

## Greetings from the President and the Executive Director



Greetings MS ACTE fellow members. I recently had the opportunity to attend ACTE National Policy Seminar in Alirington, Virginia. Mississippi was well represented by members from MS ACTE, MDE, & RCU. Through legislative efforts and partnerships with policymakers, MS ACTE works to ensure that CTE

programs receive the support and funding necessary to offer high-quality education and training opportunities. The team advocated for the importance of funding Carl Perkins, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and the need for flexibility with industry partnerships participating in CTE Apprenticeships. They shared the benefits and brought awareness of the success in Mississippi CTE.

Central to MS ACTE's mission is the provision of professional development opportunities for educators. By offering workshops, seminars, and conferences, MS ACTE along with our partnership with MDE and the RCU equips teachers and administrators with the tools and strategies needed to deliver effective instruction in CTE fields. These professional development opportunities not only enhance teaching practices but also foster a community of collaboration and innovation among educators, ultimately benefiting students across the state. MS ACTE and RCU Summer Conference Planning Committee has been working diligently to prepare for an enlightening conference.

As I compose this message, I am returning from FCCLA State competition. CTE student organizations play a vital role in complementing the leadership component of CTE by providing students with opportunities for practical application, networking, leadership development, and career exploration, ultimately preparing them for success in the workforce. My students are so complementary of the encouragement, sometimes pushing, I offer them to participate.

As Mississippi's leading advocate for career and technical education, MS ACTE plays a vital role in shaping the future of education and workforce development in our state. As we look towards the future, the work of MS ACTE will continue to be instrumental in nurturing tomorrow's innovators and building a more prosperous and equitable Mississippi. MS ACTE appreciates all the work you do for the students of Mississippi.

See you in Biloxi!

On behalf of the MS ACTE office and board, I want to thank you for being a member of ACTE! I hope you will be able to attend the ACTE Region IV Conference April 17-19 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Registration is now open. The link is available on the Region IV website at [www.acteonline.org/region-page/region-iv-conference/](http://www.acteonline.org/region-page/region-iv-conference/).



Congratulations to all of the National ACTE Achieve 100 Award winners who were announced by the national ACTE office a few weeks ago. The list of award winners will be posted in the April edition of the Techniques magazine. Mississippi was well represented with many schools who completed the process to be recognized at the national level. As a reminder we will recognize all schools with 100 percent membership at the Summer Conference this year.

Please be sure to mark your calendars to attend our MS ACTE Summer Conference July 15-17. The conference will once again be at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention Center. The MS ACTE State Board leaders along with the Mississippi Department of Education and the RCU are planning a conference that will be beneficial to all attendees. Registration for the conference is now open at [rcu.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=28438](http://rcu.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=28438).

Please contact me if I can be of assistance to you or your center.

## News From Benton County Career Technical Center



### Agriculture

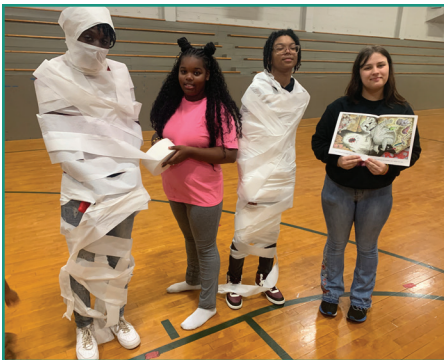
*Submitted by: Bryan McElroy*

At the Benton County CTC in Ashland, MS, Mr. Bryan McElroy's Agriculture and Natural Resources Class has been diligently working on a fencing project around the school campus. This project is a two-fold endeavor: It is helping to make the school's campus more secure as well as furthering the program's blossoming livestock/animal husbandry objectives.

### Early Childhood

*Submitted by: Sharon Vanderford*

The Benton County CTC, Early Childhood Education students enjoyed work-based learning clinicals at Ashland Elementary School. In the fall, they read the book, "The Haunted House". The ECE students acted out scenes from the book, & the elementary students also mummy wrapped the ECE students. Early Childhood Ed students also sang songs & changed the lyrics to Halloween themes.



### Health Science

*Submitted by: Roni Jill Robbins*

Benton County CTC Health Science students really enjoyed teaching proper handwashing to the elementary school children at Ashland Elementary. They used blacklights to visualize their germs, prior to washing with soap & water. The Health Science students had the elementary students show how they washed with soap & water, which was of course, insufficient. They were then shown w/ blacklights, their germs. They were then taught proper handwashing with soap & warm water, & they reassessed their hands with blacklights. The elementary children were so engaged with this lesson & wanted to see what their hands looked like after proper washing with soap & warm water & an additional step of using hand sanitizer. Benton County CTC Health Science students, & the Ashland Elementary teachers, all felt this was quite helpful & a great success!



### Welding gate project

*Submitted by: Hunter Hopkins*

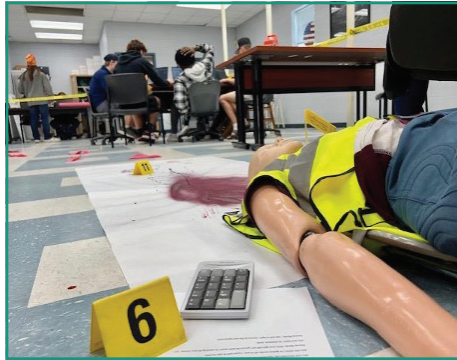
Benton County CTC Welding students in Ashland Mississippi, are building Gates for school campus driveways across the district. This project has been an amazing team building experience. They used multiple welding processes as well as grinding procedures and metal fabrication skills. Benton County CTC Welding students and the administrators all felt this was a great way to raise confidence levels of the class as a whole.



# FCAHS LPS & Drafting

Submitted by: Melissa Graham

Forrest County AHS CTE classes work together in learning skills! The Law and Public Safety class taught the Architecture & Drafting students the proper way of making crime scene sketches. In turn, the Drafting students demonstrated how to use Auto CAD to create a realistic crime scene drawing.



# FCAHS FFA

Submitted by: Melissa Graham

Congratulations to senior FFA members Grace Tutor and Delainey Walker! These two each received a \$1,500 scholarship at the Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions. We are so proud of Delainey and Grace for their many successes in and beyond the show ring and for the example they set for the Brooklyn FFA show team.



# FCAHS SKILLS USA

Submitted by: Melissa Graham

Forrest County AHS SKILLS USA members participated in regional competition at Jones College on February 8.



Sadie Seal won second place in the Job Interview category. Morgan Simmons, Hunter Graham, Kris Henry, Landen Grice and Junior Beard competed in the Quiz Bowl category and placed third. All



of these students will compete in SKILLS USA state competition in April in Jackson, MS. Mrs. Sarah Grice, Architecture & Drafting instructor, is the SKILLS USA advisor for Forrest County AHS.



# FCAHS AGGIE PRIDE IN THE WORKFORCE

FCAHS CTE students in Mr. Wheat's Business, Marketing, & Finance classes participated in PRCC's FlexFactor program. Students had to identify a real-world problem, conceptualize an advanced hybrid hardware product enabled by flexible hybrid electronics (FHE), and build a business model around it. Core program elements included an industry tour, a college tour, and mentored STEM workshops presented by FCAHS alumna Michelle Clark Courtney ('02). At the end of the program, teams pitched their product ideas to a panel of representatives from business, technology, and academia. During the industry tour at Western Container, FCAHS students collaborated with FCAHS alumni (Western Container employees) to discuss workplace safety and automation technology in the workplace.

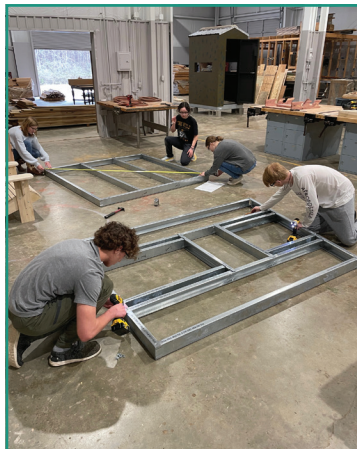


# Itawamba Career & Technical Center

## Construction

*Submitted by: Chris Holder*

Second year Construction students have been getting hands-on practice with wall layout using metal studs donated by FL Crane of Fulton.



## Digital Media

*Submitted by: Andy Nichols*

(above, left) Digital Media Students selecting and proofing photos from recent tours of the ICTC.



(left) Digital Media Students using a Photo Light Box to take high resolution photos.

This year, Digital Media Students interviewed participants in the 14th Annual Show and Shine Car Show.

The interviews were featured in a broadcast of Itawamba School News.

Episodes can be found at: [itawambaschoolnews.com](http://itawambaschoolnews.com).

Proceeds go to the Student Organizations at the ICTC.



## Welding

*Submitted by: Dusty Thompson*

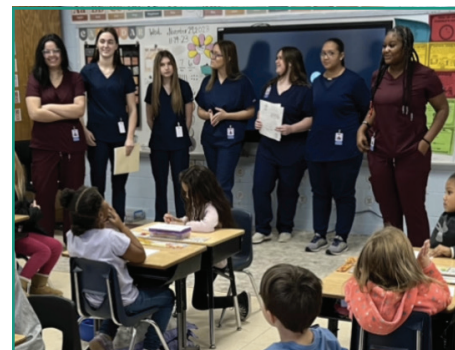
The students at ICTC have been practicing their welding and fabricating skills on various projects this school year!



## Health Science

*Submitted by Kerri Collier*

Health Science Core at the ICTC recently presented information to IAC first grade on Nutrition and Hygiene. One group shared several food options and helped students to choose the healthier options. Another group presented hygiene information to help lead the students into ways to prevent infection and illness in their everyday life.



# Pontotoc Ridge Career and Technology Center Early Childhood Education

Submitted by: Bridget Robinson

Early Childhood Education students from Pontotoc Ridge Career and Technology Center have been busy this school year! Second-year students had the opportunity co-presented at a local annual early childhood conference and they got the opportunity to attend the Mississippi Early Childhood Conference in Meridian, MS.

Early Childhood Education students from Pontotoc Ridge Career and Technology Center co-present at local annual early childhood conference on social-emotional literacy giving strategies for early childhood professionals to use in the classroom for children.

Imagine a room filled with eager early childhood professionals, all gathered together to learn about the magical world of social-emotional literacy. And who better to guide them through this enchanting journey than a group of brilliant ECE students?

The second-year ECE students researched innovative ways to teach children social-emotional literacy along with classroom management techniques. These students, armed with their knowledge and passion, took center stage at the local annual early childhood conference. With their infectious enthusiasm and clever strategies, they captivated the audience and left them begging for more. The session title grabbed attention from over 180 participants, "What's Wrong With You?! Emotional Literacy, Why it Matters and What You Can Do About It".

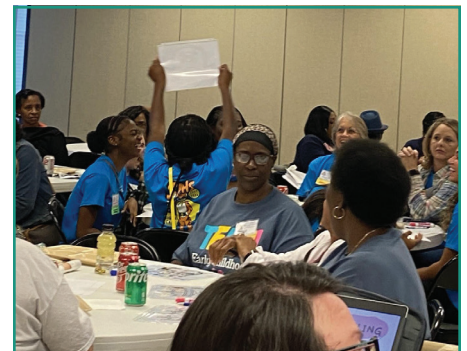
ECE students began the session by connecting with the participants' emotions with lively music and ways to express themselves. Research was presented showing the lasting effects of gaining emotional literacy or the lack thereof.

They shared innovative techniques that would make even the most stoic of educators crack a smile. From calm-down strategies to dance parties that promoted self-expression, these future professionals showed us that learning can be fun and emotions can be embraced. Sensory materials were a hit with everyone participating in the activities planned. Attendees learned about the importance of connecting to nature, yoga, water, music, having a safe space in the classroom, and calming lotion.

So next time you find yourself in an early childhood classroom, don't be surprised if you witness a little bit of magic happening. Thanks to these ECE students and their invaluable insights, our little ones are sure to grow into emotionally intelligent superstars!

Second-year Early Childhood Education students attended the annual Mississippi Early Childhood Association conference held in Meridian, MS on October 12, 2023. Students were able to attend various sessions geared towards early childhood professionals, engage with other students at the student luncheon, and visit the vendor/exhibit area of the conference.

Students include Jaycee Collins, Keelee Easley, Yadhira Martinez, Valeria Sanchez, Baylee Snider, Kyla White, Hannah Finley, Bianca Martinez, and Hallie McDonald.

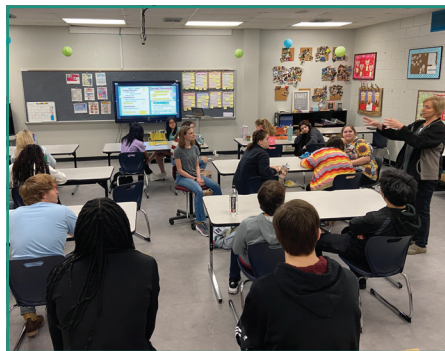


# CTE Students Help Others Celebrate Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day

Submitted by: Debra Baird, SSC

Lamar County Schools students in Engineering, Health Science, and Teacher Academy helped residents at Lamar Healthcare and Rehabilitation celebrate Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day. For this community service project, students gathered some sweet treats, made Valentine's cards, and prepared a craft of beaded necklaces. The residents hosted a Mardi Gras parade in the hallways so they could toss some beads to the students. After the parade, the residents and students interacted while playing games and sharing the treats.

Teachers and students from the Lamar County Center for Technical Education participate in this service project twice a year – once in the Fall for Halloween and once in the Spring for Valentine's Day. Mrs. Aimee Reams, the Teacher Academy instructor, prepares the students for interacting with the residents by suggesting questions to ask them and how to anticipate their physical limitations. Mrs. Reams is always impressed with how the teenagers “learn so many lessons from interpersonal skills to giving of their own time during this project.” In addition, the residents praise the students likewise. One resident commented, “You bless us by being here and we can't wait for you to come back!” The students leave with full hearts and looking forward to the next opportunity to serve others.



# Sumrall FFA

Submitted by: James Roberts

The Sumrall H.S. FFA Agriculture Issues Forum team speaking at the the Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center in Ocean Springs on the topic “The Overuse of the



Bonnett Carré Spillway and its impact on the Mississippi Sound & Oyster Ecosystem.”

# Visitor Center Team Speaking

Submitted by: James Roberts

The team speaking, to a group of Marine Biologists working in Oyster research at the Gulf Islands National Seashore William M. Colmer Visitor Center in Ocean Springs.



# National FFA Competition

Submitted by: James Roberts

Members of the Sumrall FFA Chapter represented Mississippi at the National FFA Convention and competitions in the Poultry Evaluation Career Development Event during the 2023 convention in Indianapolis. Miranda Barefoot, Samantha Cardenas and Kodi Waren were silver medalists in the event which involves the evaluation of eggs, live birds, USDA grading of poultry products, bird anatomy & physiology, hatchery management, animal husbandry, nutrition and marketing.



# CTE Students Celebrate CTE Month With Recruitment Visit

Submitted by Jessica McCool, SSC

What better way to kick off Career and Technical Education month than by showcasing CTE programs and recruiting a new group of students to the programs? That is exactly what students representing the four programs on Oak Grove High School's campus along with SSC, Jessica McCool and some of the program instructors did. Students of Culinary Arts, Health Science, Law & Public Safety, and Software Development hosted a lunch visit to promote Career and Technical



Education and create interest in the programs for new students. The students had a display outside the cafeteria so prospective students could have the opportunity to interact with the students and get more information about CTE. In addition, other students walked through the cafeteria and conversed with students and distributed flyers which provided information along with a QR code directing students to the application link.

In the 9th grade dining area, the students and SSC were able to speak to students about what Lamar County has to offer across the district and give details about the application process. The program representatives were able to share their experiences and reasons for choosing and



remaining in CTE and their particular program. Abby Harper, a Health Science year 2 student and CTE Ambassador, said "I'm glad I got to be a part of the recruitment lunch visit because it lets students know what we have to offer and how to apply and some students might not otherwise know about CTE, and I'm so thankful for my experience in the program and want others to have that same chance." We are hoping many students apply and have the chance to experience CTE!

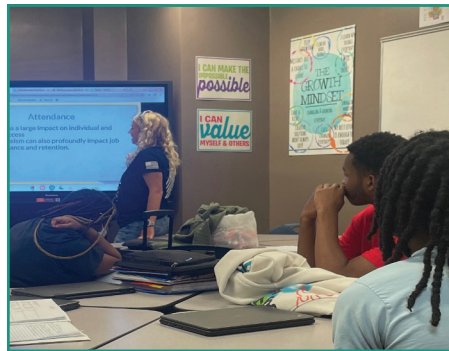
# Vicksburg-Warren Career Technical Center Culinary Students Participated in the First Annual Mississippi National Guard Culinary Competition

*Submitted by: Dr. Apryl Trimble*

People say that experience is the best teacher and I believe that is partially true. However, I think it takes a combination of both experience and instruction to mold students to be college and career ready. Vicksburg-Warren Career Technical Center Culinary students had the fortunate opportunity to participate in the First Annual Mississippi National Guard Culinary Competition. These students, under the leadership of Sedrick Lilley, turned limited ingredients into a gourmet meal. This experience exposed students to a real-life army culinary experience. Our students placed 2nd for their entrée and 3rd for their appetizer. We hope that this experience will propel them into their purpose, passion and profession which is the mission of Hinds Community College.



## Employability Skills for the Future



*Submitted by: Millicent Hunt*

Career & Technical Education teacher, Millicent Hunt, gave a presentation to the students at Tiger Academy, Fresh Start, and Juvenile Detention Center about work ethics. The students were presented with the characteristics employers are looking for in future employees. In the presentation, Ms. Hunt shared with the students about the choices they make now can shape their future, and they have the opportunity to “start fresh” at this time. Also, in the presentation, Ms. Hunt presented the programs offered at the Career & Technical Education Center and discussed their plans for the future.

## The Hub

*Submitted by: Kimberly Vaughn*

Business, Marketing & Finance students are gaining real world experience as they manage their class store, “The Hub”. The store is housed in an adjacent room to the Business classroom where CTE students may come to purchase snacks. The store is managed and operated by the business students. Throughout the process, students are able to learn about the day to day operations of a business from comparing cost to determining price, profit margin as well as inventory evaluation. Students learn the responsibilities associated with the many roles needed to run a business including cashier, stock person/logistics, key holder, and advertisement. They also learn employability skills such as customer service, organization, teamwork and interpersonal skills.



The Hub provides a great opportunity for students to build and enhance skills needed in the business, marketing and finance career fields.



## Vicksburg Warren School District Student Places at SkillsUSA Competition

In January, Vicksburg Warren School District student, Mercedez Williamson, placed second in the Mississippi SkillUSA competition. Mercedez is a senior at Warren Central High School. She is in year two of her Automotive Technology program at the Vicksburg Warren School District (VWSD) Career and Technical Center. Mercedez is currently on an internship with Cannon Honda of Vicksburg in the Automotive Service and Parts department. There she will be able to apply what she has learned in her Automotive program into her role at the dealership. Mercedez's postsecondary plans are to attend a community college, and further her education in Automotive Technology.



*Mercedez Williamson and Vicksburg Warren School District Career and Technical Center Teacher, Arthur Thompson.*



*Mercedez holding her Second Place medal from the 2024 Mississippi SkillsUSA competition.*

## Energy Students Distribute Energy Efficiency Kits to Vicksburg Community

*By: Londra Hunter*

Friday's Energy Efficiency Kit Distribution to the Vicksburg public citizens was a success and gave our Energy students an opportunity to serve the community directly. This event was supported by volunteers from our Energy Pathway students & Instructor-Dr. Steve Adzanu; Vicksburg Warren School District's CTE Staff; Hinds CC's CTE Staff; Automotive Technology, instructor Mr. Arthur Thompson, students and Warren County Supervisor and Entergy retiree Kelle Barfield & Hinds CC Security Team. A few minutes prior to the start of the distribution, Co. Supervisor Barfield spoke with the Energy Pathway students on their career path options, in the Energy Industry, after high school graduation. Supervisor Barfield also gave the young men advice from her Entergy career and well-traveled point of view.

On Hinds CC's Vicksburg campus, Friday 12/15/2023, we distributed 1000 (\$300 value) kits to the public that consisted of an upgraded power surge protector, upgraded CFL light bulbs, weather stripping, night light, and faucet aerators. All items were created to use less power in the home thus saving more money on utility bills. This was a heart-warming event for all volunteers distributing the kits and citizens receiving them for they all wore smiles of laughter amidst the gleaming



bright sunshine and unusually warmer temperature on that Friday. Stemming from this event, Triumph Church and other community organizations have decided to distribute more of the Energy Efficiency kits, provided and funded by Entergy, to Vicksburg citizens during their monthly outreach event in the near future.

*(left) Cars of Vicksburg citizens driving through and having their EE Kit handed to or loaded for them by Energy and Automotive students. (center) Dr. April Washington handing an EE Kit to one recipient at the front of the line. (right) Dr. Steven Adzanu-Energy Instructor; Co. Supervisor Kelle Barfield; and Energy Pathway students.)*

# New Albany Career & Technical Education Students Organizations Community Service Projects

*Submitted by: Kimberly Langley*

Student organization members and staff from the New Albany School of Career & Technical Education have partnered with New Haven Center in New Albany, MS for community service projects. Student organizations included SkillsUSA, HOSA, FCCLA, TSA, FFA and FBLA. New Haven Center has been dedicated to enriching the lives of special needs adults for over 60 years. Student organization members have conducted outside maintenance, robotic games, crafts, photography, lessons on counting money, organization of center materials, and culinary experiences. Collaboration between student organizations and special needs centers is essential for fostering inclusivity, raising awareness, providing support, promoting social integration, and building empathy and compassion. By working together in this partnership the New Albany School of Career and Technical Education has created a more inclusive and supportive environment where all students, regardless of their abilities, can thrive and succeed.

