



# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



Jan Collins,  
Executive Director

Please join MCEDA and the MCBL&F as we kick off the season with a Summer Celebration on Thursday, June 5th at the Jackson Yacht Club from 5:00 – 7:00. This annual party is a fun networking event in a beautiful setting!

MCBL&F and MCCT have presented over \$25,000.00 in scholarships and grants this quarter to our schools and students for their outstanding performances. These awards are presented for leadership, workforce development, and academic success. Awards are made possible through the generosity of our Pillar and Cornerstone Investors' contributions to MCCT and the support of our MCBL&F members. Please check out the presentations inside this newsletter.

For 18 years, the Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) has played a pivotal role in empowering the local business community and fostering regional partnerships. In an ever-evolving landscape, organizations must adapt and innovate to thrive. For the MCBL&F to continue its

momentum, it is imperative to step back and access our structure and partnerships to measure progress and set a pathway forward. To sustain its momentum and plan for the next 18 years, MCBL&F Board of Directors partnered with VisionFirst Advisors for a comprehensive organizational assessment. The implementation of this 3-year plan has begun and will continue for 18 to 36 months. Please be on the outlook for positive changes!

The 2025 legislative session ended but we are awaiting Governor Reeves to call a special session to approve the budget along with other legislative action. The Madison County legislative agenda included requests which have not yet been approved. Hopefully, the budget will be approved during this special session, and we will find out the status of the requests. Madison County is grateful for the support of our Madison County legislative delegation who continue to work on our behalf.

Hope to see you on June 5th!

One vision, one voice,  
Jan Collins  
Executive Director

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Executive Director Remarks.....1
- League & Legislature Luncheon..2
- Remote with Supertalk.....3
- MCEL.....4
- MCYL.....6
- MC Workforce Development.....9
- MCYP.....10
- MCCT.....11
- Recent Events.....13
- Calendar of Events.....14
- Investors.....15

## PILLARS OF THE BUSINESS LEAGUE:

ADVOCACY | EDUCATION | LEADERSHIP TRAINING  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT | QUALITY OF LIFE

### Partners



### Pillar Level Investors



# ANNUAL LEAGUE & LEGISLATURE LUNCHEON



The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) hosted its annual “League & Legislature” luncheon on Wednesday, March 19th, at The Westin in Jackson. The event featured Speaker of the House, Representative Jason White, as the keynote speaker. The luncheon welcomed 500 attendees, including MCBL&F members, guests, local and statewide elected officials and legislators from across Mississippi. This annual event continues to serve as a platform for fostering collaboration between business leaders and policymakers while also expressing gratitude to Mississippi state legislators for all they do for Mississippi and Madison County.



# SUPERTALK MS MIDDAYS WITH GERARD GIBERT



*A remote setup of SuperTalk MS MidDays with Gerard Gibert, MCBL&F Board Director and MCEDA Chairman, provided business leaders and elected officials the opportunity to discuss what the Madison County Business League & Foundation centers on and the vital role it plays in economic development, workforce development, and advocacy for Madison County.*



## 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR MADISON COUNTY, MS

- Interstate 55 Capacity Project
- Weisenberger Road
- Work Force Development Initiatives



# MADISON COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

## MCEL CLASS OF 2025



The Madison County Business League & Foundation (MCBL&F) and the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) are proud to introduce the 2025 Madison County Executive Leadership (MCEL) Class. This prestigious program equips participants with the knowledge, leadership skills, and connections needed to make a lasting impact in Madison County.

**Seated:** Nick Newcomb, *StorageMax*; Katie Hutson, *Harper Rains Knight & Company*; Kristen Ellis, *C Spire*; Amanda Wyrick, *Community Bank*; Bethany Stanfill, *BSS Global*; Kendall Gregory, *CRH/APAC Mississippi*

**Standing:** Calvin Hill, *Nissan North America*; Camp Murphy, *Capitol Resources LLC*; Brent Bailey, *Efficient Power & Light*; Wesley Self, *Wages Civil LLC*; Brad Gatlin, *BankPlus*; Jarrett Taylor, *Neel-Schaffer*; Nathan Witt, *Ergon*; Sammy Brown, *Brown Legal Group*

### UPCOMING 2025 MCEL PROGRAM DATES

Economic Development Day  
August 20, 2025

Quality of Life Day  
September 17, 2025

Education Day  
October 29, 2025

Graduation Reception  
November 10, 2025



# MADISON COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



## GOVERNMENT DAY

The 2025 Madison County Executive Leadership Class participated in Government Day on February 26, 2025. This year's class toured the Mississippi State Capitol, met with their Madison County legislators, and engaged with statewide elected officials. It was an incredible opportunity to gain insight into how our government operates and stay informed about what's happening in Madison County!

## HEALTH & WELLBEING DAY

The Madison County Executive Leadership Class participated in Health & Well Being Day on April 2, 2025. To kick off Health & Well-Being Day, the MCEL class had the opportunity to discover more about "Leading with Strengths" through the StrengthsFinder assessment with Candie Simmons, followed by a tour of existing industry Southern Sky Brands. They also received an insightful recap on the economic impact of healthcare in Madison County and heard from many engaging speakers throughout the day. And of course, we can't forget Rochelle Thompson's energizing team-building "bootcamp"!



## LAW & ORDER DAY

The MCEL Class Law & Order Day was on May 14, 2025. This was a fun-filled day learning from various branches of law enforcement across Madison County. The class kicked things off with a panel of police chiefs from our municipalities, followed by sessions with Madison County judges and District Attorney Bubba Bramlett. The day continued with a tour of the Madison County Detention Center and wrapped up with a visit to the county firing range.



## MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP



### GOVERNMENT DAY

MCYL participated in Government Day on Wednesday, February 19th to close out the program. The class toured the Mississippi State Capitol, met with Madison County legislators and elected officials statewide, held a mock court session in the Supreme Courthouse, and toured the Madison County Detention Center. This experience gave them valuable insight into how our government and justice system operate daily.

THIS QUOTE FROM  
ONE OF OUR PARTICIPANTS  
SUMS IT UP PERFECTLY

“ *This program has been so special to me, and I have loved all three days. It has helped me realize that I want to go to college and then come back to a job in Mississippi.* ”

### CAREER EXPLORATION DAY



The Madison County Youth Leadership Class completed their first Career Explorations Program Day, diving into the many career opportunities right here in Madison County. We're proud to showcase the endless possibilities available not only in our county but across Mississippi. Here's to investing in our talented youth.



Madison County Youth Leadership class had an incredible time during their second Career Exploration Day. They met with local business leaders, engaged in hands-on activities, and discovered pathways and opportunities in careers they're passionate about pursuing.



# MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

## THE MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION AND THE MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO MADISON COUNTY STUDENTS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN 2024-25 MCYL PROGRAM.

Recognizing the importance of quality education and a well- educated workforce in the recruitment of industry, the Madison County Business League & Foundation and the Madison County Economic Development Authority are proud to sponsor the Madison County Youth Leadership program. Two of the best and brightest all-around juniors from each of the Madison County public, private, and parochial high schools, plus Jackson Academy and Jackson Prep, were selected by their administration to represent their respective schools.



**CANTON ACADEMY**

Mackenzie Turner; Chris Roberts



**CANTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Giancarlo Rosales; Pat McNulty



**GERMANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL**

Avonna Mendenhall; Ellis Wise



**JACKSON ACADEMY**

Ellis Wise; Mary Lamar Chustz; Jan Collins



# MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP

## MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION AND THE MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS (CON'T)



**JACKSON PREP**

Jan Collins; Christy Rutledge



**MADISON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Chamar McDonald; Pranavi Buddala



**MADISON RIDGELAND ACADEMY**

Adelaide Jacobs; Dr. Bronwyn Martin



**RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL**

Rochelle Thompson; Kashvi Sukhadi



**ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**

Jan Collins; John William Walker



**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Katie Lancaster; Jan Collins



**TRI COUNTY ACADEMY**

Mae Moses; Jan Collins



**VELMA JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL**

Rochelle Thompson; Jovun Ray



# MADISON COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## BUSINESS LEADERS PRESENT CAREER TECH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH WITH SCHOLARSHIPS TO AWARD THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE CLASSROOM

In efforts to strengthen the pathway of career technical students to the workforce, Madison County Business League & Foundation partners with Canton Career Center and Madison County Career Tech Center to pair business leaders with star students enrolled in programs specific to their industries.



Michael Ellis, *CCC*;  
Wayne Day, *CCC*;  
Taylor Lyles, *Student*; Marvel  
Turner Jr., *Cadillac of Jackson*;  
Jan Collins, *MCBL&F*



Dr. Tawana Tucker; Mary  
Slaughter, *MCCTC*; Lanie  
Robinson, *Student*; Rochelle  
Thompson, *American Lung  
Assoc.*; Dr. Nason Lollar,  
*MCCTC*



Michael Ellis, *CCC*; Jimmy  
Madison, *Instructor*;  
Michael Prince, Jr., *Student*;  
Brantley Smith, *Southeastern  
Architectural Woodworks*;  
Ellis Wise, *MCBL&F*



Duane Matthews, *AWS*;  
Ke'Ambriah Goines, *Student*;  
Michael Ellis, *CCC*.



Charles Matthews, *CCC*;  
Michael Ellis, *CCC*; Allen  
Joseph Torrey, IV, *Student*;  
Jon Hill, *Cadillac of Jackson*;  
Jan Collins, *MCBL&F*



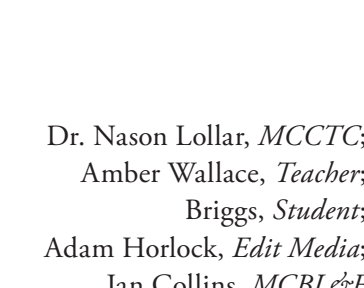
Michael Ellis, *CCC*;  
Cauliek Carter, *Student*;  
Duane Matthews, *AWS*;  
Jan Collins, *MCBL&F*



Jan Collins, *MCBL&F*;  
Shirley Jones, *Instructor*;  
Pediatric Doctor Vig Vibha,  
*Sunshine Childrens Clinic*;  
Kinsley Pierce, *Student*;  
Charmaine Pierce



Jan Collins, *MCBL&F*;  
Dr. Nason Lollar, *Principal*;  
Kashvi Sukhadia, *Student*;  
Jonathan Hollingshead, *BCI*;  
Santiago Fortanelli, *BCI*



Dr. Nason Lollar, *MCCTC*;  
Amber Wallace, *Teacher*;  
Briggs, *Student*;  
Adam Horlock, *Edit Media*;  
Jan Collins, *MCBL&F*



Michael Ellis, *CCC*;  
Kennedy Brown, *Student*;  
Duane Matthews, *AWS*



# MADISON COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



## INDUSTRY TOUR: PIROULINE COOKIE FACTORY

Some of our Madison County Young Professionals had the amazing opportunity to tour one of Madison County’s existing industries—DeBeukelaer Corporation, a family-owned cookie factory. This group was given a behind-the-scenes look at the operations and insights into the industry.

## SPRING CONNECTIONS

The Madison County Young Professionals hosted their Spring Connections Luncheon on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

This year’s event featured a powerful CEO panel, “Path to the C-Suite,” where attendees gained valuable insights from an esteemed group of executive leaders: Matt Davidson – Atmos Energy; Jim Richmond – C Spire; Ted Fortenberry – Gray Media/WLBT; Gabriel Prado – PraCon Global Investment Group.

Each panelist shared their unique journey to leadership, offering advice, lessons learned, and inspiration to the next generation of professionals.



## ADAM HORLOCK PRESENTATION

Adam Horlock, COO of Edit Media, gave a presentation to our Young Professionals Steering Committee on “Don’t Wait: Why You Need to Build the Right Personal Brand.” The group walked away with valuable insights and actionable takeaways to implement in their workplaces and everyday life.



### UPCOMING: INDUSTRY TOUR

Amazon Fulfillment Center  
June 12th from 1:15 – 2:30 pm.  
*Sign-up form has been emailed.*



# MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST



## FUNDING VEX ROBOTICS WORLD COMPETITION

Germantown High School students Braden Derryberry and Shelton Cooper, accompanied by their coach Jason Derryberry of the Mississippi Robotics Team, accepted a contribution from the Madison County Community Trust and the Madison County Business League & Foundation, which will go toward funding the team as they participate at the VEX Robotics World Competition in Dallas, Texas. This contribution highlights our dedication to supporting education, workforce development and celebrating the achievements of Madison County students!



## MCBL&F AND MCCT SPONSOR LITERACY GRANT

MCBL&F and MCCT are proud to sponsor a financial literacy grant for the Canton High School Tiger Tycoons as they prepare to compete in the National Personal Finance Challenge, taking place June 1–2, 2025, in Atlanta, Georgia. The Tiger Tycoons team—Nelly Cardona-Rosales, Alexandria Luckett, Jalynn Dunigan, and Henser Vicente—represent a group of exceptional students whose hard work and financial literacy skills have earned them this prestigious opportunity. We congratulate these students and wish them the very best as they represent Canton High School and the state of Mississippi on the national stage! Pictured l to r: Selena Swartzfager, MCEE; Teena Ruth, Instructor; Alexandria Luckett; Nelly Rosales; Henser Vicente; Jalynn Dunigan; Barney Daly, MCCT; Jan Collins, MCBL&F.



# MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST

MCCT IS PROUD TO CONTINUE ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS AND THE MADISON COUNTY CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER THROUGH THE CREATION OF A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP



**JAKIRA HUNTER**  
GERMANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

“Pursuing a career as a teacher has always been my dream. From a young age, I found joy in helping others when I used to play teacher with my little cousins and teach them things they didn’t know. I believe that education is the beginning of a successful and fulfilling life. I will be attending Hinds Community College and will major in Elementary Education”. Participated in the Educator Preparation program at MCCTC. *Pictured l to r: Cecil Harper; Jakira Hunter; Dr. Nason Lollar*



**MEGAN DUKES**  
RIDGELAND HIGH SCHOOL

“I have always had a passion for helping people. For the longest time, I was unsure of what exactly I wanted to be, but being in the MCCTC healthcare program really solidified my dreams of wanting to become a nurse. I will be attending University of Mississippi to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing”. Participated in the Health Science program at MCCTC. *Pictured l to r: Dr. Bronwyn Martin; Megan Dukes; Corinne Archie*



**FINLEIGH LAUGHLIN**  
MADISON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

“Art has always been a creative outlet for me and a way to express myself. I have found that art can have a healing effect, which is why I want to be an art therapist”. Participated in the Construction program at MCCTC. *Pictured l to r: Dr. Nason Lollar; Finleigh Laughlin; Barney Daly*



**ALONZO JOHNSON, JR.**  
VELMA JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

“I have always been into business and have always wanted to create my own brand one day. I love the idea of being in control and always making new products which is why I am choosing a major in marketing and a minor in entrepreneurship”. Participated in the Construction program at MCCTC. *Pictured l to r: Alonzo Johnson, Jr.; Dr. Nason Lollar*

# EVENTS



## BOARD OF SUPES ADOPT RESOLUTION FOR MC LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION WEEK

The Madison County Board of Supervisors issued a resolution proclaiming May 11-17 MC Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.

*Pictured, front row from left, are Madison County Supervisors Casey Brannon, Gerald Steen, president, and Karl Banks (Back) Jan Collins, Madison County Business League & Foundation Executive Director, MC Sheriff Randy Tucker, MC Supervisor Paul Griffin, and MC Business League & Foundation Executive Assistant Ellis Wise.*



## Q1 OUTLOOK

The Q1 Economic Development Outlook Luncheon was held on Wednesday, January 29th, at Georgia Blue in Madison! This quarterly event, hosted in partnership with MCEDA, provides key insights into the future of Madison County and beyond. Joey Deason, MCEDA Executive Director, shared “What’s Next” for Madison County and Dr. Courtney Taylor, Executive Director of Accelerate MS, highlighted the incredible workforce development efforts shaping our state’s future.



## MEC WORK FUTURE TOUR

The MEC WorkFuture Tour made a stop in Madison County on February 10th, 2025. This tour brings together leaders in business, economic development, workforce, education and other key sectors from across the state. We were happy to be one of the local community partners!

## • FOLLOW US •



Facebook

@Madison County Business League & Foundation



LinkedIn

@Madison County Business League & Foundation



Instagram

@madisoncountybusinessleague



“X” (Formerly Twitter)

@mcbf

MORE EVENT PHOTOS CAN BE SEEN AT [MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM](http://MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM)



## Q2 SUMMER CELEBRATION

JUNE 5, 2025

5-7 P.M. - Jackson Yacht Club

## VISION CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 14, 2025

11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Country Club of Jackson



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JUNE 5, 2025**

ALL MEMBERS

**Q2 MCEDA/MCBL&F Economic  
OUTLOOK Celebration**

5:00 – 7:00 PM  
Jackson Yacht Club

**MCYP Industry Tour**

MCYP ONLY

1:15 – 2:30 PM  
Amazon  
Fulfillment Center

**JUNE 12, 2025**

LEADERSHIP

**MCBL&F Board Meeting**

4:00 PM  
MCEDA Boardroom

**Madison County Executive Leadership  
“Economic Development” Program Day**

MCEL CLASS

7:45 AM – 5:00 PM

**AUG 20, 2025**

PILLAR INVESTORS

**PILLAR Dinner**  
Special Guest: Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith

5:30 – 7:30 PM  
Koestler Prime

**Madison County Youth Leadership Ori-  
entation**

MCYL CLASS

5:30 – 6:30 PM  
Holmes CC  
McGowan Center

**SEPT 17, 2025**

MCEL CLASS

**Madison County Executive Leadership  
“Quality of Life” Program Day**

7:45 AM – 5:00 PM

**2025 MCEDA/MCBL&F VISION  
Celebration Luncheon**

ALL MEMBERS

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Country Club  
of Jackson

**OCT 22, 2025**

MCYL CLASS

**Madison County Youth Leadership  
Career Exploration Day 1**

7:45 AM – 3:30 PM

**Madison County Executive Leadership  
“Education” Program Day**

MCEL CLASS

7:45 AM – 5:00 PM

INVITATIONS TO EVENTS INCLUDING ALL MEMBERS WILL BE SENT VIA MAIL/EMAIL PLEASE DO NOT RSVP TO EVENTS UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED A FORMAL INVITATION.  
*MCBL&F reserves the right to change dates, times, and locations.*

# THANK YOU TO OUR INVESTORS

## ↪ Cornerstone Level Investors ↪



## ↪ Platinum Level Investors ↪



## ↪ Gold Level Investors ↪

### \*Charter Member

AC Marriott  
 American Cancer Society  
 Anjou Restaurant  
 Armstrong Company  
 BankFirst Financial Services  
 Barnett's Body Shop, Inc.  
 Bear Creek Water Association  
 Bellamare Development  
 Benchmark Construction  
 Biggs, Ingram & Solop, PLLC  
 Big Brake Land Company  
 Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings, LLP  
 Burwell Eisenberger, PLLC  
 Cadillac of Jackson  
 Canton Municipal Utilities  
 Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC  
 CDFL Architects + Engineers, P.A.  
 Codaroy Construction  
 Comcast  
 Courtyard Jackson Madison  
 Dale Partners Architects, P.A.  
 Delta Industries  
 Deviney Equipment

EDP Renewables, LLC  
 EGH Architects  
 Embassy Suites Hotel  
 Fastenal  
 First South Farm Credit  
 GA Carmichael Family Health Center, Inc.  
 Georgia Blue  
 Gina Diamonds Flower Co  
 Grantham Poole PLLC  
 Hancock Whitney Bank  
 Hederman Brothers  
 Hemphill Construction  
 Hilton Garden Inn - Madison  
 Ivey Mechanical Company  
 Kirkland Properties  
 Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry  
 Madison The City Business Network  
 MS Baptist Medical Center  
 Mississippi Hospital Association\*  
 Mississippi Smart Homes, LLC  
 Mississippi Tent and Party Rental  
 MMC Materials, Inc.  
 Morris Petroleum, Inc.

Olde Towne Cleaners  
 Paramount Construction Group  
 Parkway Church  
 Partridge Development  
 PDT Logistics, LLC  
 Pinelake Church – Madison Campus  
 Regions  
 RJ Young  
 Service Specialists  
 Staffers, Inc.  
 Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
 Terry Service, Inc.\*  
 Tom Hixon  
 The First Bank  
 Think WEBSTORE  
 Thrash Commercial Contractors  
 Towne Place Suites by Marriott  
 Two Men And A Truck  
 Watkins & Eager  
 White Construction Company  
 Wise Carter Child & Caraway  
 WLBT  
 Young Wells Williams, P.A.



WHERE THE  
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
SECTORS WORK  
TOGETHER  
SEAMLESSLY  
TO DRIVE SUSTAINED  
ECONOMIC GROWTH  
AND DEVELOPMENT  
FOR MADISON  
COUNTY



ADVOCACY

EDUCATION



LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING



WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT



QUALITY  
OF LIFE



THE MISSION OF THE MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE & FOUNDATION

“The Madison County Business League and Foundation unites business, government and community leaders to collaborate in strategic planning to sustain economic growth in Madison County by influencing infrastructure, health, education, workforce, and quality of life policies in partnership with the Madison County Economic Development Authority.”