

Greetings from the President and the Executive Director



Debbie Miller

Greetings Mississippi Association of Career and Technical Educators, as my tenure as President comes to a close, I reflect with gratitude for the opportunity to have served as your president. I am thankful for the progress we have made together in advancing CTE across our state. It has been an honor to serve

alongside such passionate CTE Educators, Administrators, and Staff dedicated to shaping the future of our students. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each of you for your unwavering support and commitment to your programs and the students you serve. Together, we have advocated for the importance of CTE in Mississippi and the role it plays in preparing our students to be successful in post secondary and the workforce. We have strengthened partnerships with industry and provided educational opportunities for our students.

As my final act as President, I invite you all to join me at our upcoming MS ACTE Summer Conference on July 15 - 17, 2024, at the MS Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, in Biloxi. This event promises to be an enriching experience filled with professional development sessions, networking opportunities, and engaging activities relatable to your program area. It is a fantastic chance for us to celebrate our successes, learn from one another, and continue to grow as leaders in our field. Your participation is crucial as we inspire to build on our achievements and set the stage for future growth of MS CTE Students. MS ACTE, MDE the RCU have worked in cooperation to formulate an engaging professional development conference. A conference relevant and relatable to each CTE program area. I encourage you to mark your calendars and make plans to attend.

As I finish out my time as your President, I would like to wish Mr. Blaise King the best of luck as our incoming MS ACTE President. I know that he will do a great job as our new President. He has already impressed me with his wisdom and his service to MS ACTE. He is currently the CTE Director for Madison County Schools. Once again, thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. I am proud of all that we have accomplished together and confident in the bright future of CTE in Mississippi. Please continue to advocate for your programs, students, and CTE. Together we are MS CTE Strong!

Hello everyone. I hope you are enjoying a much deserved summer break. I have many exciting highlights to share from the 2024 Spring semester. March was an extremely busy month for MS ACTE.

A team of MS ACTE board members attended the ACTE National Policy Seminar in Washington DC during the third week in March along with members from MDE and the RCU.

The MS ACTE members representing MS ACTE included, the Executive Director, President Debbie Miller, 1st Vice-President Blaise King, 2nd Vice-President and Region IV Fellow Karen Patterson, and Strategic Plan Chair Erik Shows. The conference provided a great opportunity to learn about Policies that impact CTE and to visit the offices of the Mississippi members of Congress to share CTE success stories from across our state as well as advocate for additional CTE funding. In April, Mississippi had a strong delegation of members attend the 2024 Region IV Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where we had the opportunity to network with fellow CTE leaders from our Region IV States and enjoyed the time to fellowship together.

Final preparations are underway for the 2024 MS ACTE Summer Conference. I would like to thank the MS ACTE Executive Board members who have worked in collaboration with MDE and RCU to plan a great conference. We look forward to seeing everyone in Biloxi. The MS ACTE Booth will be open during the conference to take care of any membership or liability insurance needs. As a reminder the optional Liability Insurance coverage runs from July 1 - June 30 of the year it is purchased.

On a final note, I would like to share once again that our professional organization is only as strong as our active membership. Please explore the multiple leadership opportunities within MS ACTE and your affiliate divisions. Consider volunteering to serve whenever and wherever possible! Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your membership needs.



Suzanne Kelly



Chefs in the Making

Submitted by: Jessica McCool

The students became the teachers as Oak Grove High School Culinary Arts welcomed Purvis EXCEL students into their kitchen. Debbie Miller, the Culinary Arts instructor at Oak Grove High School, and her group of year 1 students perfected different techniques to make various pastas. They then taught these practices to the 5th graders from Purvis Upper Elementary. The EXCEL students were exploring different careers and life skills and these students selected the opportunity to learn how to cook and operate in a kitchen. The high school students had stations set up around the kitchen allowing the students to use a variety of tools and methods to prepare a total of four different pastas. In addition, the students were taken to the garden that is maintained by the culinary class. They brought back fresh greens and herbs to be incorporated into the meal as well. Students were taught all aspects of being in a kitchen from safety to clean up. Last and certainly the best part of preparing the meal was enjoying the fruits of their labor.

SHS FFA Leadership Development Event

Hudson Long and Anna Anderson both will advance to the MS FFA Leadership Development Events Championships for FFA Creed Speaking and Prepared Public Speaking in April.



FFA Chapter Veterinary Science Team

Submitted by James Roberts

The SHS FFA Chapter Veterinary Science Team competed at MSU and won the MS FFA Veterinary Science Career Development Event. The event consists of students demonstrating skills in identification, written examination, hands on practicums and critical thinking scenario questions. The students will represent Mississippi at the National FFA Event in October in Indianapolis. Members of the team include Kodi Warren, Vada Reed, Macey Herrington & Alicee Downing



SHS FFA State Competitions

Submitted by James Roberts

The following students represented Sumrall High School and placed within their respective competitions.

Hudson Long Placed 3rd in state in FFA Creed Speaking,



Anna Miller, Madison Pulliam, Presley Kirkland and Kyla Lott placed 2nd in Ag Sales in the state



Sophie Dalton, Chloe Jones, Jenna Anderson, Samantha Cardenas,, Sophia Sylvest, Serenity Herrington, Anniston Thompson and Addison Shaw won the state championship in Agriculture Issues Form with their topic on The Mississippi Sound and its Oyster ecosystem.



Health Science II

Submitted by: Laura Fails

Health Science II students participated in Mock Job Interviews as part of their Employability Unit. Thank you to Ms. Kelly Buxton, Human Resources Director at Bedford Care, for helping out and performing these interviews. We appreciate her help very much. The winner of the job, based on interview performance, went to Bailey Hathorn. Congratulations Bailey.



Health Science Students Encourage Students & Staff to Swab to Save a Life!

Submitted by Jessica McCool

When Lamar County Career and Technical Education student Mari Alis Lyons attended the HOSA International Conference last summer she learned about the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) and attended a workshop about starting a NMDP chapter at our school. During the conference, they brought a patient and their donor on stage to meet for the first time. Lyons said, “It was amazing to know that a complete stranger had been able to save the three-year-old patient’s life all because of NMDP.” It was that event that inspired Lyons, a senior and year 2 Health Science student and member of HOSA at Oak Grove High School, to bring the program to Lamar County and encourage fellow classmates as well as staff and faculty to join the registry. She spent a significant amount of time coordinating the event with help from Te’Air Douglas, the NMDP Member Enrollment Coordinator for Mississippi; Laura Fails, the Health Science instructor; Helen Price and Keith Bounds, Oak Grove High School’s administration; and other student volunteers.

With their support, Lyons was able to host events at a high school baseball game on Thursday, April 18 and during school lunch on Friday, April 19. Thanks to their presence they registered over 20 potential donors. Students, parents, faculty, and staff completed a questionnaire and did a swab of both cheeks to complete the process. Volunteers ages 18-40 are eligible to be added to the nationwide registry. Although much of the student population doesn’t fall in the age category, it still helped to create awareness and was an opportunity to educate students about the process (because everything you see on TV medical dramas isn’t real).

Lyons is hopeful that patients gain a donor match and receive their lifesaving treatment, but also grateful for the ability to educate others about bone marrow and stem cell donation. Laura Fails, Lyon’s Health Science instructor for the past two years, is proud of Lyon’s leadership and commitment to seeing this project through. Lyons



credits her teacher and this class for helping her grow and gaining the skills to take on this challenge and continue taking on new challenges each day.

Law & Public Safety

Submitted by: Heather Fair

Downtown Martial Arts

During their studies on corrections, Year 1 Law and Public Safety students recently participated in a self-defense session led by Doug Bedsaul, the owner of Downtown Martial Arts, along with his assistant Abbi Crump. This session was particularly significant as correctional officers often lack protective gear and must depend on self-defense tactics in their daily duties. Mr. Bedsaul generously offered his expertise to the class free of charge, enhancing their understanding and preparedness for future challenges in the field.

CPR/First Aid Training

Chief of Police Kenny Rogers facilitated CPR & First Aid training for Year 2 Law and Public Safety Students. Under the guidance of Training Officer Chantel Solis-McCoy, the students underwent rigorous training sessions over several days at the MSU campus. As a result, all participants successfully obtained their certifications.

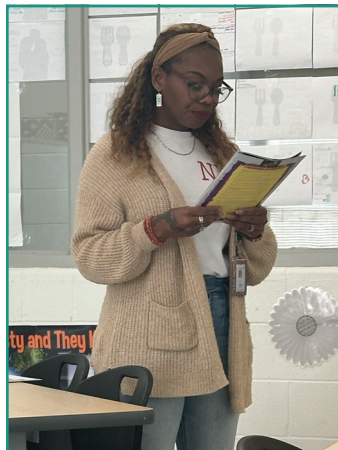
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency MEMA Visit

During their exploration of Emergency Management, Year 2 students embarked on a visit to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. This excursion provided them with invaluable real-life insights into emergency preparedness within the law and public safety domain. Chief Communications Officer Malary White and Public Information Officer Allie Jasper engaged the students in discussions highlighting the paramount importance of preparedness and the necessity of comprehensive planning for various disaster scenarios. Additionally, students gained a profound understanding of the crucial role drones play in emergency operations and preparedness efforts.

Family Dynamics

Submitted By: *Janetria Smith*

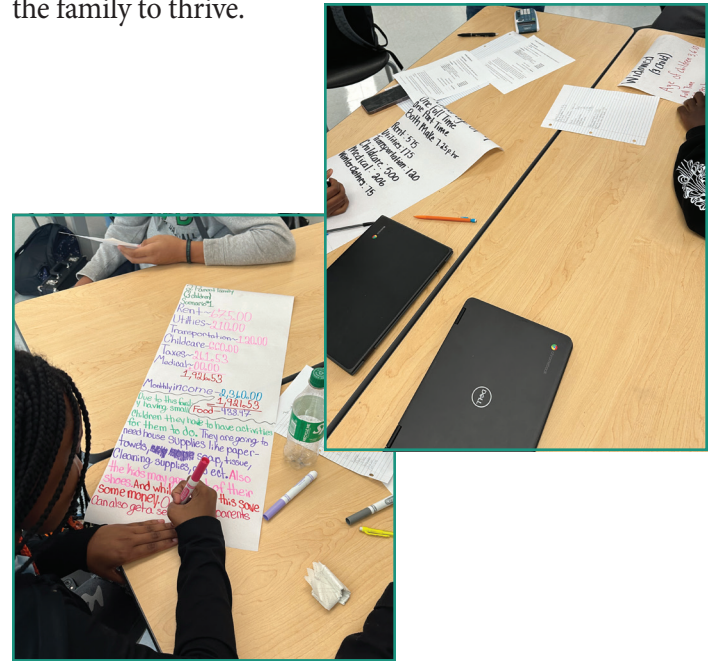
The Family Dynamics students from Vicksburg High School led by Ms. Janetria Smith participated in the Alcohol Awareness Prevention course taught by Ms. Damoise Brown, Warren-Yazoo Mental Health Services representative. She discussed the effects of alcohol abuse and making the right choices as prom season approaches. They were awarded certificates after the course was completed. The students are accompanied by Ms. Stacey Vaughn, HHS academy principal.



Intro to ACME Media

Submitted By: *Brenda Cartlidge*

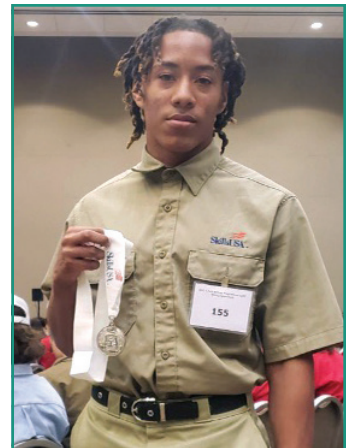
The Intro to ACME students from Vicksburg High School taught by Ms. Brenda Cartlidge were given budgets to solve. The scenarios were created to provide solutions in order for the family to thrive.



Skills USA Competition 2024

Submitted by: *Millicent Hunt*

On 04/03/24, Chester Savage went to the Skills USA competition for CNC Milling Specialist. In preparation for the competition, he worked diligently on the Fusion 360. The contestants were given from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm to finish all their required tasks. Chester used his time wisely and was able to finish just in time. He was required



to write and submit a resume, take part in mock interviews, and take a written assessment, before beginning the skills portion. Chester was tasked with creating a CNC Milling 3 Axis Specialist, in which he designed, programmed, wrote the G-code and printed the plans. The award ceremony was held on 04/04/24 in which his hard work was rewarded! He earned 2nd place in the state for CNC milling. This experience will definitely have a positive impact on his future.