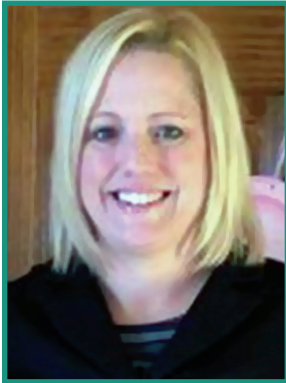


A Message From Your President, Aimee Brown



Greetings Mississippi ACTE members. I hope that your school year is off to a wonderful start. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the MS-ACTE/MDE Summer Conference in July. Our conference was successful, and we are already working hard to plan for the 2014 conference. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the groups who helped with our summer conference. We truly appreciate the support of the Mississippi Department of Education, the Research and Curriculum Unit, and Hinds Community College. These organizations are dedicated to helping us offer a quality conference for career and technical educators and MS-ACTE is fortunate to be able to partner with them. I would also like to thank all of the vendors and sponsors who supported our conference. If you attended the conference this year, please encourage your colleagues who did not attend to join us at the 2014 conference.

Mississippi ACTE will be conducting five district meetings during the months of October and November. Please check the website for information regarding your district meeting. I would like to encourage everyone to try to attend the district meetings to discuss important topics related to career and technical education. If you have suggestions for topics to discuss at the district meetings, please contact your district president that is listed on the website. The 2013 ACTE Vision Conference will be held in Las Vegas, NV on December 4-7. Mississippi ACTE would like to invite our members to attend the national conference and network with career and technical educators from around the country. All of the conference information is listed on the national website.

If you know career and technical educators who are not members of Mississippi ACTE, please encourage them to become a member of our professional organization. Our association strives to promote the opportunities we are able to offer our students through career and technical education. As a career and technical educator, I have always felt that it is important to tell our story so that our society understands the relevance our programs have to the young people of Mississippi. So, help us tell our story by being a member of Mississippi ACTE and encouraging others to become members as well.

It is a privilege for me to serve as your president this year and if there is ever anything I can do to help you, please let me know. I wish everyone a successful school year, and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming Mississippi ACTE events. Thank you for the hard work that you do every day in your classrooms, schools, and communities.

Engineering at CCCTC

The engineering students at Choctaw County Career and Technology Center are off to a great start. Students are learning to design and build robots while applying concepts of the engineering design cycle. The instructor, Sunja Douglas, facilitates the learning process as students troubleshoot and solve problems they encounter with their robots.



Greetings From the MS ACTE Office

I hope all of you have had a good school year so far.

I want to thank everyone for either renewing or joining ACTE! Last year, Mississippi led the nation in the number of new members. We had 70. That is a great achievement. We seem to be on the same track this year. Since July 1, there have been 76 new members and 39 people whose membership had lapsed renewed. This is awesome. Thank you!

That brings me to remind all centers to strive to receive the Achieve 100% Award. In order to qualify for this prestigious award, all administrators, teachers, and counselors must be members by November 30. The schools who achieve this will be listed on the national ACTE web site, will have their names listed in The Techniques magazine, and will receive a framed certificate at the summer conference.

To all of you who attended the 2013 Summer Conference, I hope you came away with helpful information that you could take back to your classrooms. I want to thank Mr. Mike Mulvihill and the RCU staff for helping make this year's conference one of the best ever. We had a total of 979 people in attendance. This included vendors, the RCU staff, the MDE staff, and you the career/technical administrators and teachers. The dates for next year's conference are August 5-7. The Conference will be held at the Muse Center on the Hinds Community College Campus in Pearl.

VISION 2013 will be held in Las Vegas December 5-7. The Region IV Conference is scheduled for April 9-11 in New Orleans. I hope you will make plans now to attend since New Orleans is within driving distance for us.

The MS ACTE District meetings have been scheduled. Region I had its meeting October 3 in Tupelo. District 5 will meet October 14 in Hattiesburg. District 2 will meet November 7 at Guy's Fish House in Vaiden. District 3 will meet November 14 at Harvey's in Starkville. Please mark your calendars for your meeting. Your district presidents have put a lot of work into getting guest speakers. I encourage you to support your districts. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to network with your colleagues.

If I can be of assistance to any of you, please contact me.

National SKILLS USA Competition

*Submitted by: Melissa Graham
Lamar Technical Center*



Drake Broome, former Metal Fabrication student at Lamar Technical Center, placed third in the nation at SKILLS USA competition this summer in Kansas City, Missouri. Drake competed against 23 other students in Sheet Metal and took home a bronze medal for placing third. In addition to the medal, Drake won gift certificates worth over \$5000 dollars for tools that he will be able to use at his current job as a machinist at Columbia Diesel.

MS ACTE 2013 Outstanding Career and Technical Student

Submitted by: Jennifer Koon

Alcorn Career & Technology Center



John Andrews, son of Rodney Andrews and Jennifer Campbell, has been selected as Mississippi's 2013 Outstanding Career and Technical Student by the Mississippi Association of Career and Technical Education. John, a 2013 graduate of Kossuth High School, is a completer in the Teacher Academy program, under the direction of Nan Nethery, at the Alcorn Career and Technology Center. He was also a Career Pathway Experience student, under the direction of Phil Smith. Additionally, he has completed two AEST courses under the direction of Brad Gillmore at Kossuth High School. John was nominated for the award by Richard Turner, director of the Alcorn Career and Technology Center. Mr. Turner stated,

"John is very deserving of this honor because of the caliber of student he is. He has an excellent work ethic, positive attitude, friendly disposition, and has excelled in his career and technical programs."

John has been involved in various school activities. He was humbled as his peers elected him as the 2012-2013 Mr. Kossuth High School. He is a member of the Future Educators Association (FEA) and the Future Farmers of America (FFA). He served as a Career Delegate at the Alcorn Career and Technology Center and was selected as one of ACTC's Students of the Quarter, Rotary Student of the Month, ACTC's Outstanding Nontraditional Student, and ACTC's Student of the Year for 2013. John and his teammates from the Kossuth FFA won second place in the State Livestock Judging Contest and first place in the State Dairy Evaluation Contest, this year. As an individual, John was the State Champion Individual Overall in both contests! Additionally, he was a state competitor at the state FEA conference.

As a member of Wheeler Grove Baptist Church, John is active in the youth department and with the skit team. John also serves as a church league coach and nursery worker. He spent time serving as a mentor at Kossuth Elementary School and as a Special Olympics volunteer. Additionally, John has worked 20-25 hours per week at Little Caesar's Pizza.

John's career goal is to become an educator. He plans on attending Northeast Mississippi Community College and then the University of Mississippi and working toward a bachelor's degree in elementary education with endorsements in math and social studies. Ultimately, he plans on earning an advanced degree and becoming a school administrator.

As winner of Mississippi's 2013 Outstanding CTE Student Award, John received a \$500 scholarship and plaque at the opening ceremonies of the Mississippi Association of Career and Technical Education Conference in Pearl, MS on July 23. Jennifer Koon, ACTC counselor stated, "There are over 150,000 CTE students in the state of Mississippi. We are very pleased to have one of our own students to be the one chosen for the distinguished honor."

AFA 2013 State Teacher of the Year

Submitted by: Joel Myrick



Joel Myrick, MS ACTE member and Polymer Science Instructor for the Hancock County Career and Technical Center, was awarded the 2013 State Teacher of the Year for the United States Air Force Association (AFA). The award included a beautiful plaque, \$500, and a State AFA TOTY jacket. Mr. Myrick will represent the state at the national level. The presentation was made by CMS Michael Bullington, AFA John C. Stennis Chapter President (left), and Tom Gwaltney, AFA South Central United States Regional President.

CPE Instructor Show Off Their 2013 DECA T-Shirt

Submitted by: Marybeth Lowrey

Oxford-Lafayette School of Applied Technology

Mrs. Beverly Brent, M.Ed., CPE Instructor Oxford-Lafayette School of Applied Technology, The TECH, Oxford, Mississippi, shows off their newly designed and ready to sale, DECA T-Shirts on September 23, 2013, to Mrs. Lowrey, Ed.S., TECH Director. Their school website is <http://www.thetechms.org/>.



Student Career Posters, Brochures & PowerPoints

Submitted by: Marybeth Lowrey

Oxford-Lafayette School of Applied Technology

Oxford-Lafayette Teacher Academy students with their career posters, brochures and PowerPoints. TECH Teacher Academy teacher is Mrs. Barbara Dunn, M.Ed., NBCT.



FFA Contest Winners

Submitted by: Beverly Brent, Oxford Lafayette School Of Applied Technology

On February 28, 2013, students in The TECH's FFA traveled to Senatobia, MS to compete in the FFA Contest. The following students and teams placed in the competition: Rachael Bayles – High Individual, Welding Rachael Bayles, Andy Hood, Alex Lindsey – 1st Place Team, Arc Welding William Coleman, Dakota Hodges, Michael McGonagill, Joseph Sills. These students went on to place first at the North District which was held in Oxford.

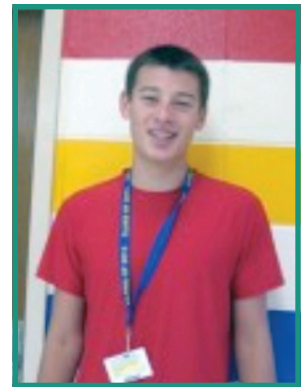


FFA State Competition Winners

CONGRATS to AG Mechanics students who placed FIRST in the FFA State Competition. Tanner Odom, Mac Quarries, Andy Hood, and Tucker Dees will be traveling to Louisville, KY to compete in the National Competition. We also congratulate the Welding and Tractor Operations teams that placed second!

Erwin Wins First Place!

Nick Erwin, a Senior at Oxford High School, won first place in the Cabinetry competition at the SkillsUSA State Competition that was held on February 27. His teacher is Mr. Matthew Briscoe, who teaches Construction and Carpentry here at The TECH. Many Congratulations to Mr. Erwin!



DECA District 2 Competition Winners

On January 18 The TECH's DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) members traveled to Northeast Community College in Booneville, MS to compete in the 2013 District 2 Competition. The following students/teams won these prestigious awards:



1st Place Human Resources Management Katie Joe Barkley and Brittany Foshee, 3rd Place Hospitality Services Management Team, Tori Blackburn and Alex Tuft 2nd Place Sports and Entertainment Marketing Management Team, Shelby Boyd 3rd Place Principles of Marketing, Justin Hancock and Kendall White 2nd Place Travel and Tourism Marketing Management Team, Brooke Jackson 1st Place Retail Merchandising, Abby Styers 1st Place Principles of Hospitality and Tourism, Aaron Watkins 1st Place Automotive Services Marketing Series, Leslie Wells 2nd Place Restaurant and Food Service Management.

DECA State Competition Winners

On February 22, 2013, The TECH's DECA members competed in the 2013 DECA State Competition. The following people placed in their specific areas: Brooke Jackson – 2nd Place, Retail Merchandising Aaron Watkins – 4th Place, Automotive Services Abby Styers – 5th Place, Principles of Hospitality Services. Congratulations to these students in their accomplishments!

Amory Career and Technical Center

Submitted by: Susan Chaney

Amory Career and Technical Center

Amory Career and Technical Center has been very busy this school year! All seven of our programs heard Mr. Tim Stark from the Amory Fire Department speak on “Fire Safety.” Mr. Stark showed the students how to use a fire extinguisher the proper way by letting them put out a fire.

Sergeant Tom Jones of the Mississippi National Guard spoke to all first year programs about interviewing skills and job interviewing tips. The students saw a power point explaining important things to know when they begin their job search.

Mrs. Tammy Brewer came to speak to our Business Fundamentals and Marketing students. She explained DECA and the many advantages to joining. She discussed DECA competition with them and how valuable the DECA experience can be for them.

Mr. Robert Pate, Human Resources Director, for ITT in Amory came and talked with our second year students about job application. He shared with them many things that will help them get a job and keep one.

Our Health Sciences I and II students have started going to the hospital and observing as well as going to the nursing home. They are learning a lot from both of these facilities.

The Business Fundamentals class went to the Amory Food Pantry and worked one morning for two hours. They were able to see how to put the needs of others before their needs. It was a valuable experience for these students.

Teacher Academy students are visiting West Amory and East Amory and loving their interactions with the elementary students.

Mrs. Jennifer Tomey spoke to the first period students in Culinary Arts and Business Fundamentals. Mrs. Tomey is co-owner of several McDonalds. She shared a wealth of information regarding the franchise business as well as marketing strategies.

Some of the Engineering students attended a workshop on robotics in Jackson, MS.

All seven programs have been involved in getting the 2013-14 school year off to a great start. Our programs include:

Business Fundamentals and Marketing—Coach Chris Pace, teacher

Culinary Arts I and II- Mrs. Dianne Young, teacher

Engineering I and II- Mr. Jerry Larkin, teacher

Health Sciences I and II-Mrs. Sara Beth Pearson, teacher

Horticulture I and II- Coach Chad Cooper, teacher

Manufacturing Fundamentals and Metal Fabrication- Mr. Robert Smith, teacher

Teacher Academy I and II- Mrs. Beverley Fortenberry

Family and Consumer Services- Mrs. Shirley Moore

STEM- Coach Nickolas Hathcock

Choctaw County Students Receive Cutting-Edge Workplace Skills

Within the Agriculture Power Machinery Operation I curriculum, students have the opportunity to learn about and become skilled with an Oxyacetylene torch. In this picture Mr. Dudley Vance, at Choctaw County Career and Technology Center, is demonstrating and explaining how to establish a neutral flame with the torch. Students learn that the neutral flame is the optimum flame required for welding and cutting practices. Throughout the school year, students use this equipment on various agriculture equipment and community projects. When students return for their second year in this program, they study and demonstrate more complex cutting and welding applications. Both the Year 1 and 2 students are given the opportunity to join Future Farmers of America, which is the student organization for this class. As a member of FFA, students have the chance to use their skills in competition against other schools within the state.



Horticulture 2013-14

*Submitted by: Chad Cooper
Amory CTC*



The Horticulture Department at the Amory Career and Technical Center at Amory High School is in its second year of existence. We had a successful first year with all of the first year students returning to take Horticulture II this year.

We are having a fundraiser at the moment of selling panthers drawstring bags to raise funds for FFA events. In the spring we will have a vegetable plant sale as well.



We also will be participating in the Amory Farmers Market to sale some plants we have grown in our greenhouse. We look forward to seeing you there.

District 1 Dinner Meeting



District 5 Dinner Meeting

Another First for Mississippi... In Construction and Manufacturing Career and Technical Education

Statewide Adoption of Cutting Edge Instruction Technology for Construction and Manufacturing Career and Technical Education: Mission Accomplished! The Mississippi Construction Education Foundation (MCEF) has completed the first statewide online adoption of the standardized, competency based, industry-driven NCCER construction and manufacturing curricula since its inception as the Wheels of Learning almost 20 years ago. The NCCER curriculum and its online NCCERconnect component are integral parts of a standardized, competency-based curricula for training the state's new generation of construction and manufacturing craft professionals to meet the industry's workforce development needs. Over 170 high school instructors statewide who teach construction and manufacturing career and technical courses will use the NCCERconnect program in their classrooms to teach almost 5,000 students annually. To ensure optimum utilization and a smooth startup, this summer all instructors completed virtual on-line training as well as a workshop in Jackson.

"Every high school construction and manufacturing student in Mississippi will usher in a new era of training beginning this fall and winter to include Core Curriculum, Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC and Welding - - with a customized version of NCCERconnect being developed for unveiling in January," stated William Underwood, Pearson's Executive Director of NCCER Programs and MCEF's partner

in the statewide launch.

Mike Barkett, MCEF President, stated, "The online system places Mississippi on the cutting edge of education and workforce development for the construction and manufacturing industry and its future workforce." Under the leadership of Barkett, MCEF is now at the forefront in offering young construction, manufacturing, and energy trades students the opportunities to achieve their goals and dream big. According to Pearson's Underwood, "Mike has become our 'Go To Guy' when we talk with our constituents around the country about what is possible when it comes to implementing NCCER craft training across multiple market spaces."

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) joins MCEF and Pearson as a partner in spearheading this huge technology leap for the state's high school career and technical (CTE) programs. Jean Massey, Associate State Superintendent of Education, believes that having NCCERconnect for construction and manufacturing students in Mississippi will greatly increase the ability of the classroom teacher to bring quality instruction to students. "The use of this technology will allow teachers to differentiate instruction in the classroom and therefore increase the amount of time the students will have to practice the skills needed to be successful in the workforce. Preparing students to the highest level so they can exit high school with the

skills and knowledge to obtain additional education or enter the workforce is the goal of CTE education. In using NCCERconnect, teachers can better prepare students to meet this goal," Massey said.

Mike Mulvihill, head of Career and Technical Education at MDE, added, "In order to fully instruct the students of the 21st Century, teachers need to have access to every tool possible. NCCERconnect allows instructors to reach today's digitally oriented student in the most cutting-edge way possible. By adding NCCERconnect to textbooks and "hands-on" relevant learning, MCEF students will be fully prepared to take on the challenges of today's workforce."

MCEF, the state's NCCER Accredited Training Sponsor, has placed the NCCER training curriculum in the construction and manufacturing CTE programs in the community colleges, in its four-year career track apprenticeship program in partnership with over 70 contractors and institutions, and in the high schools as part of its School-to-Work enabling legislation.

According to Barkett, since its inception almost 20 years ago, MCEF had a vision to offer the state's high school students the best instructional delivery system available while continuing to set the standard for craft training education in the United States. An important part of that vision was to establish an online system to enhance its educational and training offerings, specifically in the

high schools.

This important milestone has been reached as a result of time, effort, and money of MCEF and its founding fathers over a decade ago to promote, recruit, and train a quality workforce for careers in the construction and manufacturing industry in Mississippi. Barkett is quick to point out that the success of this online initiative and the utilization of the NCCER curriculum would not have taken place if not for the leadership of the nine trade associations that comprise its board of directors working with the State Board of Contractors, the Mississippi Legislature, and the Mississippi Department of Education. The nine trade associations are the MS Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), MS Associated General Contractors (AGC), American Subcontractors Association (ASA), MS Manufacturers Association, MS Road Builders Association, Brick Industry Association Southeast, MS Concrete Industries Association, MS Asphalt Pavement Association, and the National Association of Women in Construction. "Quite frankly, all of these organizations and agencies operate with their own somewhat disparate missions, but they put their individual agendas aside and we work toward a common goal of educating tomorrow's workforce."

Funding was key. Barkett continued, "We really want to acknowledge the Mississippi Legislature in thinking "outside the box" in 1996 when they responded to a request by Mississippi contractors to levy a fee on their licenses for an education training fund to be dispersed through the State Board of Contractors." Barkett ex-

plained that this funding mechanism plus MCEF's support from almost every construction and manufacturing trade association is unique and one that is viewed by other states as an enviable model. Add to that a long-term partnership between MCEF and the Mississippi Department of Education in instructional delivery of the NCCER curriculum in high school construction and manufacturing programs.

The workforce of tomorrow will benefit from the improvements in the quality of education and training. The NCCERconnect online system will be used by Mississippi high school instructors as an enhancement to traditional classroom instruction to boost both student learning and instructor effectiveness in craft training. For the instructor, it helps keep training on schedule, saves time, and allows for customization of coursework. For the student, it provides an interactive and engaging, self-study tool with presentations, videos, and exercises to supplement classroom learning and construction and manufacturing lab skills training. Students can email, chat, and generally communicate with instructors in real time.

A few instructors are already using the NCCERconnect, such as Leonard Daley, Construction Instructor at North Forrest High School, who has used the online NCCERconnect for almost four years. "We are in the digital age and I find that my students are more engaged when they use the online system because they are accustomed to using computers. The NCCERconnect is a very helpful resource to me because its differ-

entiated instruction which I utilize in order to reach a broader scope of student learning styles," Daley said. Daley also finds the NCCERconnect system is very efficient in getting assignments to students when they are ill or homebound, remarking, "Students return to the classroom and they are not lost."

The launching of the statewide online component of construction and manufacturing completes the education cycle which includes classroom knowledge, hands-on skills, and now – technology-driven independent student learning. Barkett explained, "We believe the main benefits of online instruction are three-fold in that it (1) helps to ensure career and technical education students are better prepared to enter the construction, manufacturing, and energy workforce, (2) facilitates actual learning because students can advance at their own pace and even work at home on their computers to supplement classroom study, and (3) allows instructors to move the class forward rather than waiting on some students to catch up or moving too fast in order to accommodate the accelerated student."

The online technology is well-supported by the state's construction education leaders. Buddy Edens, President/CEO of the MS Associated Builders and Contractors, stated, "The new NCCER online technology system is in keeping with ABC's philosophy of better training results in better construction. Understanding the growing need for trained qualified construction workers, MCEF has responded utilizing this new technology that will accelerate

this process. Our member contractors want a workforce well-versed in the latest construction methods and technologies.”

Lee Nations, Executive Director of the MS Associated General Contractors, is a strong proponent of technology in the construction workplace. “It is certainly rewarding to see MCEF continue to lead the way in workforce development by introducing the NCCERConnect on-line training program. By taking the initiative to promote cutting edge technology, MCEF is reaching out to

the digital age to insure we are training a quality workforce to meet the future demands of the state of Mississippi,” Nations said.

Mississippi has scored a “first” in career and technical education with the launching of the NCCERconnect online system. What’s next? Already conversations are taking place between MCEF, Pearson and state education leaders in establishing articulations between secondary, post-secondary, apprenticeship and industry, and implementing NCCERconnect across the board. On

the industry side, Mississippi’s own Yates Construction and its subsidiaries -- #23 on the ENR Top 400 – is deploying NCCERconnect as its training solution.

”This was the best news to receive... I can’t wait to see this replicated elsewhere,” said Alli Gentile, Executive Editor, Health Sciences & Careers, Pearson.

For additional information, contact Mike Barkett at MCEF, 601-605-2989 or mike@mcef.net.