

## Greetings from the President and the Executive Director



Valerie Barton

Greetings, MS ACTE members! Congratulations on finishing another great school year in Mississippi. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Mississippi ACTE State President. It has been an honor and a privilege to promote Career and Technical Education across the state. We hosted the ACTE Region IV Conference in March and enjoyed sharing best practices with our CTE partners in other states. Thanks to our Executive Director, Suzanne Kelly, for her preparation and planning that resulted in a well-received conference.

I hope you are getting some down time during the summer to relax or rejuvenate, whichever you may need. As you are making plans, let me remind you the 2023 MS ACTE Summer Conference will be July 17-19 in Biloxi at the Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. MDE and the RCU have worked in cooperation with MS ACTE to host the conference. As a bonus, this year the conference will be held in conjunction with the 2023 Innovative Institute. We are always seeking ways to bring you valuable professional development opportunities. At the conference, please look for opportunities to get more involved in Career and Technical Education across the state. That may include attending a District Meeting or serving in a leadership capacity. You are what makes our organization strong, and I encourage you to be an active participant.

On a final note, I encourage you to nominate your students and fellow educators for the various ACTE awards presented each year. We have so many great students, teachers and administrators who deserve recognition for the outstanding work they do every day to make Mississippi a great state. I hope to see you all in Biloxi for the Summer Conference. Enjoy your summer!

Vision, the National Policy Seminar, and will complete her term at the 2024 Region IV Conference in New Mexico next April.

Final preparations are underway for the 2023 MS ACTE Summer Conference. Our board has worked in collaboration with MDE and RCU to plan a great conference. We look forward to seeing everyone in Biloxi. The MS ACTE Booth will be open during the conference to take care of any membership or liability insurance needs.

On a final note, I would like to share once again that our professional organization is only as strong as our active membership. Please explore the multiple leadership opportunities within MS ACTE and your affiliate division and volunteer to serve whenever and wherever possible! Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your membership needs.

Best Regards!

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Hello everyone. I hope you are enjoying a much deserved summer break. I have many exciting highlights to share from the 2023 Spring semester. March was an extremely busy month for MS ACTE.

A team of MS ACTE board members who attended the ACTE National Policy Seminar in Washington DC during the third week in March along with members from MDE, RCU, and Accelerate MS. We would like to thank the ACTE Region IV Board for providing scholarships to cover the registration fees for representatives from each Region IV state. The MS ACTE members representing MS ACTE included, the Executive Director, President Valerie Barton, 2nd Vice-President Blaise King, Strategic Plan Chair Erik Shows, and Communications Chair Lenora Hogan. The conference provided a great opportunity to learn about Policies that impact CTE and to visit the offices of the Mississippi members of Congress to share CTE success stories from across our state as well as advocate for additional CTE funding.

We ended the month of March by hosting a very successful Region IV Conference at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi. We had over 250 in attendance including attendees and exhibitor sponsors. I would like to say a very special thank you to MS ACTE President, Valerie Barton for her efforts in hosting multiple planning sessions to organize the conference. I would also like to thank the volunteers who worked the registration booth, provided transportation for tours and served as tour guides during the conference. We had a great time networking with CTE professionals from all the Region IV states including Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. Karen Patterson was announced as Mississippi's first Region IV Fellow during the conference. She began her year of service and will attend Career Tech

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Best Regards!



Suzanne Kelly



*Pictured is the Mississippi delegation at the 2023 National Policy Seminar*

## Choctaw Central C-TEC's DECA Community Service Project

The 2022-23 DECA members at Choctaw Central Career & Technical Education Center (C-TEC) in Choctaw, Mississippi decided that it was time to serve the community. After several meetings, DECA decided that they would do a year-long Community Service Project in which they would have a flag pole erected at where the career technical center campus in which they attend. This was a multi-faceted project that dealt with many areas. Members were exposed to many levels of business. Members spent the whole year planning the location, fundraising activities, obtaining quotes, working with 811, learning the history of the tribal flag, creating an informational website, learning about citizenship and how to handle and display the flags. Members worked within the many principles of DECA including finance and marketing.



Fundraising activities included selling a knitted blanket with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians flag on it. They also made and sold t-shirts which had a picture of the MBCI flag and the back had a QR Code in which people could scan with their cell phone camera and be taken to a website that shared information about the MBCI flag and its history and symbolism, in which the students learned.

On May 5th, 2023, the DECA club was able to have a Flagpole Dedication ceremony. Showcasing all the hard work that was put into making this happen. The ceremony was very formal with special guests Choctaw Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Vice Chief Ronnie Henry, and Council members Deborah Martin and Kent Wesley in attendance. Also present were the Choctaw Tribal Schools Director of Schools, Dr. Randy Grierson and Assistant Director of Schools Delnita Jones, Choctaw Central High School Principal Alaric Keams and C-TEC Administrator Sherry Tubby. Students had the high school band to play the National Anthem, while American Indian Day Princess Shaystin Lewis and Brave De’Ryan Williamson recited the Pledge of Allegiance in the Choctaw language. DECA sponsors Susan Strickline and Adam Lewis gave an overview on the process of getting the flagpole at the C-TEC and look forward to next year’s Community Service Project.

*Photos Courtesy of Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians*



## Weld Like a Girl

Alyana Brent and Rylee Sorrell were recently selected to compete in the first annual Darby Ledet 6 G structural steel competition held at Greene County Vo – Tech on March 30, 2023. This competition was started in honor of Darby Ledet, a young man who was tragically killed in an accident last year in Greene County. Both young ladies have consistently been winning local contests throughout the year. During their tenure here at Marion County Career and Tech Center, the young ladies have learned to weld in all four positions using 6010 electrodes as well as 7018. They have welded in the 1F,2F,3F and 4F positions and progressed to the 1G,2G,3G ,4G positions as well as the 6G position. The young ladies have welded using GMAW, SMAW, GTAW and FCAW, all processes used in industry. They both can operate both the Oxy Fuel Torch and the hand plasma machine. Both young ladies competed in the Region 5 Skills USA competition where they made up two of the three fabrication team members. Alyana and Rylee give “Weld Like a Girl” a whole new meaning. The picture above shows Alyana (L) and Rylee (R) on the day of the competition. Both students came home with numerous prizes. Mr. Robert Boone, Welding instructor at Marion County Career and Technology Center, consistently seeks opportunities for students to showcase their Welding skills.





# “Skills That Pay” at Hattiesburg High School

Submitted by: Jennie Noonkester

Hattiesburg High School’s Career and Technical Department partnered with other Pine Belt area schools to promote the “Skills That Pay” campaign launched in the fall of 2022. Clifton Carroll, the Executive Director of the Skills Foundation of Mississippi, and his team met with area representatives from local Career and Technical programs from Pearl River Community College Workforce Department to Hattiesburg High School. Also, representatives from local businesses and industries and community leaders voiced opinions about the need for a more positive outlook on the abundance of skilled jobs and career opportunities available to students after graduating high school.



Pictured above is Kymrie Lofton

The Skills That Pay campaign promotes a positive community mindset toward career pathways that demand unique job skills. By competing for these jobs, these emerging workers can avoid debt incurred by high college costs and earn higher salaries faster. In addition, many careers foster stability and better quality of life for students as they transition into adulthood (Skills Foundation of Mississippi, 2022). As part of the campaign, several Hattiesburg High School students interviewed to be representatives for the Foundation’s campaign. Kymrie Lofton became a spokesperson, made many appearances in commercials, and participated in speaking engagements for middle and high school students looking for other career

opportunities. Ms. Lofton obtained her associate’s degree from Pearl River Community College and her high school diploma from Hattiesburg High in May, and she plans to pursue a career in nursing.

Clifton Carroll and his team finished the year by asking students to record video interviews about their plans after graduating high school. Five students from Hattiesburg High School received a signing bonus for training in their chosen careers. A’dymun Walker and Relond Whitsett received \$1,000.00 signing bonuses, and Zaria Foxworth, Victor Barber, and Kameron Brooks received \$250.00 to continue their training.



Skill that Pay: <https://www.skillsthatpay.ms>

# Itawamba Welders

Submitted by: Dusty Thompson

The Welding students at Itawamba Career & Technical Center have had a fun-filled year! Building everything from grills, fire pits, trailer gate repair, to TIG welding flowers for Mother’s Day!





## NTHS Community Service Project Day

Itawamba Career and Technical Center's National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) held a community service day on April 22, 2023. Students assisted in planting trees and shrubs along the school's newly painted building. Not only did the students learn valuable gardening skills, but they also learned great communication and team building skills.

NTHS members are invited to join based on having (and keeping) a 3.0 GPA, maintaining good attendance, and receiving positive teacher nominations. For the 2022-2023 school year, ICTC has 46 members. The student officers were present for the NTHS community project day and set a good example for the other student members.



Photos, left to right: Courtney Black; Karly Thompson and Emily Petree; Molly Grubbs, Britney Martin, Courtney Black and Olivia Bennett; Amberlee Ramey, Sophie Grubbs and Karly Thompson



Olivia Bennett



Amberlee Ramey, Emily Petree, Shane Sullivant and Konner Rogers



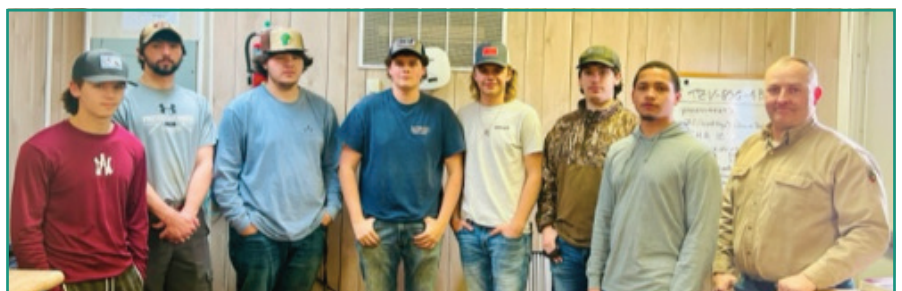
Britney Martin and Emily Petree

## Students Learn Basic Welding Skills

Submitted by: April Hobson

A new opportunity for New Albany School of Career & Technical Education students began in February for several students. In a partnership between New Albany School of Career & Technical Education and Northeast Mississippi Community College, students are having the opportunity to learn basic welding skills. The twice weekly evening class, taught by Northeast Mississippi Community College welding instructor, John Garner, introduces students to basic welding skills.

Standing with NEMCC welding instructor, John Garner, New Albany CTE students participating in the welding class are as follows (l-r): Reed Taylor, Riley Porter, John Hayden Watson, Joshua Germany, Tucker Roberts, John Gray Davis, and Aidan Ingram. Reed, Riley, John Hayden, and Aidan are enrolled in the automotive program; Tucker and John Gray are enrolled in the construction program, and Joshua is enrolled in the engineering program at New Albany School of Career & Technical Education.





## Lamar County FFA News

Submitted by James Roberts

(top right) Our livestock team of Walker Williamson, Rylee White, Bella Smith and Jenna Anderson placed 4th in the livestock evaluation state FFA event.



(below right) State FFA Degrees earned by Hannah Windham and Landon Robertson presented at the State Conference.



(left) Miranda Barefoot, Reilly Bayley, Samantha Cardenas and Hailee Kendrick won the MS FFA State Championship in, "The National FFA Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event". They will represent Mississippi at the National FFA Convention and competitions in October of 2023 in Indianapolis.



## ACTE Region IV Conference



MS ACTE hosted the 2023 ACTE Region IV Conference on March 29-31 at the Beau Rivage Resort. Dr. Samuel Jones presented the Keynote address providing an encouraging and inspiring opening session for the over 200 CTE educators in attendance representing Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, & New Mexico. Pre-Conference tours were provided by Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Gulfport High School, the Port Authority, and MGM BallPark. Special thanks goes to the Region IV planning committee led by MS ACTE President Valerie Barton, ICEV Multimedia for sponsoring the Vendor Reception, and Microburst Learning for sponsoring the Awards Luncheon. MS ACTE Executive Director, Suzanne Kelly was awarded the 2023 Region IV Superstar Award during

the closing Awards session. The 2024 ACTE Region IV Conference will be hosted by New Mexico next April. (Pictured below Valerie Barton, Dr. Samuel Jones, Suzanne Kelly)

## Association for Career and Technical Education Members Tour Keesler

Members of the Association for Career and Technical Education pose for a group photo in front of a WC-130 Hercules aircraft for a tour at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, March 29, 2023. AVTE's mission is to provide educational leadership in developing a competitive workforce. They also toured the air traffic control training course and received a military working dog demonstration.



(U.S. Air Force photo by Kemberly Groue)



# Pass Christian High School FCCLA Chapter Wins National Career Connection Project Award

Submitted by: Jennifer Frye

Pass Christian High School FCCLA, Mississippi, was selected as the 2023 National High School Career Connection Award Winner, sponsored by Goodheart-Wilcox Publisher and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) for their project "Creating Connections."

Career Connection is a peer education program created by FCCLA, designed to teach students how to prepare for career success now and in the future. The award recognizes chapters that conduct career development projects to help students build skills for success in their families, careers, and communities.

As the National High School Winner, the Pass Christian High School FCCLA chapter will receive a \$1,000 award and be recognized at the 2023 FCCLA National Leadership Conference, July 2 – 6, 2023, in Denver, Colorado.

Several FCCLA members including Claire Dahlike, Aria Grady, Reese Miller and Sarah Taylor worked on the Career Connection project called "Creating Connections." With the goal of providing real world career examples, providing connections between our students and community leaders, and bringing community leaders into our school students linked careers and community members to classes and class standards. These career representatives were invited into our Family and Consumer Science classes to discuss the linked class standards, how they got into their career field, what the daily activities were in their career and anything else they thought was important to share with students about their career. Two examples of this process was inviting Mr. O'Hara the CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Mississippi to discuss the standard "identify a consumer's rights and responsibilities and evaluate consumer information" with the Resource Management class or Mrs. Alicia Tarrant the Youth Outreach Educator for the Gulf Coast Center of Nonviolence, Inc to discuss the standards "identify types of domestic violence, discuss warning signs of violence and identify preventive measures and intervention skills" with the Family Dynamics class. Students filled out guest speaker evaluation forms and this data was shared with guest speakers. A rotation was created for all students to be able to write thank you cards to various guest speakers. This project created a number of partnerships and collaborations. Every community leader who was a guest speaker has become a long-term partnership that has worked with us to help make this project impactful and has joined our Family and Consumer Science Advisory Board which helps build and guides our program in the future. Through this project students learned and used valuable skills including communication, teamwork, business etiquette, organization and more.

## CREATING CONNECTIONS

*A Guest Speaker program designed to connect careers and community members with students through the Family and Consumer Sciences Program at Pass Christian High School.*



Family and Consumer Sciences students welcomed several guest speakers throughout the first semester to help bring careers, real world experience and more to their classes. This was a guest speaker program created by FCS students to bridge the gap between school and the real world! The following local businesses had guest speakers that participated:

- Memorial Health Systems
- Hancock Whitney Bank
- Coldwell Banker Realtors
- MS Better Business Bureau
- Edward Jones
- State Farm
- Gulfcoast Center For Nonviolence
- Ochners Eat Fit
- Let's Go Gulf Coast
- Pass Christian Public Library & Book Mobile
- Biloxi Shuckers Community Relations
- Harrah's
- WLOX
- Pass Christian Mayor's Office
- University of Mississippi Extension Office

These guest speakers brought real world experience into the classroom and are so appreciated! FCS students and instructor hope to continue and grow this program!



## 2023 Pass High FCCLA Members Compete & Win Big

Ten Pass Christian High School (PCHS) students and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members traveled to Natchez Mississippi in March to compete at the FCCLA state meeting. The ten students competed in seven different events representing a variety of projects they completed at school and in the community. Students prepared for several months and were excited to have the opportunity to show their hard work. The Natchez Convention Center was full of students from across Mississippi all ready to compete and grow as leaders! Pass High junior Allie Armstrong remarked, “This was my first year competing, and I wouldn’t trade my experience for anything. During my time in Natchez I learned a lot of valuable skills like patience and teamwork. My team and I worked through multiple obstacles before and during our event competition and we overcame them. I’m very grateful for the experience and can’t wait for next year!”

FCCLA is a national career and technical student organization (CTSO) for students in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) education in public and private schools through grade 12. FCCLA offers intra-curricular resources and opportunities for students to pursue careers that support families. Since 1945, FCCLA members have been making a difference in their families, careers, and communities by addressing important personal, work, and societal issues through FCS education. With more than 228,000 student members throughout the country, Pass High students join a growing force to make a difference in their world.

Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events are Competitive Events in which members compete at the state and national levels. Students are recognized for proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills, and career preparations. STAR Events allow students to compete individually or as a team. There are more than 30 STAR events students can choose to compete in, all of which recognize participants who demonstrate their knowledge, skills and abilities to actively identify an issue concerning families, careers or communities, research a topic, and develop and implement a project to advocate for positive change.

This year Pass Christian High FCCLA members excelled by placing in the top 3 in EVERY event they entered!

- Chloe Necaise, Callie Smith and Allie Armstrong won 1st in the state (Gold) in Event Management level 3 event with their CTE Expo project.
- Alyssa Ausmer won 3rd in the state (Bronze) in Focus on Children level 3 event with her “Dig into School Breakfast” project.
- Breanna Huguet won 1st in the state (Gold) in the Food Innovation level 3 event with her “Meal Munchiez: Every Meal Deserves to End with a Cookie” concept.
- Cayden Cunningham won 2nd in the state (silver) in National Programs in Action level 3 event by using the FCCLA National Program-Student Body to create and carry out his project “Peace, Love & School Lunch.”
- Aria Grady won 1st in the state (Gold) in Promote and Publicize FCCLA level 2 event with her year long “IncREDible FCCLA” campaign.
- Ethan Campbell and Brennan Davis won 1st in the state (Gold) in Sports Nutrition level 2 event with their IncREDible Nutrition Plan for fellow classmate and track athlete Brinley Hodo.
- Savannah “Arbor” Lentz won 2nd in the state (Silver) in Chapter Service Project level 2 event with her “IncREDible Interactions” project that featured PCHS FCCLA’s community service with local nursing home. Lentz’s design was also chosen and will be the official FCCLA lapel pin design for all chapters in the state. This designed pin will be used at the national convention and will be the official FCCLA pin for the state of Mississippi.

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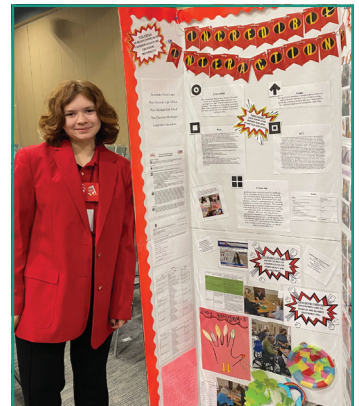


## “2023 Pass High FCCLA Members Compete & Win Big” continued

While in Natchez, Mississippi for the competition, students also networked with other students and teachers from across the state, learned about Mississippi history, and had fun together. Arbor Lentz shares her experience, “Traveling to Natchez for the FCCLA state competition was an incredible experience that I hope to be able to do again in the coming years. From making friends from other Mississippi high schools and giggling in the waiting room lobby to presenting in front of judges in an otherwise quiet room is a surreal experience that I wouldn’t change for the world. Throughout my personal experience in this organization, I’ve done things I never thought I was capable of doing. I once cried whenever I had to read in front of my class. Now I’m able to give speeches with full confidence in front of the entire Mississippi FCCLA State meeting and competition of over 1,000 students and teachers. This organization has taught me so much and I know I’ll learn just as much next year. FCCLA truly is the Ultimate Leadership Experience.”

This year is the second year for re-establishing the Pass Christian High’s FCCLA Chapter and it has really taken off growing from 21 to 45 members in just 2 years. Adviser and Pass High Teacher Jennifer Frye said, “Students are excited to be empowered to learn, connect with others, and make a difference in their communities. Then to add on the ability to compete and share their work builds a sense of pride.” This entire year of projects and the group’s trip to the state competition was funded by the Caesar Foundation grant. This grant has enabled students to plan and carry out numerous projects that positively impacted our schools, students, and community. We are very grateful for this grant and the opportunities it provided this year. Due to placing in the top 3 in the state at the FCCLA state competition,

these students are eligible for the New Century Skills Scholarship from MGCCC, making this an opportunity that will keep growing for these students. Lastly, several of these students advanced and are eligible to represent Pass Christian High School and the state of Mississippi at the National FCCLA Meeting and competition in Denver, Colorado this July. Attendance is still being decided, but students are excited for the opportunity.



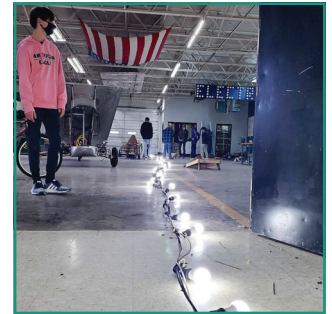
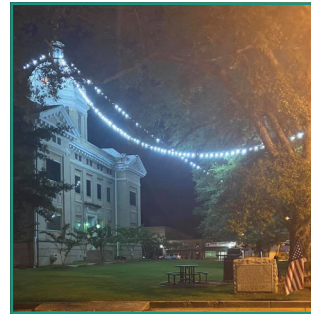


## The Gift of Light

The town of Houston, MS received the gift of light. The City of Houston asked the Houston CTE Electricity class to partner with them to refurbish the lights that adorn the courthouse every Christmas. They have completely refurbished all four strands by replacing the wiring, the fixtures, and bulbs. Houston Mayor Stacy Parker said, "What I learned when I took the Electrician Class I have been able to use even to date helping the city as well as my own home. The goal is for the City of Houston to partner with the Houston CTE, sharing each of our resources."

Electrical Students serve the community by helping to rewire the lights that are on the Courthouse every Christmas. Students learn valuable skills while helping the community. The new lights are LED which will be more energy efficient.

CTE Director Teresa Moore says that these experiences bring the students closer to the community and learn the meaning of pride in a job well done. The students not only learn skills in the classroom, but also learn that what they are learning are skills that will help them in the future. Every time those kids drive through town during the holidays they will remember their contribution to the lights around the square.



## Vicksburg Warren National Technical Honor Society 2023 Leadership Conference



On January 19-20, 2023, the Vicksburg Warren chapter of National Technical Honor Society attended the annual Mississippi National Technical Honor Society Leadership Conference in Raymond & Jackson, Mississippi. All twenty four members of the Vicksburg Warren chapter were able to network and interact with fellow NTHS members from different chapters across the state. The first day provided a way for students to tour the historic Jackson State University and learn about various academic programs offered from faculty members and current students. After the visit to JSU, students were able to learn about the rich history of Mississippi by visiting the state's Museum of Mississippi History & Mississippi Civil Rights Museum .

On the last day, members of the chapter were able to network with other chapters during the collaboration breakfast sessions. During the last session, students were given presentations on how to become peer counselors and how to recognize if their fellow students are experiencing drug abuse. Senior NTHS member Aisha Williams stated, "I did not know what to expect from the conference since it was my first time attending; however, I enjoyed the atmosphere and being able to network with individuals of various backgrounds."

## Coaching and Caring: Working Together to Strengthen Mississippi's Talent Pipeline

Submitted by: Prentiss M. McLin, II, Ph.D.



(l to r)- Chad Shealy, Superintendent Vicksburg Warren School District, Alexandria Burrell, CMPDD Career Coach (Warren Central High School), Monica Watson, CMPDD Career Coach (Vicksburg High School)

The Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) has launched the career coaching program in Vicksburg Mississippi. The Vicksburg Warren School District is proud to welcome Monica Watson and Alexandria Burrell as the newest supports for student success. Through this program high schools will be allowed to advocate for workforce development and training and expose students to post-high school career and training opportunities in their communities. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about career opportunities and employer expectations. Students in the district now have an advocate and mentor that walks them through career planning experiences and work-based learning opportunities designed to change students' lives and make communities stronger. Particularly in the Vicksburg Warren School District, where the mission is to ensure that ALL students graduate college, life, and career prepared, the intervention of Career Coaches will be paramount. Additionally, employers will see an additional pipeline of skilled workers who have the technical, academic, and hands-on

training needed to match unfilled vacancies in their companies both locally and statewide. Innovative District Director, Curtis Ross shared, "The Career Coach positions at each of the high schools brings an additional support to our district as we continue to encourage and build positive relationships through networking with industry and increase one on one coaching, particularly for those students who need it the most." The Career Coach model has proven successful in several districts throughout the state, as thirteen new Career Coaches have been officially deployed throughout four Mississippi counties (Hinds, Madison, Adams, and Warren). In the Vicksburg Warren School District, the Career Coaches have been embraced and enjoy the full support of teachers, students, and the administration. Alexandria Burrell, Career Coach (Warren Central High School) shared an early success story in only her first month. "We have been accepted all over the place," said Burrell. She went on to highlight the placement of a student in a paid internship role with Keller Williams Realty-New Beginnings under the leadership of Lucy DeRossette, an independent real estate contractor. Burrell added, "We are meeting students where they are on the road; whether that road is leading them to college or to the workplace." The possibilities to positively influence educational outcomes and increase career trajectories for students in Vicksburg, MS is even more of a reality since the Career Coach positions have been introduced. These Career Coaches are assisting students to identify career goals through personal and group consultation while promoting both academic and personal success through student advocacy. As the Career Coach program grows, so will the opportunities for students to develop their skills and talents so that they can prepare, prefer, and perform as a part of Mississippi's tapestry of world class workforce and highly accomplished academic talent.

## Warren Central Junior High School Students Celebrate Career & Technical Education Month

The month of February is nationally recognized as Career & Technical Education Month which the students at WCJHS gladly took the opportunity to acknowledge. The eighth grade students in Mrs. Thomas's Keystone class was given a task to research a career and explain what they have learned to their other classmates. This engaging activity allowed students to analyze careers they were interested in and wanted to know more about. Overall, the presentations were a success!





# Candidate for Presidential Scholars Program

Submitted by: Tanya Cole, VWSD CTE Counselor



Aisha I. Williams is a native of Vicksburg, MS where she attends Vicksburg High School. Aisha has advanced to the final round for the MS. Presidential Scholars Program. The United States Presidential Scholars Program (USPSP) was established in 1964, by

Executive Order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 2015, the program was broadened to recognize students exemplifying outstanding skills and accomplishments in career and technical education (CTE) fields. According to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) each year, up to 161 students are named U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. The Scholars represent excellence in education and exemplify the greatness in our young people.

Aisha is a member of the National Technical Honor Society, the Vicksburg High School Student Ambassadors Team, and a member of Key Club. Aisha holds a 4.00 G.P.A. and is ranked in the top 15% of her graduating class. Aisha is the type of student that seeks and excels in her extracurricular activities as well as her studies. Aisha embodies the VWSD's mission which is "To equip every student with the literacy and numeracy skills to succeed in challenging courses, meet academic standards, and graduate from high school prepared to meet the challenges of a global workplace.

# Career Coaches

Submitted by: Nakesha Weaver

The career coaches at Starkville Oktibbeha County school have been diligently working with the students in the district since October. Our goal as career coaches is to help students identify a skill and match that skill with a career. Since October 2022, the career coaches have exceeded their goals. This school year the career coaches have helped the students with completing financial aid, college applications, industry tours, and summer internships.



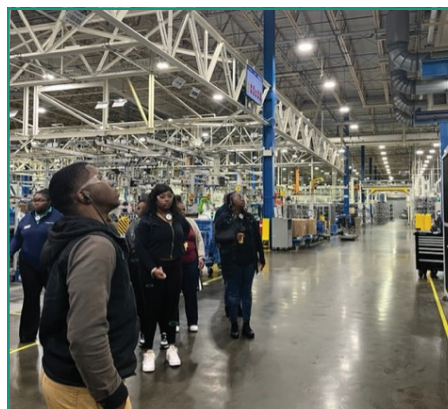
International paper tour with SHS students, staff and career coaches



FORGE interview day with students and staff at Communiversity.



PACCAR tour with CTE Director, CTE counselor, Career coaches and students.



Career coaches touring Itawamba Community College



# FCCLA



Winners for FCCLA State Competition in Natchez, MS (Millsaps CTC, Jermere Knight teacher)



Cooking in our Culinary Arts Class and Intercession Field Trip at the Taste of Almond

## Vicksburg Warren Health Science Students Future Health Professionals Excel in State Competition

Submitted by: Melissa Smith



During the Future Health Professionals (HOSA) competition on March 28-30, 2023 in Jackson, MS, the Vicksburg Warren Career & Technical Education Center at Hinds Community College had thirteen students to compete. Five of the thirteen students placed in Healthcare Issue Exam and will now compete in the HOSA International Competition in Dallas, TX on June 21-24, 2023. The five students who placed in the state competition and are currently preparing for the international competition are Romireya Knight, Fredasia Harris, Kinsley London, Gerald Bland, & Diamond Stewart. Instructors for the Vicksburg Warren CTE students that helped prepare the students for the competitions are Ms. Eloise Ford, Dr. Shakeita Hodge, Dr. Vera Igbokwe, & Mrs. Gloria Thomas.



# The Reward is in the Giving

Helping out and doing good for others and your community can make a real difference in the lives of people and organizations in need. The Vicksburg Warren Career & Technical Education students participated in community service opportunities during CTE month. Health Science I & II students were able to practice taking vital signs of students and staff during Healthy Heart Awareness. Business & Marketing students designed heart awareness information cards and prepared treats for the 100 residents of the Bluff Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center. National Technical Honor Society & Future Business Leaders of America students donated baby diapers to the Community Wide Diaper Drive. Through these community services, students were able to practice important employability skills such as leadership, problem solving, responsibility and time management. The community service projects allowed the students to apply their classroom learning to real-world experiences, thus improving the lives of others.



Community Wide Diaper Drive

Nursing Home Treats

Healthy Heart Awareness

# TSA Media Recognition and TSA State Competition Winners

**SMS Starkville High School** @Starkville\_High · Follow

Excellence in technology brings home the medals! Starkville High School's Technology Student Association (TSA) competed at State in late March and brought home top medal finishes in several categories.

Great work, Jackets! We're proud of you!  
#ExpectExcellence #shsTEC

3:59 PM · Apr 12, 2023

**SMS Starkville High School** @Starkville\_High · Apr 12

Congratulations to...

Jayden Potlow - 1st place, Geospatial Technology  
Thomas Williamson & Mishael Nyatta - 2nd place, Structural Design & Engineering  
Jadon Agnew - 3rd place, Photographic Technology

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