

MCEDA HOSTS PANTHER CREEK QUALIFICATION EVENT



**DANIELLE WININGHAM,
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER**

*Madison County
Economic Development
Authority*

Economic development is very competitive, and the key to competing for projects is for a community to have marketable assets. Madison County has these assets, and now, thanks to a partnership with the Walker family, we can offer nearly 2,000 acres for development which will put us on the map for competing for large economic

County. The site is one-and-a-half miles from Interstate 55 via the Nissan Parkway and is in close proximity to the Canton Industrial Park and Nissan. Developable tracts are available for purchase with up to 600 contiguous acres.

Through Entergy's Qualified Site Program, Panther Creek went through a rigorous screening process. MCEDA addressed key site selection criteria, such as control of land, environmental and geotechnical assessments, transportation infrastructure, zoning and annexation, and development costs. Entergy reviewed the documentation and has qualified a large portion of the site, providing a comprehensive assessment for large industrial prospects.

CBRE Memphis, LLC, an affiliate of CBRE Group, Inc., the world's largest real estate services firm, is a partner with MCEDA in marketing this site by offering exclusive real estate brokerage service for the Panther Creek Commerce Center.

development projects that provide high-paying jobs.

The Panther Creek mega site is located on Highway 22 near Nissan Parkway in Madison



(L-R) ENTERGY MS DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT JOHN TURNER, ENTERGY MS PRESIDENT & CEO HALEY FISACKERLY, WILL WALKER, WALKER LANDS PRESENTING THE SITE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE TO MADISON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TIM COURSEY.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE FOUND AT MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM

PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS



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MCBL NOW OFFERING TEXT UPDATES

Go to the text messaging section of your cellular phones...Type 601.990.2284 in the To: field type MCBL in the message box and Nothing Else...Please remember to tell them not to text anything but MCBL....then tap the send button on their cellular device. They should get an opt-in message...Ask them to read the message back to you...It should read...You are now signed up to receive news & alerts from Madison County Business League. Standard data rates apply. Text STOP to quit; text HELP for help....If they don't get that exact message they are not opt-ed in. Thanks

BUSINESS LEAGUE HOSTS 2013 LEAGUE & LEGISLATURE

The Madison County Business League hosted the 2013 LEAGUE & LEGISLATURE luncheon at the Mississippi State Capitol on Wednesday, February 20, 2013. Lt. Governor Tate Reeves was the keynote speaker. The Nissan Gospel Choir presented the National Anthem and God Bless America. The Madison County and Mississippi state legislators were honored for their service and dedication. Members of the 2013 Madison County Youth Leadership Class were announced and recognized. 200 Business League members, elected official, legislators and distinguished guests were in attendance.



ABOVE: LT. GOVERNOR TATE REEVES



RIGHT: CONGRESSMAN GREGG HARPER AND SENATOR WILL LONGWITZ

ADDITIONAL EVENT PHOTOS AVAILABLE AT MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM



3RD ANNUAL MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP PARTICIPANTS

PICTURED (L-R) SEATED:

LUCY WOOLVERTON, ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL; WHITLEY PANNELL, ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL; CATHRINE JONES, GERMANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL; COMELIA WALKER, CANTON HIGH SCHOOL; BAILEY BUTLER, MADISON RIDGELAND ACADEMY; OLIVIA DEAR, MADISON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL; JESSICA MILNER, RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL; AND BROOKE MARTIN, TRI-COUNTY ACADEMY.

PICTURED (L-R) STANDING:

ORLANDRIA BEAMON, VELMA JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL; MAYA HUMPHREY, NEW SUMMIT SCHOOL; DEREK MARSHALL, MADISON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL; SAM OSBORNE, ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL; BEAU BRAWNER, ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL; CHIP GOZA, TRI COUNTY ACADEMY; HUNTER WARD, NEW SUMMIT SCHOOL; NICHOLAS COBB, MADISON RIDGELAND ACADEMY; AMRAN LUCKETT, VELMA JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL; LONDON WILSON, CANTON ACADEMY; TURNER CREWS, CANTON ACADEMY; MARDERIUS MANN, CANTON HIGH SCHOOL; AND SAM PALMER, RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL.

ADDITIONAL EVENT PHOTOS MAY BE VIEWED AT MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM

3RD ANNUAL MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The Madison County Business League and the Madison County Economic Development Authority sponsored the third annual Madison County Youth Leadership: Economic Development Day on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Juniors from 12 public, private and parochial schools in Madison County were selected to represent their respective schools. The students began their day with a breakfast sponsored by Citizens National Bank in Madison. Joel Bomgar, CEO and Founder of Bomgar Corporation, and Tony Jeff, President and CEO of Innovate MS, were the keynote speakers. The students visited Mad Genius, C Spire, Butler Snow, Madison River Oaks Medical Center and Nissan North America. Business leaders addressed the group sharing leadership skills and the many diverse career opportunities offered at their companies. Shown above is the 2013 Madison County Youth Leadership Class.

THE MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS IN THEIR MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES.

Citizens National Bank

125 YEARS

Neel-Schaffer

30 YEARS

C Spire

25 YEARS

Nissan North America –

Canton, MS

10 YEARS

!
UPDATE

MCEDA and MCBL boards vote to extend the Youth Leadership program to a full year beginning with the 2013-14 school year.

2013 SESSION OF LEGISLATURE SAW SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENTS



CORY T. WILSON is a Madison attorney with Heidelberg Steinberger Colmer & Burrow, P.A who serves as the MCBL's Government Relations Committee Chairman.

Despite some theatrics (inevitable when 174 politicians are holed up in a relatively confined space for three months), the 2013 Session of the Legislature saw some solid accomplishments.

Here are some highlights, and a couple lowlights:

CHARTER SCHOOLS

The long quest to enable charter schools in Mississippi cleared a significant hurdle.

The House approved a compromise bill 62-56; the Senate later followed suit, sending the measure to the Governor's desk. The version of the bill that passed is the same as the one the House approved earlier in the Session. In order to reach agreement, Senators yielded on some stronger provisions, including applying charter provisions to C-rated schools, in addition to those rated D or F.

The charter school law represents a meaningful step toward education reform, though it may have limited impact on Madison schools. For students trapped in poorly performing schools, charters offer a chance to have some choice in their education, and their future. For many students and their parents, charter schools offer promise of higher performance, and better results. Charters may only be one step toward improving public education, but they bring potential for competition, accountability, and better results in the state's weakest districts.

"EDUCATION WORKS"

There are some education measures that will more directly impact Madison County, too. Governor Bryant dubbed this the "Education Session" and offered a comprehensive set of reforms aimed at improving student performance. At the end of the Session, Governor Bryant can claim significant success in seeing that agenda enacted.

The Legislature is poised to fix the way schools tabulate daily attendance, which is a basis for awarding state funding, by requiring a child actually be present for most of a day before being counted as "present." Sounds pretty

straightforward, except that some districts were manipulating the numbers to maximize funding.

The Legislature approved Governor Bryant's "Third Grade Gate" measure, aimed at improving literacy achievement by ending social promotion of third grade students who are not reading on grade level. Among other things, the new law will require third-graders to prove they can read at a basic level to advance to fourth grade. It's a way of raising literacy and lowering the dropout rate.

A final measure that would expand pre-K programs through encouraging public-private partnerships, grants, and matching funds also passed. The measure is designed to improve the quality of preschool, without imposing a state-mandated program (or cost).

All in all, some of the most significant education reforms in a generation.

BOND BILL SURVIVES

In 2012, the Legislature deadlocked on a bond bill, after Lt. Governor Tate Reeves refused to accede to House requests for higher debt financing than he wanted. There was much wailing and gnashing then, but the Lt. Governor's fiscally-conservative stand did not result in the world coming to an end.

Instead, Monday, the Legislature approved a \$196 million bond package. The bill includes \$96.5 million for universities and community and junior colleges. Reeves' message was heeded: the 2013 bond bill is less than half of the \$423 million borrowed in 2011.

NISSAN EXPANSION

The Legislature also approved a bill, spearheaded by Madison Senator Will Longwitz, that allows the Madison County Economic Development Authority to issue \$100 million in bonds to facilitate the expansion of Nissan's Canton plant. According to MCEDA Executive Director Tim Coursey, "When the legislature approved [the measure], they gave us the critical green light to help move this large project forward. With the help of the legislature, we now have the means to provide the creative financing the project requires."

Centered in Madison County, the project will impact statewide employment. The expansion will allow Nissan to add 800 to 1,000 jobs as the company increases the product lines being made in Mississippi.

MADISON SCENIC BYWAY

Governor Bryant also signed a measure

MCBL INCREASES BOARD SIZE

The Madison County Business League voted to increase the size of its board of directors to 15 voting members. 11 directors are elected from the general membership and 4 are designated by the MCEDA board of directors.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Details of the Operation JumpStart entrepreneurship program were presented to the **Joint MCBL/MCEDA Entrepreneurship Committee** during a January luncheon meeting by special guest speakers Slade Redwine and Rob Burnham. Committee members and other Business League members were offered an opportunity to serve as speakers and business coaches during the 9 week course held on the Ridgeland Campus of Holmes Community College and sponsored by MCEDA.

Representative John Moore, chairman of the MS State House of Representatives Education Committee, was the special guest speaker for the **Joint MCBL/MCEDA Education and Government Affairs Committees** luncheon held on April 17th at the McGowan Center at Holmes Community College. Rep. Moore shared details of the education reform legislation passed during the 2013 legislative session along with projections for bills to be purposed in the 2014 session.

Madison County Strategic Plan: if you are interested in serving on one of the subcommittees, please contact Jan Collins for details.

CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE

2013 SESSION OF LEGISLATURE SAW SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

authored by Senator Longwitz and Canton Senator Kenny Wayne Jones aimed at promoting Madison County's natural beauty and history by designating a scenic byway called the "Gateway to History." The scenic byway will cover 32.8 miles along Highways 463 and 22. The welcome center for the byway will be located in Canton, with trailheads located between Flora and Canton for multi-use trails.

LOWLIGHTS: MEDICAID AND HEALTH INDUSTRY ZONE EXPANSION

Of course, there are always measures that die, even though they have merit. And, every Session has a share of controversy. The major kerfuffle this Session was over Medicaid expansion.

Democrats repeatedly blocked reauthorization of Medicaid, demanding that Republicans allow debate over expanding the program as envisioned by Obamacare. The Business League has convened forums over the past few months to discuss all facets of both Medicaid expansion and the other changes promised by Washington's sweeping overhaul of healthcare. To be sure,

the issues are complicated, and have long term implications.

The GOP leadership—Governor Bryant, Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, and Speaker Philip Gunn—opposes expansion based on cost and other uncertainties. According to Governor Bryant, "Democrats are choosing political posturing to expand ObamaCare over funding services for Medicaid recipients." The Medicaid stalemate will mean a special session is coming soon.

Another healthcare-related measure that did not gain passage was an attempt to expand the Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone Incentive Program, passed in the 2012 Session, to apply to all of Madison County. The measure would have included the whole county in the area that will benefit from old tax incentives, as well as new incentives to lure healthcare related industry.

Of course, there's always next Session.

MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE CONGRATULATES MEMBERS NAMED AS LEADING BUSINESS WOMEN

The Madison County Business League congratulates those members who were among the 2013 class of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women.



(L-R) JANICE KNIGHT, ST. DOMINIC HEALTH SERVICES, INC.; SHERRY CHANCE, TULANE UNIVERSITY MADISON CAMPUS; SAMANTHA LOFTON, BARNETT'S BODY SHOP; AND MONICA DANIELS WITH UNITED WAY OF THE CAPITAL AREA (EXCEL BY 5 CO-LEAD AGENCY PARTNER). NOT SHOWN NICOLE KEMP, LEVI STRAUSS & COMPANY.

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MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE

Jan Collins
Executive Director

-- MEMBER SPOTLIGHT --

DUBARD SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGE DISORDERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI



WES BROOKS
*Development Coordinator
 for The DuBard School
 for Language Disorders*

The mission of the DuBard School for Language Disorders at The University of Southern Mississippi is to bring the gift of oral and written language to individuals with severe communication disorders through the use of the DuBard Association Method® in direct clinical services and professional training.

For many families, these children often never receive the kind of attention needed to give them the communication skills they require to function in society on their own. The gift of oral and written language is a vital link between their family, friends and community. Without these skills, children often lead defeated, unrealized lives – their real potential never reached.

Though founded in 1962, it was not until the mid-1970s that the DuBard School began to receive partial funding from the Mississippi Department of Education. Today, the DuBard School is a University-based, statewide special school providing public education to children from approximately 20 school districts in 15 counties. In 2002, the school moved into its state-of-the-art, 17,000 square-foot facility, paid for in large part (80 percent) by private contributions. The DuBard School serves 80 children in its full-time enrollment program, but there are on average 120 children, waiting sometimes as long as two years, to receive

services. The cost to provide those services is approximately \$18,500 per student, per year. Full-time enrollment services are delivered free-of-charge to our families with the Mississippi Department of Education covering only 70 percent or less of those costs. The DuBard School outclient therapy program, which is fee based, and various other services provide approximately 40 children with therapy, but an equal number of children comprise its waiting list. The DuBard School's fee-based outclient therapy programs provide services to approximately 40 children, but an equal number of children comprise its waiting list.

The DuBard School's professional development program provides courses in the DuBard Association Method® and other offerings. The school is a practicum site for University students majoring in speech-language pathology, audiology or deaf education. Each year, the courses also are taught to dozens of educators, speech-language pathologists, parents and reading specialists from across the country both at The University of Southern Mississippi and other sites.

With today's volatile economic climate and budgetary cutbacks, the need for support to maintain these services is only matched by the need for expansion. Unfortunately, the demand for services exceeds the personnel and programmatic resources available. Simply put, some children do not receive the help they desperately need to learn, speak, write, read and listen/hear. Furthermore, the need for professionals who have received this specialized training continues to grow, as does the need for the funding and resources necessary to train them.

OUR LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS IS LONG. AMONG THESE SUCCESSES ARE:



- Facility expansion
- A 135 percent increase in the number served in the full-time enrollment program
- International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) accreditation for professional development
- Distinction as the national center for training in the DuBard Association Method®
- Training 1,520 professionals in 15 years
- Recognition as an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) continuing education provider
- Celebration of 50 years of service, professional development and research.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WES BROOKS, DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR FOR

THE DUBARD SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGE DISORDERS AT SOUTHERN MISS AT WES.BROOKS@USM.EDU, OR CALL (601) 266-5223.



REMEMBER: EVENT PHOTOS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE! madisoncountybusinessleague.com