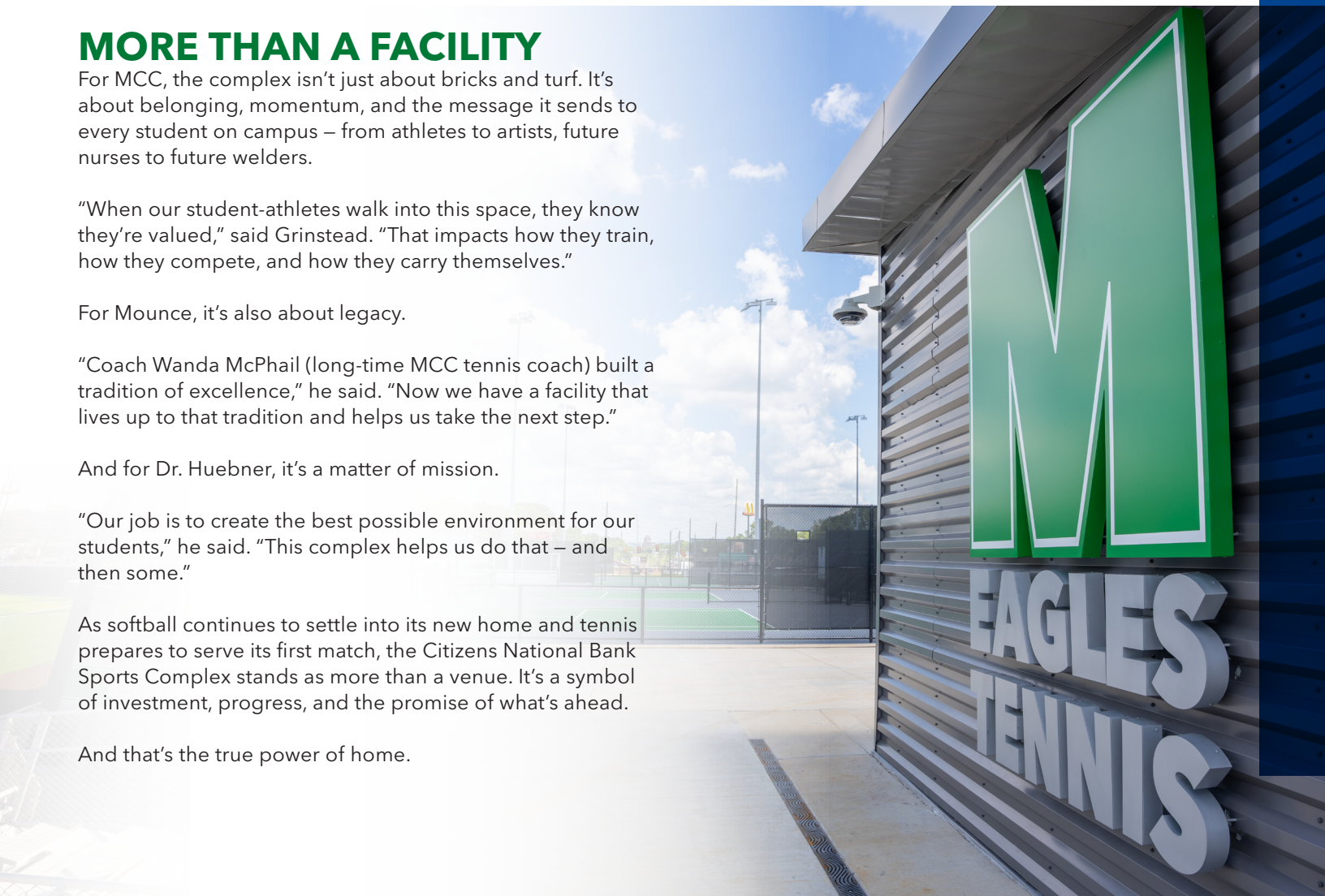
"Coach Wanda McPhail (long-time MCC tennis coach) built a tradition of excellence," he said. "Now we have a facility that lives up to that tradition and helps us take the next step."

And for Dr. Huebner, it's a matter of mission.

"Our job is to create the best possible environment for our students," he said. "This complex helps us do that – and then some."

As softball continues to settle into its new home and tennis prepares to serve its first match, the Citizens National Bank Sports Complex stands as more than a venue. It's a symbol of investment, progress, and the promise of what's ahead.

And that's the true power of home.





MCC CELEBRATES COMMUNITY, LEGACY AT HALL OF FAME

When James Carter bought a green jacket years ago, he told a coworker he planned to wear it someday on the McCain Theater stage—for his Hall of Fame induction. This year, that moment came true.

Meridian Community College honored four individuals during its annual Hall of Fame ceremony, recognizing their impact on the College and the community. The event, held in McCain Theater, was hosted by the MCC Foundation.

The 2025 Hall of Fame class included James Carter, Wanda Dixon (posthumously), Marmion Loving Francis, and Alice James.

Carter is the executive director of the Carter Foundation in Meridian and a former MCC student. Dixon, remembered by her husband Richard “Dick” Dixon, was the longtime chair of math and science at MCC. Francis is a retired co-coordinator of MCC’s Lifetime Quest program, and James is a retired accounting instructor.



Dr. Thomas Huebner



Dr. Tom Huebner



Dr. Thomas Huebner and James Carter



James Carter, Richard "Dick" Dixon, Marmion Loving Francis, Lee Francis, Marmion's son, and Alice James



James Carter



Richard "Dick" Dixon



Wanda Dixon



Richard "Dick" Dixon



Marmion Loving Francis



Alice James

MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner opened the ceremony by noting the value of recognizing those who have helped shape the College. "Taking the time to reflect on the achievements of those who have made significant contributions to our institution and community is so very important," he said.

Carter spoke about the moment coming full circle, returning to his alma mater. "It is an honor and a pleasure," he said about the recognition.

Dixon accepted the plaque for his late wife, reflecting on their life together. "I really loved the lady," he said, recalling her sense of humor and their 63-year marriage that included children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



Marmion Loving Francis and Lee Francis, her son



Alice James

Francis thanked the College for the recognition. "Being an alum of MCC is one of the proudest accomplishments of my life," she said, also expressing pride in her sons and their families.

James, stepping back onto the stage, said, "I never thought I would stand on this stage again, but here I am, and I will remember and cherish this occasion forever."

The event also included a bell tolling to remember MCC community members who passed away in the last year. Those honored were Matt Matteson, Elliott Street, Vinnie Gutierrez, Mona Pritchett, the Rev. John Wayne Edwards, Libby Boling Bounds, Carol Robbins, Mark Rainwater, Lynn Turner-Smith, Linda Cooper, Ralph E. Young Jr., and David Giles.

WATCH VIDEO



SCAN HERE



David Carter, Richard "Dick" Dixon, and Marmion Loving Francis

ALUM DREW MOFFETT

FROM EAGLES SECOND BASEMAN TO INDEPENDENT PHARMACY OWNER



From patience and dedication to hard work and determination, Meridian Community College alumnus Drew Moffett is discovering traits he learned playing baseball at the College nearly two decades ago are proving beneficial as a successful independent retail pharmacy owner.

Moffett returned to Meridian following pharmacy school in 2013 to work as a staff pharmacist at Ole Town Family Pharmacy, a fixture on 24th Avenue near downtown Meridian for decades.

"I actually went into pharmacy school with the intention of owning this pharmacy. That was my goal from day one," he said. "I felt like if you're going to open a business, especially a small business where people typically tend to use people that they know, then Meridian was my best option in terms of ownership. I am from the edge of Clarke County originally. My family has property there. I have ties to Meridian, and I didn't really care to live anywhere else."

In 2022, he and his wife, Neely, a native of Vicksburg, purchased the independent pharmacy and opened a second location on Lindley Road in Marion in 2024. Earlier this year, the couple was joined by their children, Bo, 9, and Molly, who will turn 8 this summer, as they celebrated a ribbon-cutting at Ole Town Family Pharmacy's new location. Between the two locations, the pharmacy employs 12, including two full-time and two part-time pharmacists.

Moffett said he felt the timing was right to open the new Marion location with the closings of other nearby pharmacies in recent years.

"I really felt like there was a void in that part of the county for pharmacy coverage, and I felt that if there ever was a time to expand, then this was going to be the time," he said, adding, "I believe someone else would have done it if I didn't."

After graduating from Lamar School in 2004, Moffett signed to play baseball for the MCC Eagles. He was also a recipient of the MCC Foundation's Tuition Guarantee.

"Probably the biggest driving force for me to go to MCC was to play baseball," Moffett said. "I 'rode the pine' my freshman year behind a lot of good players, paid my dues, and then started at second base my sophomore year."

Bolstered by a promising roster of players, the Eagles captured the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference (then known as the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges) State Championship in both 2005 and 2006.

"We went undefeated through state play, but then we lost the first two games in the regionals both years," he recalled. "We had a good team."

Moffett noted that MCC's current head baseball coach, Dillon Sudduth, was a second baseman for the Eagles the year before him.

"I keep in touch with him, and I still support and go watch MCC and their baseball games," he said.

Even though he was a local resident, Moffett lived on campus in the dorms along with other members of the baseball



team. He remembers his time with the baseball program fondly and is proud to say he earned his wings at Meridian Community College.

"I enjoyed my time very much at MCC," he said.

When Moffett graduated from MCC in spring 2006, with an associate degree in the University Transfer Program, he was named to the College's Circle of Excellence, which salutes honorees for their academic achievement, leadership, community service, and spirit.

He feels MCC more than prepared him for transfer to the University of Mississippi, where he earned a bachelor of arts in biology in 2009, a bachelor of science in pharmaceutical sciences in 2011, and doctorate of pharmacy from the university's School of Pharmacy in 2013.

"I went from MCC to Ole Miss and definitely didn't feel I was behind, by any means. All of my classes lined up, and I wasn't behind in any of my prerequisite classes," Moffett said. "The counselors steered me in the right direction to take the classes I needed to be on track to pick up at Ole Miss where I left off at MCC."



Drew Moffett



DONORS, STUDENTS CELEBRATE SCHOLARSHIPS, SUCCESS AT FOUNDATION GATHERING

The MCC Foundation Scholarship and Endowment Donor Appreciation Luncheon is more than a meal; it's a chance for the recipients to say thank you face-to-face.

And for donors, it's a powerful reminder of the lives their generosity helps shape.

At the annual MCC Foundation Scholarship and Endowment Donor Appreciation Luncheon, guests gathered to celebrate how giving changes lives and futures. Donors had the chance to meet the students they support and learn more about the impact of their gifts.

Brandy Hill, senior accountant for the Foundation, shared a heartfelt thank-you on behalf of the team.

"It's truly wonderful to see this room filled with people who care deeply about MCC and our students," Hill said. "What we're building together is bigger than any one of us."

She shared that the Foundation raised nearly \$1.7 million in the past year. That support helped provide scholarships to 375 students, totaling almost \$694,000. Many others received help through the Foundation's signature Tuition Guarantee program.



Seth Garrett, Libby Smith, Nicholas Lewis, Mary Margaret Stevens, and Kaelee Pierce



Marilyn Greene and Christine Riley



Beth Weistefeld, Barbara Jones, and Diane Wells



Jamila Brown Coleman and Gloria Blackshear Brown

“Scholarships don’t just pay a bill. They change the outcome,” Hill said. “They open doors, build confidence, and send a message that someone believes in our students and their future.”

During the event, donors received reports about the funds they support and were encouraged to contact the Foundation with questions.

Hill reminded everyone that their gifts go beyond the classroom.

“You aren’t just donors—you’re family,” she said. “And what you do is making a difference that lasts far beyond today.”

Students also shared their stories - some through videos - showing how scholarships helped them stay in school, reach their goals, and find their wings.

SRIVASTAVA SENSORY ROOM OFFERS RESPITE



KultureCity®

College life can feel too much, too loud, too bright.

Meridian Community College students now have a place to step away from the intensity, thanks to the new Srivastava Family Sensory Room that offers a quiet space for anyone needing a break from sensory overload, including those with invisible disabilities.

Located in Room 140 of the L.O. Todd/Billy C. Beal Student Success Center, the room is a space for students, faculty, staff, and visitors who may need a break from overwhelming sights and sounds. It features dim lighting, soft seating, tactile tools, calming sounds, and visuals. One highlight is a tactile piece of art in the shape of MCC's Eagle head that visitors can touch and explore.

The room is named for the Srivastava family, who donated funds to make the space possible. It was created in partnership with KultureCity, a national nonprofit that supports individuals with invisible disabilities such as PTSD, autism, dementia, and Down syndrome.

MCC is the first community college in Mississippi to be certified by KultureCity. Over half of the College's faculty and staff have completed training in neurodiversity. The room took about a year to plan, build, and certify.



Beckman reached out to KultureCity Executive Director Uma Srivastava. That connection led to the donation and official partnership.

Beckman said the room is important because invisible disabilities often go unnoticed or unsupported. "This room offers comfort and support without barriers," she said.

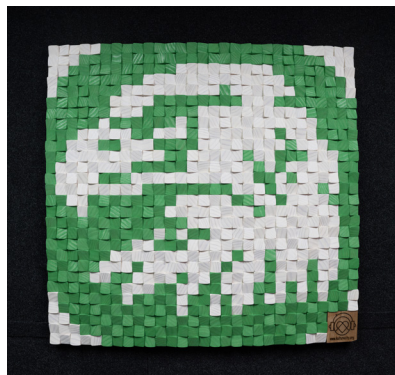
Howell noted, "It provides an accommodation for individuals - students, faculty, staff and visitors - without them having to disclose their disability to someone on campus. They can simply come over and utilize the room."

The Srivastava Family Sensory Room is now open during Advising Center hours: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Anyone on campus who needs a quiet, calming space is welcome to use it.

"This space helps people feel welcome without needing to explain their disability," said Jeanette Howell, director of advising at MCC. "It tells our students and our community, 'You belong here.'"

The idea for the sensory room at MCC came together through chance meetings and shared ideas. Howell first learned about sensory rooms while visiting another college. Later, MCCers Jessi Beckman and the late Kelly McKee presented the idea while prepping for a discussion on neurodiversity.

For more information, visit meridiancc.edu/advising.



LEARN MORE



SCAN HERE



CLASS OF 2025 SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

MCC's Class of 2025 was honored with two commencements celebrating students from both the Career and Technical Education and University Transfer Programs, while marking the end of one chapter and the start of another.

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

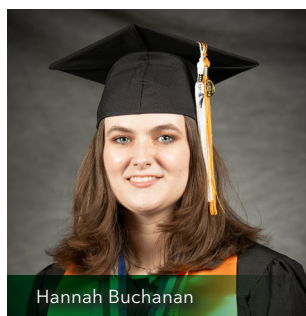
The highlight of the Career and Technical Education ceremony was the announcement of the H. M. Ivy Scholarship, which was presented to Hannah Buchanan of Duck Hill. During the University Transfer Program commencement, Hollie Gillies of Glasgow, United Kingdom, Katherine Hayes of New Hope, and Savannah Smith of Philadelphia were also awarded H.M. Ivy Scholarships.

During the University Transfer Program commencement, additional scholarships were awarded.



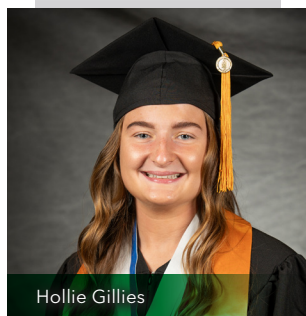
Pedro Gonzalez

Dr. H.M. Ivy, the founding father of Meridian Community College, is remembered through the Ivy Scholarships. This year marks the 52nd year for outstanding graduates to receive scholarships. The honorees each receive \$3,600 for their junior year of study, and if their academic excellence continues, they will get another \$3,600 for their senior year of study. These awards, which are based on academic excellence, extra-curricular participation, financial need, and faculty appraisals, are funded through an endowment established by the Phil Hardin Foundation.



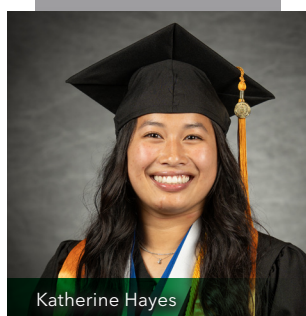
Hannah Buchanan

Buchanan is a Precision Machining Engineering Technology graduate who has a grade point average (gpa) of 3.95 on a 4.0 scale. She is a Phi Theta Kappa academic honor society officer and has served as an Ivy League student recruiter for the past two years. She plans to attend Mississippi State University and earn a degree in advanced manufacturing with her career goals focused on working in the medical or defense manufacturing industries.



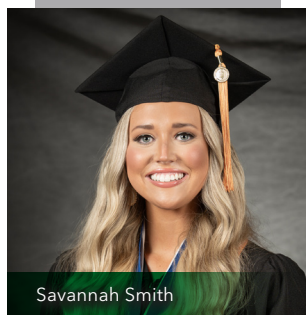
Hollie Gillies

Gillies, who holds a 3.84 gpa, is a mechanical engineering major who will continue her education at the University of West Alabama. An international student and Lady Eagles soccer player, Gillies is also a member of both PTK and The Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College at Meridian Community College. She aspires to work as a mechanical engineer while continuing to grow and learn professionally.



Katherine Hayes

Hayes is a chemical engineering major with 3.95 gpa who will continue her studies at Mississippi State University. She is a Phi Theta Kappa officer, an Honors College member, and a student-athlete. Hayes hopes to make a difference in her future company and build a meaningful career.



Savannah Smith

Smith, a pharmacy major with a 3.96 gpa, has been accepted into the accelerated program at William Carey University School of Pharmacy. She plans to return to Meridian as a clinical pharmacist.

The Hardin Scholarships, which are \$5,000 awards to each honoree, pay tribute to the life of businessman Phil Hardin and his philanthropic endeavors to support education. The Phil Hardin Foundation funds them through the Meridian Community College Foundation. Recipients of these scholarships were Sarah Katherine Bounds of Bailey and Tafadzwa Chikomba of Chiredzi, Zimbabwe.



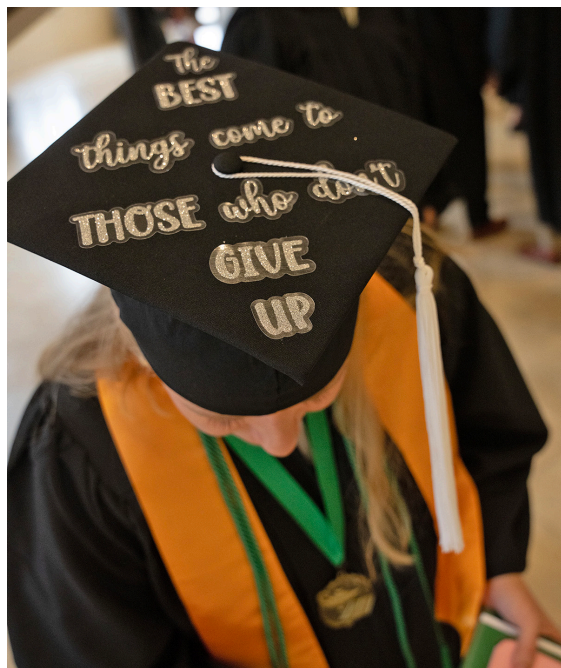
Lloyd Gray and Sarah Katherine Bounds

With a 4.0 gpa, Bounds is a nursing major who plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a member of the Lady Eagles Tennis Team, Ivy League Recruiters, and Student Government Association. Her ultimate goal is to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist and work in a surgical center.

A member of the Eagles Track and Field, Chickomba claimed the NJCAA National Title in the men's long jump with a school-record leap of 8.06 meters and has signed with Kansas State University to continue competing in track and field. While at MCC, he earned a 3.6 gpa. His dream is to become a professional long jumper and compete in the 2028 Olympics.



Dr. Thomas Huebner, Kristi Williamson, and Tafadzwa Chikomba



Also, during the ceremonies, 32 graduates were chosen as members of the Spring 2025 Circle of Excellence. The students who studied in the College's University Transfer and Career and Technical Education programs were saluted for their academic achievement, leadership, community service, and spirit.

Dr. Huebner said MCC has a long history of outstanding graduates, and the Circle of Excellence is one way the College recognizes these students who excelled at MCC. "These students have made an impact on this place, and we look forward to watching them take flight and impact the world," Dr. Huebner said.

Fifteen Career and Technical Education students named to the Circle of Excellence included Mya Adams, Hannah Buchanan, Elam Davis, Tamician Hunt, Kennedy Jimison, Katelyn Johnson, Micah Nelson, Rebecca Owen, Alyssa Pemberton, Kayleigh Sellers, Kaitlynn Stroud, Earron Stewart, Madison Tendle, Kambri Welborn, and Kiersten White.

University Transfer Program students selected for Circle of Excellence were Alondra Arreola-Espino, Sarah Katherine Bounds, Tafadzwa Chikomba, Matthew Cochran, Emily Covington, Sara Culpepper, Seth Garrett, Corbin Gillentine, Holly Gillies, Katherine Hayes, Megan Heggie, Daniel McClung, Anna McGowin, Chloe Smith, Libby Smith, Savannah Smith, and Jolee Todd.



University Transfer Circle of Excellence students



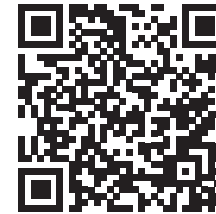
Career and Technical Education Circle of Excellence students

2025 SPRING
UNIVERSITY TRANSFER
COMMENCEMENT
VIDEO



SCAN HERE

2025 SPRING
CAREER & TECHNICAL
COMMENCEMENT
VIDEO



SCAN HERE

MCC GRAD NAMED AS NEW CENTURY WORKFORCE SCHOLAR



Kirsten White, a Physical Therapist Assistant Program graduate, earned the 2025 New Century Workforce Scholar honor and received a \$1,500 scholarship.

This scholarship is the first to support students at associate degree-granting institutions nationally as they plan to enter the workforce upon completing a degree or certificate. The program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Nearly 2,100 students from more than 1,300 college campuses nationwide were nominated. Only one New Century Workforce Scholar was selected from each state.

New Century Workforce Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, as well as how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom.

"We congratulate Kirsten for receiving this prestigious scholarship, and we are honored to partner with The Coca-Cola Foundation to recognize these outstanding achievements," said Phi Theta Kappa'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."



Kirsten White

Former Meridian Community College students Addie Winters, Class of 2020, and Destiny Little, Class of 2023, also received the New Century Workforce Scholar accolades.

In addition, White was named as a first-team member of the 2025 All-Mississippi Academic Team. The All-Mississippi Academic Team is a recognition program that honors outstanding students from Mississippi's community and junior colleges. Coordinated by Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society, the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges (MACC), and the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB), this program celebrates students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and community service.

LEARN MORE



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SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION

FIVE WAYS TO GIVE TO THE MCC FOUNDATION

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

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

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

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

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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



SCAN HERE



Cyndi Bratu, Drew Edwards and Veronica Fox

HONORING EXCELLENCE

MCC WRAPS UP ACADEMIC YEAR WITH CELEBRATION, GRATITUDE

The MCC Foundation brought faculty and staff together for a morning of celebration, reflection, and recognition as Meridian Community College closed out another academic year.

Held in the McCain Theater, the annual End-of-the-Year Celebration featured breakfast, employee honors, and remarks from MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner.



Margarette Cole



Lorrie Gunn

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

The Holladay Family Professional Development Award, with a \$2,500 stipend, provides professional development opportunities for College faculty and staff. Margarette Cole, Smart Start instructor; Lorrie Gunn, Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program instructor; and Dr. Robin Gunn, ADN instructor, received this award.



Lori Smith



Tonya Crenshaw

The MCC Foundation's Enrichment through Travel Awards, which are \$2,500 each, were given to recipients to enhance their lives and further MCC's mission through travel. Recipients were Whitney Stevens, associate dean of enrollment services; Christena Brown-Bradley, Respiratory Care Practitioner Program coordinator and instructor; and Dawn Wright, psychology instructor.



Whitney Stevens



Christena Brown-Bradley

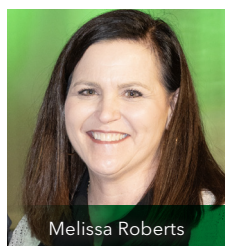


Dawn Wright

Kristi Williamson, director for library services, was named the T.J. Harris Award recipient. This award spotlights the work of an MCC team member who has contributed beyond their regular job description to the community and the College. Williamson supports local initiatives in her community, is active in her church, and is a champion of student success.



Morgan Boothe



Melissa Roberts



Flora Sumrall

Dr. Lori Smith, dean of workforce education; Tonya Crenshaw, executive assistant for academic affairs; and Joseph Knight, vice president for workforce solutions, received the John A. Johnson Awards. The Johnson Award comes with a \$500 honorarium each, and recipients are nominated for their demonstrated enthusiasm for the community college mission, college spirit, commitment to service and job, as well as interest and participation in community and campus activities.



Five-year honorees

The Dr. Clarence W. Roberts Outstanding Teacher Award celebrates distinguished work, innovative techniques, and service to the College and community of faculty, and a \$500 gift is presented to each recipient. Recipients were Morgan Boothe, English instructor; Missy Roberts, accounting instructor; and Flora Sumrall, Accounting/Business Office Management Technology program instructor and coordinator.



Ten-year honorees

The MCCer of the Month recipient was also applauded. Kristy Dickerson, ADN instructor, was recognized for the honor for May.



Fifteen-year honorees



Twenty-year honorees

In continuing the tradition of recognizing employees for years of service to the College, service pins were presented during the celebration, too. Receiving their five-year pin were Jennifer Aderholt, Tara Coody, Lori Costa, Dana Dewitt, Maxwell Dickerson, James Gordon, Jacob Griffith, Mallory Hardy, Lily Hatampa, AnHoward Hill, Kenneth Hopson, Mandy Hurtt, Miranda Kirkland, Kimberly Rush, Jet Scarbrough, and Kristi Williamson.



Twenty-five-year honoree

Ten-year pin recipients included Darren Bane, Marjorie Dean, Deborah Farrar, Lorrie Gunn, Eric Jones, Janet Parrett, Dr. Angela Pennington, and Holley Purvis.

MCCers who earned their 15-year pin were Wendie Alsobrooks, Dr. Leia Agnew Hill, and Lucy Lamberth.

Jamila Brown Coleman, Jimmy Rigdon, Flora Sumrall, and Brian Warren were given their 20-year pins, and Morgan Boothe received her 25-year pin.



CONGRATULATIONS

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

Honorees are asked, "What do you like best about MCC?"
Here are their replies:

JANUARY



MIKE CLYMER

Math Instructor

"I enjoy teaching students from all backgrounds and stages of life, and I especially enjoy working with such a wonderful team of colleagues!"

FEBRUARY

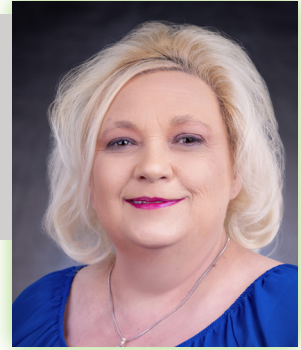


JAN FREEMAN

Assistant Director of Arts & Letters Series

"The best thing about MCC is definitely the friends and relationships I have cultivated since I've been here."

MARCH



CINDY HERRINGTON

Administrative Assistant of Dental Hygiene and Health Education

"Definitely the people, they are not just co-workers, they are more like family. They have encouraged, hugged, prayed for me, and checked on me through some of the most difficult times of my life. There is just no better place to work, everyone is so genuine."

APRIL



DENAY FARRAR

Medical Office Technology Program Coordinator and Instructor

"Teamwork. I have a great group of co-workers."

MAY

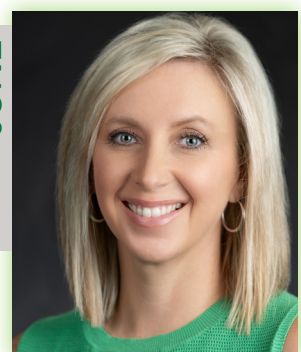


KRISTY DICKERSON

Associate Degree Nursing Program Instructor

"Our sense of family and the commitment to our students."

JUNE



CASEY HOLLADAY

Director of Social Media and Events Specialist

"I'm proud to be a part of a place that helps people take steps to better themselves for the future. To hear some of the stories from our students and know how life-changing MCC can be is really special."

CARLTON "CORKY" PALMER MR. BASEBALL



With an overall career coaching record in high school, community college, and Division 1 college of 946-493, Carlton "Corky" Palmer was a powerhouse on and off the baseball diamond.

He died in August 2022 after a prolonged illness. He was 68.

Palmer grew up in Hattiesburg, graduating from Hattiesburg High School in 1972. From there, he graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in coaching and athletic administration, playing baseball and serving as co-captain his senior year. He later earned his master of science degree in education from William Carey University.

During Palmer's coaching career, he served as head coach for two high schools before he came to lead the MCC Eagles in 1987. At Palmer's final year at MCC in 1996, he guided his team to the Division I Juco World Series at Grand Junction, Colorado, and in his final year at USM, his alma mater, he led his team to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

His name can be found in the halls of fame from USM to the Mississippi Sports to the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference.

But former players, colleagues, and teammates help keep Palmer's memory: "From the first time I met him, he ate, drank, and breathed baseball."

"He was always concerned about the welfare of his players off the field and in the classroom as much as their performance between the lines! He certainly made everyone's life he touched better."

The Carlton "Corky" Palmer Scholarship Endowment has been started; recipients will be an MCC sophomore baseball player who has demonstrated outstanding leadership with a positive attitude, is a great teammate, and has high moral character.

To give, visit meridiancc/foundation.

GIVE



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Corey Dickerson and Dr. Thomas Huebner

COREY DICKERSON INDUCTED INTO MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Meridian Community College former Eagle baseball standout and Major League Baseball veteran Corey Dickerson, was inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame.

Each year, the Hall of Fame honors one representative from each of Mississippi's 15 community colleges. This year, MCC recognized Dickerson for his outstanding athletic achievements and lasting impact on the game of baseball.

A native of McComb, Dickerson began his athletic journey at Brookhaven Academy before joining the MCC baseball program from 2009 to 2010. During his two seasons as an Eagle, he quickly made a name for himself as one of the most dangerous hitters in junior college baseball. He posted a remarkable .459 batting average, hit 21 home runs, and drove in 71 RBIs, earning NJCAA All-Region honors and drawing significant interest from Major League scouts.

In 2010, Dickerson was selected in the 8th round of the MLB Draft by the Colorado Rockies. He made his MLB debut in 2013 and went on to enjoy an 11-year professional career, playing for seven teams: the Rockies, Tampa Bay Rays, Pittsburgh Pirates, Philadelphia Phillies, Miami Marlins, St. Louis Cardinals, and Washington Nationals.

During his MLB tenure, Dickerson collected more than 1,000 hits, 136 home runs, and maintained a .280 career batting average. He was named an MLB All-Star in 2017 with the Rays and earned a Gold Glove Award in 2018 as a left fielder with the Pirates—further cementing his status as one of the game's elite.

After retiring from professional baseball, Dickerson returned to Mississippi and transitioned into coaching. He now leads the baseball program at Jackson Academy in Jackson where he mentors and develops young athletes. He and his wife, Beth Anne, also an MCC alum, reside in Jackson with their children.



Corey Dickerson, 2010

TAFADZWA CHIKOMBA

SOARING BEYOND LIMITS

When Tafadzwa Chikomba arrived on Meridian Community College’s campus from Harare, Zimbabwe, few could have predicted just how far – and how high – he would go.

Now, two years later, the student-athlete standout leaves as not just one of the greatest athletes in school history, but as one of the most decorated long jumpers in NJCAA history.

Chikomba’s résumé speaks for itself: two national championships, undefeated in the 2025 season, and the holder of the 3rd and 4th best long jumps in NJCAA Indoor Track and Field history. He broke facility records at Troy University and Hutchinson Community College, was named National Athlete of the Week, and earned a reputation as the best NJCAA long jumper since 1995. His dominance extended beyond the junior college ranks, climbing to #4 on both the 2025 indoor and outdoor All-Collegiate lists and reaching #11 on the all-conditions outdoor list in NJCAA history. He has even qualified for the 2025 World Athletics Championships – an elite stage few athletes ever reach.

His journey to MCC began through a connection – another Zimbabwean athlete on the MCC roster who tipped off Head Coach Chip Gayden. From there, the recruitment process began, one that is as global as it is strategic.

“When we recruit international student-athletes, we study meet results from all over the world,” Gayden explained. “Once we identify talent, we track them down on social media and start building relationships. Chikomba was one of those standout names – and when he arrived, he didn’t disappoint.”

Gayden noted that success breeds success, especially when it comes to recruiting international athletes. “Once you develop a reputation for nurturing elite talent, word spreads. Chikomba helped elevate our program’s global profile,” he said.

Beyond the medals and records, Chikomba is known for his discipline, humility, and relentless drive. While at MCC, he was a Dean’s List scholar and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international academic honor society for community and junior college students. At graduation, Chikomba was awarded one of two Phil Hardin Foundation Scholarships that are funded through the MCC Foundation.

His story is one of talent meeting opportunity, and making the most of it. As he continues his journey at Kansas State University and prepares for the World Championships, he carries the MCC Eagle legacy with him on every jump.

With eyes on a global stage and a heart rooted in Meridian, Tafadzwa Chikomba reminds us what’s possible when ambition meets the right opportunity. His flight is far from over.



LEARN MORE



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SPORTS ROUNDUP

BASEBALL

The Eagles wrapped up the 2024-25 baseball season with a 28-25 overall record, earning a spot in the Region 23 Tournament hosted by Pearl River in Poplarville. In MACCC play, the team finished even at 14-14. Sophomore Brennon Wright was honored as a First Team All-MACCC selection, while standout freshman Connor Gehr earned Second Team All-MACCC recognition. Several players signed to continue their athletic and academic careers at the next level, including Wright (South Alabama), Andrew Prejean (UAB), Cole Blackwell (LA Tech), Peyton Fowler (Mississippi State), Corbin Gillentine (Delta State), and Tyrus Williams (Mississippi College).

BASKETBALL

The Lady Eagles posted a 15-15 overall record and went 7-7 in conference play. They made it to the first round of the Region 23 Tournament and celebrated two athletes advancing to the next level: Annearrea Ducksworth (Rust College) and Halei Keyes (Rust College). Ducksworth also earned Honorable Mention All-MACCC honors. On the men's side, the Eagles ushered in a new era under head coach Clarence Weatherspoon. The team battled throughout the season, finishing 11-18 overall and 4-10 in MACCC play, and will look to build on that foundation moving forward. Sophomore standouts Michael James and Chance Sutton will continue their careers at Mississippi Valley State.

DANCE

In its first official year, the MCC Dance Team took the stage with five members performing at various campus and athletic events, including the McCain Theater and Scaggs Field. Under the leadership of Head Coach Angie Partridge, the team brought energy and school spirit to each performance. Coach Partridge is actively recruiting to grow the program and expand its presence in future competitive and showcase events.



GOLF

Meridian's men's golf team capped off an impressive season ranked 7th nationally in the NJCAA and Bushnell/Golfweek DII Coaches Poll. The Eagles finished as runners-up in both the MACCC Championship and the District Championship before placing 9th in the NJCAA DII National Tournament. Sophomore Bruce McClung was named a Second Team Ping All-American, while freshman Jace Duckworth earned honorable mention honors and was named to the 2025 All-Freshman Team – a distinction given to the top five freshmen in the country. Both McClung and Duckworth were also selected to the All-Region South Team.

SOCCER

The Lady Eagles ended their season with an 8-6-2 record and went 4-5-2 in conference play. Three student-athletes signed to play at the next level: Lauren Smith (Lamar University), Holly Gillies (University of West Alabama), and Kareli Mendoza (Belhaven University).

The Eagles finished 9-7-3 overall and 5-3-3 in MACCC play, advancing to the Region 23 Tournament for the first time since 2012. Under first-year head coach Diego Figueroa, the program saw significant progress, with five players signing to continue their careers: McKhi Castro (Harding University), Matty Longdon (Webber), Calvin Jackson (Tennessee Southern), Anderi Elias (Tennessee Southern), and Bubba Guerrero (Noble University).



SOFTBALL

The Lady Eagles softball team played their inaugural season at the brand-new Tommy McDonald Field at the Citizens National Bank Sports Complex. The team finished 21-34 overall and 6-22 in MACCC play. Freshman Hannah Buckley was named Honorable Mention All-MACCC for her efforts throughout the season.



SWIMMING & DIVING

The Swimming & Diving team capped off its season with strong performances at the NJCAA National Championships in Buffalo, New York. The women's team placed 11th overall with 61 points, while the men's team earned a historic 14th-place finish in their first-ever appearance at Nationals. Sophomore Megan Heggie earned All-American recognition in the 200 Breaststroke, and freshman Kyla Goldman was named an All-American in the 100 Backstroke. Both athletes earned podium finishes and helped solidify MCC's growing national presence. With multiple school and personal records broken throughout the season, the program continues to build momentum in only its second year of competition.

TENNIS

The Lady Eagles tennis team closed the season ranked 18th in the nation and placed 16th overall at the NJCAA National Tournament in Tyler, Texas. Their national berth followed a strong showing at the Region 23 Championship at Jones College, where they finished third. Sophomore Lilly Hollingsworth was named to the All-MACCC team for her standout play.

The men's team ended the year ranked 20th in the country and made a solid showing at the NJCAA National Tournament in Florence, South Carolina. Sophomore Simon Ojeda (SOSU signee) and freshman Daniel Espin both earned All-MACCC team honors.

TRACK & FIELD

In indoor competition, the men's track and field team finished 9th in the NJCAA National Meet in Lubbock, Texas, while the women's team placed 22nd. The momentum continued outdoors, with the men finishing 13th and the women 21st at the NJCAA Outdoor Nationals in Hutchinson, Kansas. The season was headlined by Tafadzwa Chikomba (Kansas State signee), who claimed national championships in the men's long jump at both the indoor and outdoor national meets. (See related story page 39.)



VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Eagles completed their inaugural volleyball season under Head Coach Alex Schimelpfening, competing in the MACCC with a roster made up entirely of freshmen. While the season brought its fair share of learning moments, the first-year program gained valuable experience on the court and laid the foundation for future success. MCC added Julia Espinoza to the coaching staff ahead of year two, as the team continues to grow and develop. Off the court, five Lady Eagles earned Academic All-MACCC honors, including three recognized as Distinguished Academic All-MACCC recipients.

E.L.C. CLASS CREATES APP TO SHARE MCC'S MESSAGE



Members of the E.L.C. Class of 2025 include Jim Price, Flora Sumrall, Crystal Webster, Casey Holladay, William Davidson, Matthew Milner, Darren Bane, Jatterra Hurst, Marion Whiting and Phyllis Holladay.

The Eagles Leadership Convocation (E.L.C.) Class of 2025 answered the call to soar as they presented their capstone project: The Perch, a newly developed MCC mobile app designed to make it easier for students and staff to stay connected.

E.L.C. is an academic year-long professional development and leadership program comprising 10 MCC faculty and staff members. As a part of their final project, the E.L.C. members crafted a fully-developed group project focused on identifying a College need - enhancing communication - and presented it to the President's Cabinet.

Making the connection of the College's eagle mascot, The Perch offers a simple, streamlined way to access campus information, events, and resources all in one place, E.L.C. class members reported. With this project, the E.L.C. team demonstrated how leadership at Meridian Community College means finding real solutions that improve the everyday experience on campus.

This year's cohort included Darren Bane, director of workforce development; William Davidson, associate dean for institutional research; Casey Holladay, director of social media; Phyllis Holladay, Eagles Scholars program coordinator and mathematics instructor; Jatterra Hurst, women's basketball assistant coach; Matthew Milner, director of videography and sports information director; Jim Price, director of facilities management; Flora Sumrall, Business Office

Management Technology program and Accounting Technology program coordinator and instructor; Crystal Webster, director of student accounts; and Marion Whiting, director of housing and student activities. MCC President Dr. Tom Huebner and Dr. Leia Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation, are facilitators for E.L.C. Jaycee Butler, Lifetime Quest and Foundation events coordinator, is the assistant for the program.

The group gathered monthly on campus, delving into diversity and inclusion, legal issues and human resources, crisis and meeting management, and building relationships and teams topics.

The project presentation was the final gathering for the E.L.C. Class of 2025, but before they graduated from the program, they were applauded for their efforts. "Congratulations. Great job, great presentation," said Joseph Knight, vice president for workforce solutions, after hearing the group's plans. "An app is an extension of your website."

Dr. Hill noted the app would not be a replacement for any type of communication tool but an additional one. "It's one more way to collectively put everything in an easy place for people to reach," she said.



Darren Bane



Matthew Milner



William Davidson



Jim Price



Casey Holladay



Flora Sumrall



Phyllis Holladay



Crystal Webster



Jaterra Hurst



Marion Whiting

Casey Holladay said the year-long program offered her a close-up look at the campus as a whole. "I learned a lot and felt professionally challenged in the best way. Hearing directly from the senior administrators, including the president and vice presidents, who advise the president and help lead the college, and gaining insight into how each part of the College operates was incredibly valuable," she said.

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

The Class of 2026 has been selected, and this new cohort includes: Lindsey Clodfelter, director of safety and security; Veronica Fox, assistant director of student accounts; Jawanda Huggins, biological science instructor; Eric Jones, Welding and Cutting Technology program coordinator and instructor; Chris King, director of bands; Parker Manley, workforce project manager; James Runnels, systems analyst; Rhonda Smith, college and career navigator; Crystal Sterling, mathematics instructor; and Dr. Tommy Winston, Physical Therapist Assistant program coordinator and instructor.

LEARN MORE



SCAN HERE



MCC'S MARGARET TAYLOR BLALOCK STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER HELPS STUDENTS FACING HARDSHIPS

Katherine (not her real name) is a sophomore at Meridian Community College, juggling her world as a single mom and student.

She's making sacrifices to make a better life for herself and her daughter. "I've always taken pride in being self-sufficient. But in the past year, I have run into several hardships and unable to buy food; sometimes there's no money for gas or medicine, much less food," she said.

With the costs of basic living ever rising, Katherine often skips meals to make ends meet.

Food insecurity, the lack of reliable access to enough food, affects 47 million Americans each year, including 14 million children. Among college students the numbers are even more staggering - national studies show that up to 50 percent struggle with food insecurity, which can impact their ability to stay in school and succeed academically.

However, thanks to the Margaret Taylor Blalock Student Resource Center, MCC students like Katherine and others are getting a helping hand to meet their basic needs.

The center is located on the ground floor of the L.O. Todd/Billy C. Beal Student Success Center and was created through an endowment funded by Chip and Lisa Taylor of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, through the MCC Foundation.

Taylor explained that his mom, Margaret Taylor Blalock, was a single parent who worked at MCC from 1968 to 1979. A dedicated counselor and compassionate mentor who touched the lives of countless students, Blalock saw helping others as her mission. "Mom was always there for her students, encouraging and helping them reach their educational goals, but also encouraging and counseling them in life," Taylor said. Three years ago, she passed away at the age of 95.

Now open, the Margaret Taylor Blalock Student Resource Center is a fresh new welcoming space featuring two large rooms, a sitting area, a storage area, and a private setting for one-on-one, discrete conversations. Wendy Cox, MCC support services coordinator, oversees the center.

Wendy Cox, Brandy Hill, Kim Rush, Dr. Leia Hill, and Dr. Tom Huebner, with recent purchases to stock the Margaret Taylor Blalock Resource Center. ➤

With a year in the making, the new facility was specially renovated to address the needs of students. Major purchases for the Margaret Taylor Blalock Student Resource Center will be made annually based on the endowment's investment.

Students who visit fill out a slip of paper used internally for reporting purposes. "Once they check-in, they can get what they need," Cox said. Their essential needs are as varied as the students themselves. There are men and women's career and casual clothing, outfits for babies and children, laptops and textbooks that are available to be loaned, personal hygiene items, some cleaning supplies, and diapers and wipes.

The food, though, is a major draw. "Fruit goes quickly, and ready-to-eat meals do as well," Cox said.

"Students can come here between classes and get something to eat that's easy - they'll eat it on the go," she added.

Donations to the center are welcomed, Cox noted, and there have been donations from on and off-campus organizations. "Former nursing students have come back and have donated scrubs. 'I know they'll need them,' one donor told me," Cox said.

"Donor students have reached out to their communities - churches, clubs to give to the center," she said.

Katherine is grateful for the new center. "Because of the generosity of the people of this campus, I was able to piece it together and get through. It's a blessing and a huge testament to our community and MCC."

To learn more, visit meridiancc.edu.



MCC FOUNDATION ENDOWMENTS

FUEL STUDENT SUCCESS, COMMUNITY GROWTH

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

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

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

"MCC Foundation endowments are more than just financial support," said Dr. Leia Hill, vice president for Institutional Advancement. "They are investments in people, in futures, and in our community.

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

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

Currently, the Foundation manages more than 160 endowed scholarships.

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

HERE ARE A FEW NEW ENDOWMENTS:



CAROLYN R. BEELAND SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

An administrative assistant at Meridian Community College, Carolyn served the College for more than five decades, earning a myriad of accolades including MCCer of the Month and Talon Club. She has also served many terms on the board for the Meridian Mutual Federal Credit

Union (MMFCU), a member-owned financial cooperative based in Meridian.

Recipients will be students who have a 2.0 or better grade point average, who volunteer for community service, and who help others around them better themselves.



ALLIE CARRUTH ENDOWMENT

Allie, a first grader who was described as feisty, fearless, and whose heart was filled with love, died tragically in an accident in 2017.

The endowment will provide critical support to nursing students who are in challenging circumstances and serve as a lifeline for students facing emergencies, offering assistance that can alleviate financial burdens and help them achieve their goal of graduating.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



SCAN HERE

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

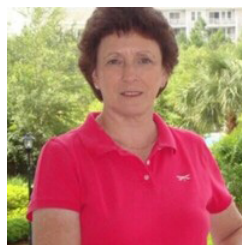


REV. WAYNE EDWARDS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Before he passed away in 2024, Wayne made his life's work serving in the ministry, pastoring churches in McCool, Little Rock, Eudora, Meridian,

and Collinsville. For more than 42 years, he worked with the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Baptist Children's Village and served as a trustee for 24 years. He was an adjunct professor at Meridian Community College for 24 years where he taught biblical studies classes.

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



DERINA ANTHONY USHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Remembered as a loving wife and giving mother, grandmother, and caregiver to family and friends, DeRina passed away in 2020. In

addition to being a longtime member of Mount Horeb Baptist Church, she served many roles, including church secretary. DeRina was also the 2018 Mississippi Golf Association's Women's Senior Amateur Grand Lady Medalist.

Recipients will be Lauderdale County students who are pursuing nursing careers, or are business or math majors.



ADRIAN MICHAEL HILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Described as having a quiet, gentle spirit, Adrian was a beloved son, father, husband, and brother who was also a dedicated friend and healthcare professional who died in 2025. He was

a nuclear medicine technologist for 22 years, and his commitment to being a loving and supportive husband and parent defined his life's purpose.

Recipients will be second-year students in the Radiologic Technology Program who exemplify compassion, integrity, and a commitment to helping others. They are individuals who not only excel academically but also lead with kindness, support their peers, and strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around them—someone like Adrian.

"Through the MCC Foundation, I've had the privilege of helping many families create scholarships to honor their loved ones, but now, I more fully understand the depth of what that means. The 'why' feels more personal. A scholarship isn't just a line in a ledger. It's a promise. It's hope. It's the transformation of grief into purpose—and memory into momentum." Dr. Leia Hill, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the MCC Foundation.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP 2024-2025 RECIPIENTS



DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

ADN Donor Scholarship

Shakara Miller

Baptist Anderson Board of Directors Scholarship

Andrea Sciple

Anderson Support and Development Foundation Scholarship

J'Nyah Moore

Sylvia Yates

Dr. William Jeff Anderson Memorial Scholarship

Rebecca Campbell

Dr. William J. Anderson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Keleigh Moore

Dr. William J. Anderson, III Memorial Scholarship

Emily Arias

AT&T Scholarship

Nicholas Lewis

Bill Autry Memorial Scholarship

Alondra Arreola-Espino

Justin Hopkins

Laurie M. Autry Memorial Scholarship

Kiersten White

C. B. Bailey Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Bounds

MaKayla Hopkins

Beverly Barham Memorial Scholarship

Alexa Shirley

Barnett All-America City Scholarship

Jonathan Parker

Leonard Corydon Barrell Family Scholarship

Bradley Hooks

Morgan Sloan

Sallie Mae Bell Memorial Scholarship

Daylon Horton

Onnie Blakeney Memorial Scholarship

Amber Gates

Elizabeth Honeycutt

Cameron Scott Boggan Memorial Scholarship

Jesse Laird

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

Rivers Burnette

Judie Bounds Memorial Scholarship

Lakeesha McFarland

Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S. Bounds Scholarship

Amber Gates

Mallory Piglia

Thomas and Norma Bourdeaux Scholarship

Alexa Shirley

Harry & Vivian Boureau Music Scholarship

Payton Alexander

Susan Partridge Boyette Memorial Scholarship

Summer Dorman

Gloria Blackshear Brown High School Equivalency Scholarship

Josie Woods

Keli Breanne Brown Memorial Scholarship

Rebekah Stephens

Margaret F. Butler Memorial Scholarship

Corbin Gillentine

Lydia Wilson

Fran and Wadell Byrd Memorial Scholarship

Keri Hans

Madeline Scott Callahan Memorial Scholarship

Felicia Kelly

Carney-Nelson Scholarship

Quendaisha Lewis

Cater's Market Culinary Scholarship

Albrie Harper

Mark Chandler Memorial Scholarship

Emily Scarbrough

Alta and Ivan Chisolm Memorial Scholarship

Madelyn Parker

A. C. Johnson/Civitan Scholarship

Kennedy Franklin

Macy Oliver

Jimmie Smith, III

Robert F. Cochran Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Bradon Epting

Lynn Bruner Combest Memorial Scholarship

Kiersten Hampton

Lynn Combest Memorial Marketing/Photography Scholarship

Harley Morland

Commercial Truck Driving Program Scholarship

Rosie Gordon

Chuck Nicholson/Community Bank Veteran Scholarship

Marcos Aguirre

Construction Services/A. C. Terry Scholarship

Albert Charlie

Winnie P. Crampton Nursing Scholarship

Shakea Winford

Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship

Austin Clinton

Holly Gillies

Laken Thornton

Clifton "Buddy" Davis Memorial Scholarship

Dylan Simpson

Marshall and Miriam Deonier Memorial Scholarship

Gracie Weatherford

Toni L. DeVaney Memorial Scholarship

LeCosha Rhone

Glen Deweese Scholarship

Chiquita Holcombe

Steven Lewis

DHUGG Scholarship

Jadazia Hillie

T. K. Dobbins, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Peyton Fowler

Downtown Optimist Club/Bill Herndon Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Burkeen

Haley Williams

Margaret Reed Dulaney Scholarship

Emily Guin

Earnest Workers King's Daughters and Sons Scholarship

Mesheila Harris

Max Edwards Workforce Training Scholarship

Christopher Johnson

Susan M. Ellis Memorial Scholarship

Kaelyn Lattig

R. A. Emmons Family Educational Scholarship

Leliana Alvarado

William H. Entekin Family Music Scholarship

Lauren Broome

Erika's Hope Memorial Scholarship

Amber Lewis

Zaria Williams



Evans PTK Scholarship Award

Alondra Arreola-Espino

Don and Donia Evans Scholarship

Courtney Odom

Hugh and Katherine Foster Memorial Scholarship

Hasen Caldwell

Marmion Loving Francis Scholarship

Takia Chapman

Bebe Roberts Freeman Scholarship

Libby Smith

Jacob Chester Frist Memorial Scholarship

Kaylin Wright

Future Nurses Scholarship

Emily Arias
Keleigh Moore

Gameday Operations Scholarship

Serena Blackwell
Jazmine Meza

Nicholas Gianakos Memorial Scholarship

Julie Amacher
Haley Briggs
Kamron Darden
Ethan Dye
Anna McGowin
Elizabeth Robbins

Carolyn and Arthur H. "JR." Goldman Memorial Scholarship

Charles Watson

Dotty and Hardy Graham, Sr. Scholarship

Seth Garrett
Lance Rawson

Gayle Gray Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Jermeka Hathorn
Macy Smith

Jerry Greene Memorial Scholarship

Rendell Allen, Jr.
Taliyah Evins
Kiya Maye

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

Jayda Mullins

Shirley Griffin Nursing Scholarship

Amber Lewis

Debbie Gunn Memorial Scholarship

Nathaniel Carstafhnur
Shamia Easter
Sara Moffett

Mark E. Gunn Memorial Scholarship

Libby Smith

William Gunn, Esquire Memorial Scholarship

Keri Hans

Gene Haas Scholarship

James Alsobrooks
Tyler Bearden
Jesse Burke
Eli Collum
Daniel Davis
Pedro Gonzalez
Logan Hemphill
Justin Hopkins
Luke Ishee
McKinley Jones
Daniel Lane
Tyson Marlow
Brayden Mathis
Caleb Purvis
William Satcher
Jimmie Smith

Phil Hardin Foundation Scholarship

Nathan Mott
Ember Temple

Anne Brown Hargon Memorial Scholarship

Madisyn Sims

Lou Weddington Hart Memorial Scholarship

Daveyonia Loyd

Mattie D. Hart/Emma Donald Music Scholarship

Hasen Caldwell

Judy Hartzler Scholarship

Jasmine Kelly

Katherine Chisolm Hester and Lamar Hester Memorial Scholarship

Angel Buckley

T. H. and Allie Hobgood Memorial Scholarship

Caitlyn Batchelor
John Barry Boldin
Camden Cooper
Karlee Pierce
Margaret Stevens

Eddie Holladay Broadcast/Marketing Scholarship

Calicia Smith

Dr. Jeff Hollingsworth Memorial Scholarship

Mallory Ross

Richard Hollingsworth Memorial Scholarship

Joseph Sanders

Paulette Aycock Hopkins Memorial Scholarship

Memorie Warren

Catherine Hovious Nursing Scholarship

Tamician Hunt
Madison Tullos

Linda and Billy Howard Computer Technology Scholarship

Allen Bishop

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



Richard Harper Howarth, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Reagan Dyess

Dr. George Howell Nursing Scholarship
Sherwiana Lamb
Madison Tindle

H.M. Ivy Scholarship
Phallyn Clark
Amari Davis
Madison Hines

Austin and Alice James Accounting Scholarship
Jason Guerrero

John and Ann Johnson Scholarship
Fletcher Mayerhoff

Reuben S. Johnson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Amber Lewis

Walter and Cora Thompson Johnson Memorial Scholarship
Aaron Teffeteller

Edwin Arlo and Bonnie Joiner Memorial Scholarship
Jolee Todd

Ann and Ken Joyner Book Scholarship
Jasmine Lindsey
Arlee McClellan

Lucy Kahlms Dental Hygiene Scholarship
Kinsey Davis

Key Brothers Memorial Scholarship
Caleb Purvis

Kingdom InfluenceHER Leadership Scholarship
Temayah Hopson

Gondine Kittrell Memorial Scholarship
Andrea Sciple

Prof. Howard Lane Memorial Scholarship
Candace Hill

Marcella and Hubert Langford Scholarship
Grace Wade

William and Dorothy Lerner Scholarship

Sydney Cooper
Arlee McClellan
Joeey McWilliams
Mia Sperandeo
Earron Stewart

Oscar Lewis Estates (OLE) LLC Scholarship

John Cotton
Richard Cross
Jetereon Glenn
Precious Habersham-Pitts
Richard Thomas
Jaydon Williams

Stennis "Judge" Little Memorial Scholarship
Joslyn Broome-Tucker
Taheshay Schwalbach

Lockheed STEM Scholarship
Hasen Caldwell

Jack Malone Memorial Scholarship
Jeffery Smith

Dr. Lloyd Wilton and Dr. Sula Johnson Marsalis Memorial Scholarship
Lexi Haguewood
Allison McCoy

Jason Marshall Memorial Scholarship
Jalen Rose

MCC Alumni and Friends Scholarship
Ava Hayes

Kathleen Newby McDaniel Memorial Scholarship
Sabrina Davis
Keeton Garrett
Shakea Winford

Emily Louise McDonald Nursing Scholarship
Danielle Davis
Michelle Ryans
Ollie Savage

Kelly Thompson McKee Memorial Scholarship
Haley Thomas

Percy R. McLemore Scholarship
Tilley Lucas

Medical Lab Technology Scholarship
Precious Jenkins

Meridian Area Dental Association Scholarship
Kinsey Davis
Kendal Howell

Meridian Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship
Matesha Johnson

Meridian Exchange Club/Bo Russell Memorial Scholarship
Trevor Clayton
Ava Grace Null

Meridian Lion's Club Scholarship
Daniel Scrimshire

Meridian Media Group Scholarship
Otoniel Alonso

Mabel and S. Carl Merritt Scholarship
Brett Busbea
Kinsey Davis
Kendall Hillman

Richard L. Meyer Memorial Scholarship
Maston McMahan

MHS Class of 1978 Scholarship
SaMorgan Townsend

Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship
Montrea Alexander
Hannah Andreaacchio
Emily Arias
Indigay Baldwin
Monquie Banks
Unisa Bell
Caleb Benson
Kelly Blair
Evay Blanks
Kasenthia Bloodsaw
Kaylee Booker
Kaylynn Boshoff

Alexandria Bounds
Carmia L. Bragg
Jasmine D. Brown
Tessa Bullock
Ashley Burkeen
Nathaniel B. Carstaffnur
DeLana Castle
Janet Conner
Trinity Davis
Bailey Eidson
Raven Evans
Jeyde Fitsgerald
Jacquadazia Ford
Haley Freeman
Erika Gardner
Samantha Gellatly
Kloe Goodin
KeSha Gore
Akamie Goss
James Grantham
Lorin Greene
Chelsea Halbert
Thelma Hall
Keri Hans
Diamond Harris
Jerriunika Harris
Amber Hill
Candace Hill
Heaven Hollingsworth
Talisha Hollingsworth
William K. Holton
Kristen Hosey
Ashley Hunt
Tamician Hunt
Katelyn Johnson
Brittney Jones
Tawiana Jones
Samantha Keebler
Keyana Kent
Casey Kyle
Amber Lewis
Demetria Lewis
Quendaisha Lewis
Tenisha Lewis
Asia Lofton
Joshua Lyons
Brittany McCool
Keonna McDaniel
Nicole McDonald
Yasmin McDonald
Lakeesha McFarland
Quintera Miller
Shakara Miller
Brandy Mills
Sara Moffett
Skylar B. Mollett
Keleigh Moore
Rosalyn M. Moss
Amy Mullins
Jayda Mullins
Emily Odom
Shaquetta Parker
Madison Peters
Auja Phillips
Chillea Pickett
Shaquanda Pippin
Shanice Price
Ariana Ramos
Mackenzie Robinson
Kennedy Rodriguez
Mallory Ross
Zacaree Rupert
Michelle Ryans
Ollie Savage
Netanya Sawyer
Andrea Sciple
Maecy Scribner
Skylar Sharp
Braeden Smith

Macy Smith
Nykolis Stevens
Elizabeth Strickland
Brandee Styron
Brittany Todd
Sandra Whitehead
Makayla Williams
Kristen Wilson

Mississippi Power Heritage Scholarship

Johnathan Cole
Aquilla Pack, Jr.
Kaydence Patterson
Matthew Williams

Mitchell Companies Scholarship

William Oliver
Gabriel Skinner

William D. Mobley Dental Hygiene Scholarship

Amelia Dees
Bailey Parker

G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Memorial Scholarship

Emma Kate Creel
Dorcia Mayer
Macy McCharen
Addison Satterfield
Hayden Williams

Dr. William R. Moore, II Memorial Scholarship

Mallory Ross

Joyce Morrison Memorial Scholarship

Talisha Hollingsworth

Mott Foundation Commercial Truck Driving Scholarship

Marvin Gale, Jr.
Marcus Robinson, Jr.
Michael Shaffer

Steven Nabors Memorial Scholarship

Daylon Horton

National Board for Respiratory Care Scholarship

Breanna Gordon
Shakedria Griffin
Daveyonia Loyd
Harley Wright

Ruth Van Dyke Nelson Memorial Scholarship

Rosina Burford
Carley Pugh
Henton Walton

Virginia Price Nelson Scholarship

Haley Freeman

Gloria Nuckolls Memorial Scholarship

Rebecca Campbell

Nurse to Nurse Scholarship

Shekeke Heidelberg

Mark M. Porter Memorial Scholarship

Jeremiah Atterberry

Gerald Price Memorial Scholarship

Allison Fox

Rev. George Pugh Memorial Hospitality Scholarship

Erika Monroe
Edward Myers

Gerry Wayne Purvis Scholarship

Sara Lacy

C. B. "Dough" & Alice Rawlings Scholarship

Somalia Lewis

Rea, Shaw, Giffin, and Stuart Scholarship

Miranda Bullock

Jo and George Rea Memorial Scholarship

Abdulhaim Obid

Elizabeth Riley Memorial Scholarship

Jeyde Fitzgerald
Shaquetta Parker
Kendaisha Price
Memorie Warren

Richard F. Riley, M.D. Scholarship

Lashonda Brown
Shaniuia Edmonds

William G. Riley, M.D. Memorial Scholarship

Yolanda Jackson
Kendaisha Price

Miriam Roberson Nursing Scholarship

Adrienne Edwards
Lyndi Pryor

Ardell Moffett Rogers Memorial Scholarship

Emma Hill
Javar James
Jeremiah Ragsdale

I. A. Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship

Christian McClelland

Lucile Reisman Rosenbaum Scholarship

Thiago Fasano

Royalty Education Scholarship

Emma Watson

Big and Ham Sanders Memorial Scholarship

Bennett Thurston

Joe Charles and Mai Keen Sanders Memorial Scholarship

Kiersten White

Doris and Cecil Seale Memorial Scholarship

Alison Perez-Zapata

Daniel P. and Ruby Self Scholarship

Adrienne Edwards
Hampton Ross

Jack Shank Scholarship

Kennedy Franklin

Andy Sharp EMS Memorial Scholarship

Madison Crain

Jackie Bates Slay Memorial Scholarship

Emma Murray

Lee Anne Smith Memorial Scholarship

Collin Russell

Maude Smith Scholarship

Allison Harrison



Tanya Ocampo Memorial Scholarship

Amanda Osborne
LeCasha Rhone

Ochsner Rush Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship

Jacquadazia Ford
Au'Zyunna Lewis

Alexander Ott/The Crossings Memorial Scholarship

Samantha Lauderdale

Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association Scholarship

Shannon Perryman

Katherine G. Perry Memorial Scholarship

Virginia Sartin

Physical Therapist Assistant Scholarship

Cameron Stallworth

Pioneer Classes Scholarship

Amiya Boyd

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

Keiara Jimison

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



Margaret and Bill Smylie Scholarship

Rodnesha Gulley

State Farm Companies Scholarship

Sydney Cooper

Structural Steel Services Scholarship

Kalli Carrillo
Heather Frazier
Layla Havard
Elijah Hodges
Sabrina Ivy
Zoey Ivy

A. Wayne Sullivan, M.D. Memorial Scholarship

Elam Davis
Micah Nelson
Celeste Sharpe

Walter H. Thompson Memorial Radiologic Technology Scholarship

Carlondria McLaughlin
Josie Reid

Dr. Dan Thornton, Jr. Scholarship

Ashley Miller

Mae Carroll Thornton Scholarship

Jamia Hornsby
Shawond Webster

Jacob Toney Memorial Scholarship

Breland Abston
Kevondra Simmons

Jacob Touchstone MLT Scholarship

Lamaquiaja Black

Rodney Walker Technology Scholarship

William Moffett

Les Wallace Memorial Scholarship

Josthin Moreno, Jr.

Waters Family Scholarship

Daniel Scrimshire
Chloe Smith

Norma Rawlings Webb Scholarship

Shakara Miller

Tommy Webb Business Scholarship

Daniel Espin
Javar James
Brayden Martin
Dru Vick

Hunter George Weddington Memorial Scholarship

Keonna McDaniel

White Family Foundation Scholarship

Evay Blanks
Shaquana McAfee
Shanice Price
Shannon Russell

James C. and Garnett S. Wilbourn Family Scholarship

Kayli Warren

Joan K. Williams Memorial Scholarship

Tianna Hardin

Mavis Williams Memorial Scholarship

Samantha Adams

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

Kaleigh Griffith
Rory Hyde
Alyssa Metcalf
Allie Wyman
Jacob Young

Darlene Withers Radiology Scholarship

Tiara Sims

Woodall Family Scholarship

Karlee Massey

WTOK-TV Broadcast Communication Scholarship

Khi Cowan

Charles L. Young, Sr. Cosmetology Scholarship

Madison Hatcher
Charity Jordan

Charles and Doretha Young, (MLK) Scholarship

Donna Chaney
James Herring, Jr.
J'Nyah Moore

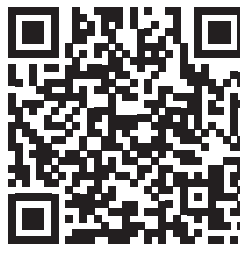
Ralph E. Young, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Conner Bourg
Sydney Coleman

IMPACT CHANGE BY GIVING

**GIVING TO MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CHANGES LIVES.**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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

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



NAMING NAMES

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



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