



# Newsletter

SPRING 2020

## MCBL&F EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JAN COLLINS



Jan Collins  
MCBL & F  
Executive Director

Hoping this newsletter finds you, your family and business associates well. In the midst of these challenging times, April 9th marks an important day in the history of the Madison County Business League

& Foundation as our organization celebrates its 12 year anniversary. As we begin this new year together, I am confident that we will face the business and economic challenges with the determination needed to strengthen our economy, our partnerships, and businesses.

This 2020 spring newsletter is a key indicator of the effectiveness of The Business League's efforts on behalf of our stakeholders and partners. Our organization remains true to our mission of uniting the business leaders and elected officials to discuss topics that affect economic development such as education, infrastructure,

health & well-being, entrepreneurship, and quality of life. Supporting MCEDA with workforce development, job creation, business recruitment and expansion. Influencing public policy as the voice of private business as we strive to shape the overall vision for the County. Providing support for our schools through grants and sponsorship of the Youth Leadership program with accompanying scholarships for our future leaders. And, facilitating professional development and peer networking for our emerging leaders, the Madison County Young Professionals.

Thank you for your support through membership. The MCBL&F is most grateful to serve you during these trying times through connections and important communication posted on our social media sites and website. If your business has an important message to share with other members, please email our office.

Each of us has responsibilities for ourselves, our families, our businesses and each other. This shall pass. I look forward to celebrating how each of us survived the pandemic. Until then, stay safe and healthy!

*One vision, one voice,  
Jan*

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# MADISON COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WINS 2019 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD



The Mississippi Economic Development Council (MEDC) announced that the Madison County Workforce Development Project won the 2019 Community Economic Development Award (CEDA) on February 6, 2020. The CEDA program is a “Best Practices” program intended

to recognize exceptional contributions of communities in the State of Mississippi for the following efforts: business retention & expansion, business recruitment, community development and community involvement.

The Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) and the Madison County Business League and Foundation (MCBL&F) initiated a Workforce Development Project to establish a qualified talent pipeline, close existing skills gaps, and enhance the economic development marketability of the Madison County workforce. This public-private workforce development initiative facilitated and promoted many workforce training and career readiness opportunities for the emerging,

current and transitioning workforce in Madison County. Working in conjunction with Madison County School District, Canton Public School District, Holmes Community College, the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District and other partners was paramount to provide workforce training, soft skills solutions, credentialing, apprenticeships and internship opportunities. In the short term, Madison County became a certified ACT WorkReady Community. Over time, these partnerships and actions will establish and promote a qualified talent pipeline.

Through MCEDA’s Existing Industry Program, MCEDA Human Resources Roundtable Luncheons, and MCBL&F’s Workforce and Education Committee, employers have provided valuable information about their needs. Then, we are able to communicate those needs to the school districts, community colleges and other workforce development partners. As a result, the Workforce Development Project helps educators build career pathways aligned to the needs of business and industry, which helps close skills gaps.

Ultimately, Madison County is more attractive for business development and recruitment because of the actions taken throughout the Madison County Workforce Development Project.

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★MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP (MCYL)★

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## MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION PRESENTED A TOP NON PROFIT AWARD BY THE MS BUSINESS JOURNAL



The Madison County Business League & Foundation is proud to announce its selection by the Mississippi Business Journal as a 2019 Top Mississippi Non-Profit Organization. The organization was presented the award at an event held at the Old Capitol Inn on November 20, 2019.

The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) is a 501(c)(6) economic development support private membership organization which was created in 2008 through a resolution passed unanimously by the Madison County Board of Supervisors to serve as private stakeholders for the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA); thus, creating a public/private partnership. The mission of the MCBL&F is to bring together, under one organization, the voice of numerous entities in order to establish a clear and concise message for the future. This organization, which is comprised of elected, appointed, business and individual leaders of Madison County, will enable all partners in business and economic development to participate collectively in bringing together the overall vision for Madison County. In 2014, the Madison County Foundation merged with the Madison County Business League to form the Madison County Business League & Foundation. The MCBL&F is proud to serve as a seamless conduit for the flow of information between the private sector and the policy makers in local, county, state and federal government.

The MCBL&F provides networking opportunities for member decision makers and young professionals with elected officials, on all levels, as it strives to assist MCEDA with the promotion, development and expansion of business, education, transportation, employment, workforce development, quality of life, and other common business interests of commercial enterprises in Madison County. The MCBL&F exists to provide additional financing for those initiatives whose costs cannot be supported through public funding. This creates a pathway for grants and other expenditures that can supplement those needs. The MCBL&F sponsors the

Madison County Young Professionals which provides opportunities for professional development and peer to peer networking for the future leaders of Madison County. MCBL&F and MCEDA sponsor the Madison County Youth Leadership program for outstanding juniors in all Madison County public, private and parochial schools plus Jackson Prep, Jackson Academy and New Summit Schools. The program's mission is to provide the emerging workforce with a deeper understanding of the careers available in Madison County in an environment that develops their leadership skills and encourages graduates to take their knowledge and their experience into the community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole. And, to discourage brain drain! The MCBL&F also created the North Madison County Excel By 5 initiative to support early childhood development in Madison County for ages 0-5 years.

The Madison County Business League & Foundation created its 501(c)(3), the Madison County Community Trust (MCCT), in 2014 to support the needs of education and workforce development in Madison County. Since that time thousands of dollars in grants have been awarded to the Madison County Schools and Canton Public Schools to facilitate dual enrollment in local community colleges, financial literacy training for teachers, master teacher of entrepreneurship training, socio-emotional soft skills teacher training, and the Madison County Mobile Media Lab (bookmobile). MCBL&F membership assisted in efforts for Madison County to achieve ACT Work Ready certification by awarding a grant to facilitate the ACT Work Keys assessments for all career technical students in the Madison County Schools and the Canton Public Schools enabling them to receive the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). In addition, scholarships for every graduate of each year's youth leadership class, funding for North Madison County Excel By 5 projects, and numerous other grants to improve the educational, health, economic and social status, and well-being of the citizens of Madison County. These projects are made possible through the generous financial support of the MCBL&F members.

### THE MISSION OF THE MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION

The mission of the Madison County Business League is to bring together, under one organization, the voice of numerous entities in order to establish a clear and concise message for the future. This organization, which is comprised of elected, appointed, business, and individual leaders of Madison County, will enable all partners in business and economic development to participate collectively in bringing together the overall vision for Madison County. And, to serve as private stakeholders for the Madison County Economic Development Authority. Simply put, one vision, one voice.

## LEAGUE & LEGISLATURE



The Madison County Business League and Foundation hosted the annual League & Legislature luncheon on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at the Old Capitol Inn. Over 400 members, guests, and legislators attended. Keynote speaker was Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann.

## MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HOST 2019 LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST



The Madison County Business League & Foundation announced its 2020 legislative priorities at the annual Government Affairs Committee breakfast meeting at Butler Snow on December 18, 2019. Six legislators, including the Speaker of the House Philip Gunn, who represent Madison County were in attendance.

## MCBL&F TRANSPORTATION AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEES HOST TRANSPORTATION BREAKFAST



January 22, 2020 - Madison County Business League & Foundation Transportation and Government Affairs Committee hosted Transportation Breakfast at Adams and Reese, sponsored by Michael Baker International on January 22nd. Guest Panelists

included MDOT Commissioner Willie Simmons, Senator Joey Fillingane, Representative Charles Busby, and Madison County Engineer Timothy Bryan.

## MCBL&F HOSTS RECEPTION FOLLOWING MADISON COUNTY OFFICIALS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



The Madison County Business League & Foundation hosted a reception in honor of the newly elected Madison County officials after their swearing-in ceremony at the Madison County Circuit Courthouse on December 30th.



## MADISON COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

### MCBL&F YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HOST FALL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM



The Madison County Business League & Foundation Young Professionals hosted a fall professional development luncheon at Embassy Suites Hotel in Ridgeland on November 18, 2019. Over 125 young professionals who work for companies that are MCBL&F members attended. 2018-19 Chairman Grant Montgomery gave remarks about the accomplishments of the past year and passed the gavel to the incoming MCYP Committee Chairman Austin Stewart. Stewart presented a plaque to Montgomery in appreciation of his service as chairman. Certified Speaking Professional Mandi Stanley

presented the keynote address No Panic Presentation Skills; "The Big Three."

The mission of the Madison County Business League & Foundation Young Professionals is to provide young professionals and entrepreneurs with the opportunity to build relationships, serve the community and engage with business, political and civil leaders; thus, investing in the professional development of Madison County's future leaders.

### MCYP PARTNER WITH CANTON SCHOOLS TO HOST REALITY FAIR



February 20, 2020 - The Madison County Young Professionals partnered with Canton Schools to host the annual reality fair on February 20th at Canton High School! Great job volunteers and students!



## MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

### MCBL&F YOUTH LEADERSHIP GOVERNMENT DAY 2020



The Madison County Business League and Foundation hosted Madison County Youth Leadership Government Day on Wednesday, February 20th. The students met several statewide

elected officials, legislators, and senators including Congressman Michael Guest, Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann, First Lady Elee Reeves just to name a few!

### MCBL&F YOUTH LEADERSHIP CLASS CAREER DAY 2020



Madison County Youth Leadership class participated in Career Day on January 15th. Career day is a day for the students to learn about the many awesome careers and businesses that Madison County has to offer. Adjutant General Durr Boyles,

Board of Nursing Director Phyllis Johnson, and Dr. Chris Powe with GTI/Telehealth One gave presentations on their careers and what led them into their respective fields. The students also toured Mad Genius and Pirouline Cookie Factory in Madison

County. Madison County Business League and Foundation thanks Citizens Bank for sponsoring breakfast, and Belhaven University for sponsoring lunch.

## GLOBAL TRAINING INSTITUTE HOSTS MINI-SCIENCE ACADEMY TO STUDENTS IN MADISON COUNTY



The MS Board of Nursing, Office of Nursing Workforce, is sponsoring (8) mini science academies at the Global Training Institute in Canton for high school science students throughout the state to encourage and inspire careers in nursing and other medical professions. The students participate in (3) hours of anatomy lectures, bioskills stations (i.e. suturing) & cadaver lab.

For more information, please contact  
[info@neverstoptraining.com](mailto:info@neverstoptraining.com)

*Shown are St. Andrew's Episcopal High School students and Dr. Christopher Powe, Global Training Institute owner and president.*

## CANTON SCHOOLS HOSTED CAREER FAIR AT THE CANTON CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER



Canton Public Schools hosted a career fair at Canton Career Technical Center on February 13th. Businesses from the Madison County and Canton area set up booths where they educated students on the and career/education options that are available to them.

## MCBL&F AND MCEDA HOST FIRST QUARTER HR ROUNDTABLE AT MISSISSIPPI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) hosted the first quarter HR Roundtable on February 26, 2020, at Mississippi Hospital Association. Murray Harber with Mississippi Business Group On Health was the panel moderator.





## DANIELLE WINNINGHAM, CERTIFIED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL



*Danielle Winningham  
COO of MCEDA*

Madison County Business League & Foundation Congratulates Danielle Winningham, COO of MCEDA for being awarded the Certified Workforce Development Professional by the National Association of Workforce Development Professional.

Washington, DC: Danielle Winningham has been awarded the Certified Workforce Development Professional (CWDP) credential by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals.

1. Business and Economic Development Intelligence
2. Career Development Principles
3. Collaboration and Problem Solving
4. Customer Service Methodology
5. Diversity in Workforce Development
6. Labor Marketing Information and Intelligence
7. Principles of Communication
8. Program Implementation Principles and Strategies
9. Workforce Development Structure, Policies and Programs

"Danielle Winningham exemplifies the degree of professionalism and commitment to excellence that the United States needs if it is to continue to enjoy a world-class workforce," said NAWDP Chief Executive Officer, Melissa Robbins.

Workforce Development Professionals facilitate the process by which individuals identify, prepare for, obtain and maintain employment and self-sufficiency; and assist businesses with accessing and retaining a quality workforce. They may work directly with the customer or may work as support personnel for and with staff who do work directly with the customer. The CWDP recognizes the training, experience and expertise of professionals in the field in 9 areas of competency:

The CWDP credentialing program is administered and endorsed by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP). NAWDP's mission is to advocate for and develop the professional capacity of workforce professionals seeking the highest standards of excellence.

## FOURTH QUARTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK BREAKFAST



The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA hosted the Fourth Quarter Madison County Economic Outlook Breakfast at Embassy Suites on December 4th, 2019. MCBL&F Executive

Director Jan Collins and MCEDA COO Danielle Winningham reported on their Workforce Development Efforts in Madison County. MCEDA Executive Director Joey Deason gave his report on the Madison

County Economic Development Outlook for the fourth quarter. Thank you to all of our members for their continuous support and presence in making Madison County an even greater community!

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