



Newsletter

WINTER 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Ray Balentine
2021-22 MBCL&F
Chairman

I would like to first express my gratitude for having the honor of serving as your chairman for the 2021-2022 year. I am very excited about the continued opportunities to be a part of Madison County's unified effort to coordinate between the public and private sectors. The results of this cooperation can be seen in the phenomenal momentum that our County sees in economic growth and quality of life.

I also want to recognize and thank Wesley Goings for his outstanding leadership this past year. To say it was an unprecedented year would certainly be an understatement. However, Wesley provided a steady hand as he led us through a successful year in spite of the challenges of the COVID pandemic.

We closed out last year and kicked off this year at our annual Vision Celebration. It goes without saying that it was great to be able to meet together as a group in person! Ret. General Harold Cross provided an inspirational address to those in attendance. The MS Board

of Nursing and 4 Top Hospitality were among the honorees.

There are a number of priorities as we move into 2021. A hallmark of our organization has been and will continue to the relationship that we share with our elected officials and MCEDA. We will continue to foster and strengthen the cooperative spirit that has seen great success in moving Madison County forward. The strength of the Business League is the active commitment and involvement of, you, the members. There is no shortage of opportunities for you to be involved in growing our group. Please be on the lookout for new members and encourage them to attend one of our events and to consider joining.

A new and exciting initiative is the new Madison County Executive Leadership Program. I was proud to announce the start of this new program at the Vision Celebration. The inaugural class will be selected and the program started in the first quarter of 2022. This joint effort by the Business League and MCEDA will continue the focus of developing our future leaders in Madison County. This first group will complete the initial class by the end of 2022.

Finally, thanks to all the newly elected board, advisory board, committee chairs and staff. Their efforts combine to make us successful.

Here is to a great 2022 for the MCBL&F!

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Partner Sponsors



Pillar Level Sponsors



MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2021-22 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS



Photo by Deryll Stegall

Front row (l-r):

Barney Daly	Trustmark	Past Chairman
Supt. Charlotte Seals	Madison County Schools	Vice Chairman
Ray Balentine	Michael Baker International	Chairman
John Geary	Copeland, Cook, Taylor & Bush	Secretary-Treasurer
Wesley Goings	C Spire	Immediate Past Chairman

Middle row (l-r):

Jan Collins	MCBL&F	Executive Director
Nicky Cobb	Renasant Bank	Director
Samantha Barnett Lofton	Barnett's Body Shops	Director
Katie Bryant Snell	Bryant Songy Snell	Director
Stan Wright	Neel-Schaffer	Director
Carl Watts	Olde Towne Cleaners	Director
Alveno Castilla	Butler Snow	Director
Mary Kate Rankin	MCBL&F	Executive Assistant

Top row (l-r):

Phyllis Johnson	MS Board of Nursing	Director
Wint McGee	MCEDA	Appointee
Brad Gatlin	BankPlus	Director
Gerard Gibert	MCEDA	Appointee
Doug Jones	MCEDA	Appointee

Not pictured: Calvin Harris, MCEDA, Appointee

MCBL&F 2020-21 CHAIRMAN PRESENTS APPRECIATION PLAQUES TO OUTGOING DIRECTORS



Pictured (l-r): Wesley Goings, Renee Rice, and Doug Hederman

2020-21 Madison County Business League & Foundation Chairman Wesley Goings presented appreciation plaques to outgoing directors Renee Rice, BankFirst, and Doug Hederman, Hederman Brothers, at the recent Vision Celebration luncheon.

MCBL&F 2020-21 CHAIRMAN PASSES GAVEL TO 2021-22



Pictured (l-r): Wesley Goings and Ray Balentine

2020-21 Madison County Business League & Foundation Chairman Wesley Goings, president of Telapex – parent company of C Spire, passed the gavel to 2021-22 Chairman Ray Balentine, vice president of Michael Baker International at the recent Vision Celebration luncheon.

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.

MCBL&F ANNOUNCES 2021-22 ADVISORY BOARD



Standing (l-r):

Ed Boyington	Vertex Aerospace
Larry Ratzlaff	Origin Bank
Matthew Davidson	Atmos Energy
Wesley Goings	C Spire
Robbie Kemp	Entergy
Doug Hederman	Hederman Brothers

Seated (l-r):

Renee Rice	BankFirst
Todd Burwell	G. Todd Burwell, P.A.
Cecil Harper	Harper Rains Knight & Company
Tina Lakey	Centerpoint Energy, ret.

Not Pictured:

Sam Kelly	Brunini
Monica Harrigill	The Sunray Companies

Photo by Deryll Stegall

MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2021-22 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Left to right:

Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair
Supt. Charlotte Seals, MC Schools
Transportation Committee Chair
Rodney Grogan, MMC Materials, Inc.
Government Affairs Committee Chair
Phil Buffington, Adams & Reese
Health & Wellbeing Committee Chair
Phyllis Johnson, MS Board of Nursing
MCYP Steering Committee Chair
Hank Waterer, First Commercial Bank
Education & Workforce Development Chair
Dr. Don Burnham, Holmes Community College



Photo by Deryll Stegall

2021 VISION CELEBRATION



The Madison County Business League & Foundation and Madison County Economic

Development Authority hosted the 13th Annual Vision Celebration on October 19th. Over 400 members, guests and elected officials attended the luncheon. Keynote Speaker was General Harold Cross, who was introduced by Adjutant General Durr Boyles. Miss Mississippi Holly Brand and the Raphael Semmes Jazz Ensemble provided entertainment.

2020 MCYP OF THE YEAR: AUSTIN STEWART

2020-21 Madison County Business League & Foundation Chairman Wesley Goings presents the 2020 Madison County Young Professional of the Year award to Austin Stewart, an attorney with Adams & Reese.

Shown (l-r); Wesley Goings and Austin Stewart



2021 MCYP OF THE YEAR: ANNE MARIE SMITH

2020-21 Madison County Business League & Foundation Chairman Wesley Goings presents the 2021 Madison County Young Professional of the Year award to Anne Marie Smith with 4 Top Catering.

Shown (l-r); Wesley Goings and Anne Marie Smith



Photography by Deryll Steagall

2021 VISION AWARD: DAVID CONN



Shown (l-r): Joey Deason and David Conna

Madison County Economic Development Authority Executive Director Joey Deason presents the 2021 Vision award to David Conn, partner with 4 Top Hospitality (Amerigo, Anjou, Char, Saltine, Sombra and 4 Top

Catering) at the recent Vision Celebration luncheon.

The Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) and the Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) created the VISION award in 2010 as a means of recognizing and thanking certain stand out Madison County businesses for their contributions to the community. By contributions we mean their unique or remarkable accomplishments, their investments in people and the resulting impact that their operations have on the local area economy.

2021 VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD: PHYLLIS JOHNSON

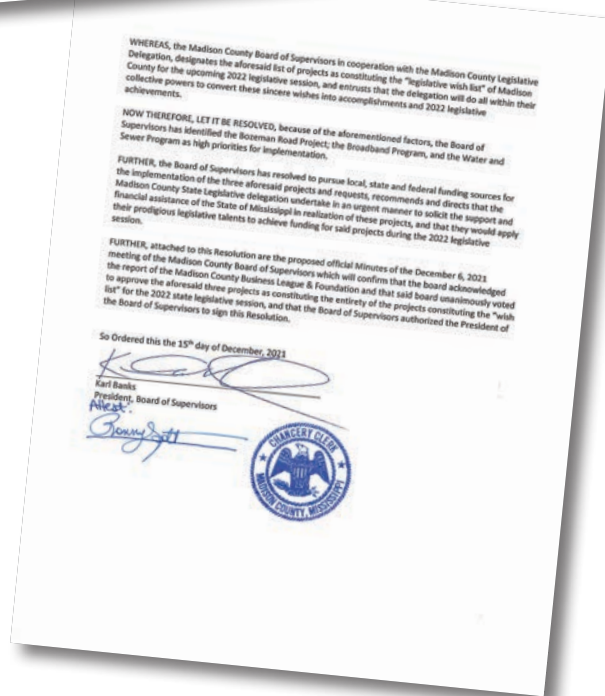
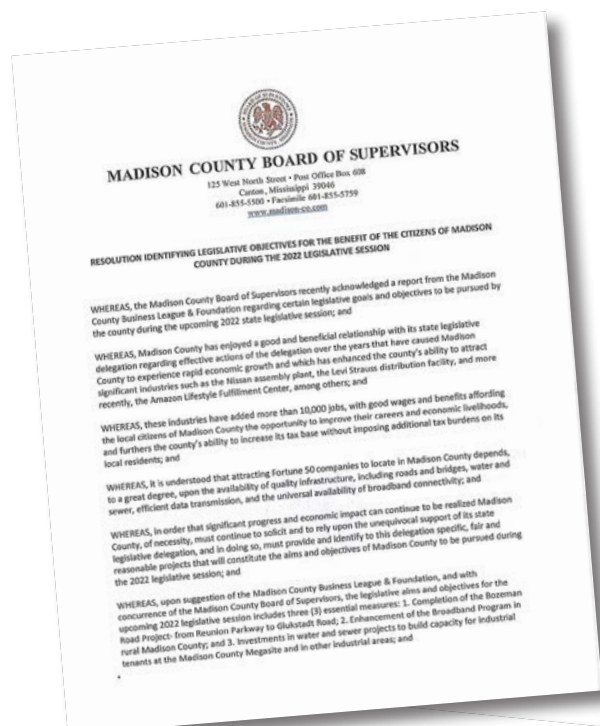


Shown (l-R): Joey Deason and Phyllis Johnson

Madison County Economic Development Authority Executive Director Joey Deason presents the 2021 Visionary Leadership to Phyllis Johnson, executive director of the Mississippi State Board of Nursing, at the recent Vision Celebration luncheon.

The Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) and the Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) created the VISIONARY Leadership Award in 2011 as a means of recognizing and thanking certain stand out Madison County individuals for their visionary leadership contributions to the community. By contributions we mean their unique or remarkable accomplishments, their investments in people and the resulting impact that their operations have on the local area economy.

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION 2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST



The Madison County Business League & Foundation Government Affairs Committee hosted the Annual Legislative Breakfast honoring Madison County's legislative delegation on December 16, 2021. The committee announced its 2022 Legislative Agenda.



Madison County Business League & Foundation 2022 Legislative Agenda

1. Bozeman Road Project from Reunion Parkway to Gluckstadt Road
2. Broadband Program
3. Water/Sewer/Storm Water

Save the Date

The Madison County Business League

*League & Legislature
Luncheon*

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Old Capitol Inn



MADISON COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Class of 2022:

Amy Ainsworth, *Terracon*
 Chamar McDonald, *Neel-Schaffer*
 Douglas Jones, *Madison County School District*
 Gibson Eatherly, *Origin Bank*
 Jamie Lake, *BankPlus*
 Justin Bennett, *AT&T*
 Kristy Daniels, *Priority One Bank*
 Lee Balch, *BancorpSouth*
 Luke Walker, *Thrash Commercial Contractors*
 Melanie Greer, *EXIT Realty*
 Pam Files, *P.A. Files, LLC*
 Robert Weathersby, *St. Dominic Memorial Hospital*

MADISON COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE



Picture, from left, are:
 Krystal Minor - bfac.com, Austin Stewart (sitting) - Adams and Reese, Chris Roberts - BankPlus,
 Lauren Scheel - MCEDA, and Grant Montgomery - BancorpSouth

Photo by Deryll Stegall

MISSION OF THE MCEL PROGRAM

To provide MCBLF members with a deeper understanding of the opportunities in Madison County in an environment that enhances their leadership skills and prepares graduates to take their knowledge and their experience into the community for the betterment of Madison County as a whole.

GLUCKSTADT RESOLUTION PRESENTATION



The Madison County Business League & Foundation presented a resolution to Gluckstadt Mayor Walter Morrison and Board of Alderman congratulating the city on their incorporation at the meeting on July 6, 2021. Welcome City of Gluckstadt as Madison County's newest city.

Pictured L-R: Alderman Lisa Williams, Alderman Miya Warfield-Bates, MCBLF Secretary/Treasurer Renee Rice, MCBLF Vice Chairman Ray Balentine, Mayor Walter Morrison, Alderman John Taylor, Alderman Jayce Powell, Alderman Slay Wesley, & Jan Collins, MCBLF Executive Director

EDUCATION BREAKFAST



The Madison County Business League & Foundation Education & Workforce Development Committee hosted a meeting at the Madison County Schools District office. Status of the Madison County Schools and Canton Public Schools was presented by Superintendents Charlotte Seals and Gary Hannah. Former Madison County Schools Superintendent and MS Dept. Of Education Board Member Dr. Ronnie McGehee presented an update on the state level.

[VIEW ALL EVENT PHOTOS ONLINE](#)

Q3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA hosted the Third Quarter Economic Outlook reception at the Jackson Yacht club on September 9, 2021.



Q4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK



The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA hosted the Fourth Quarter Economic Development Outlook Luncheon on December 2, 2021, with Keynote speaker, Ryan Miller, executive director of Accelerate Mississippi.

MCBL&F HOSTS TRANSPORTATION BREAKFAST

Pictured L-R: Phil Buffington, Jan Collins, Ray Balentine, Brad White, Rodney Grogan, and Pastor Jason Dillon.



The Madison County Business League & Foundation hosted the Transportation Breakfast with Keynote speaker Brad White, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation, on November 19, 2021.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN
MADISON COUNTY

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

CANTON CAREER TECH CENTER
NOVEMBER STUDENT OF MONTH

Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) member Samantha Lofton, Owner of Barnett's Body Shops presented a gift to Canton Career & Technical Center student D'Vunte Jackson. D'Vunte, a junior in the Automotive Collision Repair program was selected CCTC November Student of the Month.

Pictured are (l-r): Jan Collins, MCBL&F Executive Director, Wayne Day, CCTC Automotive Collision Repair Instructor, D'Vunte Jackson, CCTC October Student of the Month, Samantha Barnett Lofton, Owner - Barnett's Body Shops, Michael Ellis, CCTC Director

MADISON COUNTY CAREER TECH CENTER
OCTOBER STUDENT OF MONTH

Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) member Bryan Carter, CEO of THINK Webstore in Ridgeland, presents Madison County Career Tech Center "Overall Student of the Month" Braden Corley with an award. Braden Corley is a second year Simulation and Animation (SAD) student.

Pictured (l-r): Lindsey Eubanks, Think Webstore; Bryan Carter, Think Webstore; Braden Corley; Tiffany Turnage, MCCTC instructor; Jan Collins, MCBL&F.



CANTON CAREER TECH CENTER OCTOBER STUDENT OF MONTH

Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) member Thrash Construction presented a gift to Canton Career & Technical Center student Christian Reed. Christian, a junior in the Construction program was selected October CCTC Student of the Month.

Pictured are (l-r): Jan Collins, MCBL&F Executive Director, Jimmy Madison, CCTC Construction Instructor, Luke Walker, Thrash Construction Business Development Manager, Christian Reed, CCTC Student of the Month, Michael Ellis, CCTC Director

MADISON COUNTY CAREER TECH CENTER
NOVEMBER STUDENT OF MONTH

Pictured (l-r): Pictured from left to right are: Cody Zumbro, Principal, Iliana Ontiveros, and Tammie Watkins.

Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) member Tammie Watkins with The Sunray Companies, presents Madison County Career Tech Center "November Student of the Month" Iliana Ontiveros, with an award. Iliana Ontiveros is a Healthcare and Clinical Services student.

MEC 2021 ROADSHOW



Madison County Business League & Foundation was proud to host the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) 2021 Roadshow at the MCEDA office on August 5th. MCBL&F Members discussed key initiatives to enhance opportunities for economic growth in three areas – Education and Workforce Development, an Improving Business Climate, and keeping and attracting the best and brightest talent to Mississippi – will change our course.

Mississippi Economic Council CEO Scott Waller presented Jan Collins with an honorarium in appreciation of Madison County Business League & Foundation hosting the MEC Road Tour.

MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST

MCBL&F MCCT AWARDED
CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHER GRANT

Presenting the grant to Teena Ruth are MCBL&F Executive Director Jan Collins and MCCT Chairman Barney Daly.

The Madison County Community Trust (MCCT) and the Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) awarded Canton Public Schools Master Teacher of Personal Finance Teena Ruth with a grant to attend the national Jump\$tart Conference. She was prepared to teach this course by the MS Council on Economic Education. Teachers, sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and other supporters of financial education will gather in November for the 12th annual Jump\$tart National Educator Conference in Washington, DC, to “return, reset, and recommit” to financial education in the classroom. The Jump\$tart National Educator Conference aligns with the Coalition’s three strategic pillars: communication, collaboration, and support for effectiveness in financial education. The conference also supports the goals of Project Groundswell and #CheckYourSchool, Jump\$tart’s campaign to increase and improve financial education in elementary, middle, and high schools across the country.

MCBLF MCCT GRANT TO
NE MC EXCEL BY 5

Shown: Madison County Preschool students

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Community Trust presented a grant to the North Madison County Excel By 5 Coalition to purchase backpacks for all the 0–5 years of age students in preschool classes and daycares.

MCCT ATMOS DANNY
DOLLAR GRANT

The Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Community Trust partnered with Atmos Energy to award a grant to Madison County Schools for the Danny Dollar financial literacy and reading pilot program. Training for the 3rd – 5th grade math teachers was held at the Camden Elementary School. Danny Dollar Academy is a revolutionary financial literacy program created to practice reading skills while also learning the basics of finance, entrepreneurship and economics. Throughout the program, students will learn the principles of credit, debit, banking, entrepreneurship, marketing and much more.

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Make sure you don't miss a second of the action by following us on our social media pages and checking on our website.



Website
www.madisoncountybusinessleague.com



Facebook
@Madison County Business League & Foundation
@Madison County Youth Leadership
@Madison County Young Professionals



LinkedIn
@Madison County Business League & Foundation



Instagram
@madisoncountybusinessleague



Twitter
@mcblf



MADISON COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

2021-22 MCYP STEERING COMMITTEE



Madison County Business League & Foundation Announces 2021-22 Young Professional Steering Committee & Officers. Photo by Deryll Stegall

Front Row

Chris Roberts	Bank Plus	
Pate DeMuth	Southern Ag Credit	Secretary- Treasurer
Anne Marie Smith	4Top Hospitality	Immediate Past Chair
Hank Waterer	First Commercial Bank	Chair
Melody Rosenbaum	Citizens National Bank	Vice Chair
Krystal Minor	Bfac.com	Philanthropic Chair
Grant Montgomery	BancorpSouth	Past Chair

Second Row

Lauren Scheel	MCEDA	
Sean Doran	Phelps Dunbar	
Bradley Barnes	Adcamp, Inc.	
Carlee Walley	Renasant Bank	
Justin Bennet	AT&T	
Tessa Thompsen	Levi Strauss & Company	
Landon McCaskill	Brasfield & Gorrie	
Hunter Huguley	Trustmark	
Mary Kate Rankin	Madison County Business League & Foundation	

Top Row

Austin Stewart	Adams & Reese
Chamar McDonald	Neel Schaffer
Ron Dixon	Atmos Energy
James Worthy	Origin Bank

Not Pictured

Maggie Duff	Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes, PLLC
Ben Lane	C Spire
Jamaal Holloway	Nissan North America
William Bettis	Butler Snow
Athena Chapin	Merit Health
Bryant Williams	CenterPoint Energy

WALK TO END ALZ



Madison County Young Professionals volunteered in the Alzheimer's Association annual Walk to End Alzheimer's.

MCYP FALL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM



Madison County Young Professionals Host Fall Professional

Development Forum on November 11th

The Madison County Young Professionals hosted the Fall Professional Development Forum luncheon on November 10th, with Keynote Speaker Candie Simmons. Her presentation, "Presentation Skills: 101 – How to Make an Effective Presentation" was most beneficial. Millsaps Else School of Management was the lead sponsor of this event.

Pictured L:R Back Row: Melody Rosenbaum, Citizens National Bank; Hank Waterer, First Commercial Bank; Krystal Minor, bfac.com; and LeAnne Brewer, Millsaps Else School of Management Front Row: Anne Marie Smith, 4Top Catering; Candie Simmons, UMMC; Christine Rials, Millsaps Else School of Management

MCYP BELLRINGING

The Madison County Young Professionals volunteered in the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive! Even our future young professionals got in on the action!





MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

MCYL CLASS OF 2021-22



Photo by Deryll Stegall

Pictured (L-R)

Bottom Row: Jake Mathews, Jackson Prep; Jayla Travis, Ridgeland High School; Janette Bartolo, Canton High School; Ava Syvle, Germantown High School; Gracie Drew Pratt, Jackson Academy; Skylla Jobe, Velma Jackson High School

Second Row: James Sones, Tri-County Academy; Reese Willis, Canton Academy; Madison Word, St. Andrew's Episcopal; Malee Davidson, Madison Ridgeland Academy; Ava Dear, Madison Central High School; Lorenzo Smith, Velma Jackson High School

Third Row: Andrew Cammack, Germantown High School; Samuel Wadford, Canton Academy; Cobby Ware, Madison Ridgeland Academy; Ethan Young, Ridgeland High School

Top Row: Kate Fairburn, Madison Central High School, Dwight Luckett, Jr., Canton High School, Adams Kennedy, Jackson Academy, Andrew Carron, St. Andrew's Episcopal School

Not Pictured: Rachel Rutledge, Jackson Prep; Kate Crawford Shepherd, Tri-County Academy

MCYL DONATIONS FROM MCBL&F MEMBERS



The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA wish to thank the following members for their contributions to the Madison County Youth Leadership Class gift bags. Thank you for your generous contribution to this program.

Origin Bank ; MS Board of Nursing; Brunini; W.G. Yates & Sons Construction; MEC; USM Trent Lott ; Small Business Development Ole Miss ; Brent Bailey; Merit Health; 4Top; Waggoner Engineering; Baptist Health Foundation; Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance; Sunray Companies; Ridgeland Tourism; Pirouline; Neel Schaffer; Belhaven University; Bfac.com

MCYL COMMITTEE



Photo by Deryll Stegall

Pictured: Bottom (L-R) Jan Collins, *MCBL&F*; Suzanne Sullivan, *Belhaven University*; Rochelle Thompson, *Lung Association*; Mary Kate Rankin, *MCBL&F*; Dr. Don Burhnam, *Holmes Community College*

Top (L-R) Pat McNulty, *Ballew Wealth Management*; Chris Roberts, *Bank Plus*; Tatum Willis, *Pinelake Church*; Dr. Mary Sims Johnson, *Madison County Citizens Services Agency*; Krystal Minor, *bfac.com*

MCYL LIFESTYLES DAY



The Madison County Youth Leadership Class participated in Lifestyles Day on October 20th. The Madison County Business League & Foundation and MCEDA sponsor the Madison County Youth Leadership Program.

Cornerstone Level Sponsors



Platinum Level Sponsors



Gold Level Sponsors

AC Marriott

AnderCorp

ARCON General Contractors

APAC Mississippi, Inc.

BankFirst Financial Services

Baptist Medical Center

Barnett's Body Shop, Inc.

Bear Creek Water Association

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP

Canton Municipal Utilities

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC

Century Construction

Codaray Construction

Community Bank of Mississippi

Copeland & Johns, Inc.

Dale Partners Architects • Dale Bailey, An
Association

Embassy Suites Hotel

First South Farm Credit

FV Recycling, LLC

Georgia Blue

Guaranty Bank & Trust Co.

GranthamPoole PLLC

G.Todd Burwell, P.A.*

Hancock Whitney

Hederman Brothers

Jones Logistics

Kirkland Properties

Madison The City Economic Development Dept.

Mississippi Hospital Association*

MMC Materials, Inc.

Morris Petroleum, Inc.

National Aviation Companies

Parkway Church

Partridge Development

Pinelake Church – Madison Campus

Pinnacle Trust

Regions

SOL Engineering Services, LLC

St. Dominic Health Services

Stegall Imagery

TC Marketing, LLC

Terry Service, Inc.*

The First ANBA

Thrash Commercial Contractors

Tom Hixon

Towne Place Suites by Marriott

Waggoner Engineering

Watkins & Eager

Wells Marble & Hurst, PLLC

White Construction Company

Young Wells Williams, P.A.



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