

## **Minutes of the Education Achievement Council Meeting**

**August 28, 2014**

**BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Education Achievement Council (EAC) met in the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board Room in Jackson, Mississippi at 11:00 a.m. on August 28, 2014.**

### **Council Members Present:**

Dr. Jim Borsig, President, Mississippi University for Women  
Dr. Thomas Burke, representing Dr. Rodney Bennett, President, University of Southern Mississippi  
Mr. Lee Bush, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board  
Dr. William Bynum, President, Mississippi Valley State University  
Dr. Eric Clark, Executive Director, Mississippi Community College Board  
Chairman Herb Frierson, Chairman, House of Representatives Appropriations Committee  
Mr. Michael Jordan, Director, Division of Professional Development, MS Department of Mental Health  
Ms. Jeanne Massey representing Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education  
Chairman Nolan Mettetal, Chairman, House of Representatives Universities and Colleges Committee  
Chairman John Moore, Chairman, House of Representatives Education Committee  
Chairman John Polk, Chairman, Senate Universities and Colleges Committee  
Dr. Ronnie Nettles, President, Copiah-Lincoln Community College  
Dr. Jesse Smith, President, Jones County Junior College  
Dr. Billy Stewart, President, East Central Community College  
Chairman Gray Tollison, Chairman, Senate Education Committee

### **Council Members Not Present:**

Dr. Hank Bounds, Commissioner of Higher Education, Institutions of Higher Learning  
Mr. Ed Blakeslee, Trustee, Institutions of Higher Learning  
Chairman Eugene Clarke, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Mr. Chip Crane, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board  
Ms. Robin Robinson, Trustee, Institutions of Higher Learning  
Dr. Laurie Smith, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Phil Bryant  
Mr. Blake Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mississippi Economic Council

### **Others Present:**

Henry Anderson, Webmaster, Institutions of Higher Learning  
Dr. Glenn Boyce, Associate Commissioner of Academic and Student Affairs, Institutions of Higher Learning  
Dr. Jimmy Clarke, Director of Lumina Strategy Labs, via teleconference  
Ms. Menia Dykes, Director of Accreditation, Institutions of Higher Learning  
Ms. Kim Gallaspy, Director of Legislative Services, Institutions of Higher Learning

Ms. Clotee Lewis, Coordinator of Public Affairs  
Dr. Deborah Gilbert, Assoc. Executive Director, MS Community College Board  
Dr. Joan Haynes, Assoc. Executive Director, MS Community College Board  
Dr. Susan Lee, Director of Academic Affairs, Institutions of Higher Learning  
Mr. Kell Smith, Director of Communications and Legislative Services  
Ms. Kim Verneuille, Director of Proprietary Schools, MS Community College Board

## **I. Welcome**

Dr. Jesse Smith welcomed new Council member Dr. Billy Stewart, President of East Central Community College.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Borsig asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lee Bush moved that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ronnie Nettles. The motion carried.

## **III. Phi Theta Kappa Community College Completion Corps Program**

Dr. Billy Stewart was selected by the Community College Presidents to lead the Phi Theta Kappa Community College Completion Corps (C4) initiative. Dr. Stewart described the student-led initiative designed to encourage community college students to commit to earning their associate degree and to help at least one other complete. The program is intended to create a culture of completion on community college campuses across the nation.

The C4 initiative will engage faculty, staff and administrators in establishing a culture of completion on campus. All Mississippi Community Colleges will participate in C4 week November 17-24, 2014. C4 Week will include activities to increase awareness of the importance of completion and opportunities for students to sign the C4 pledge. A copy of Dr. Stewart's presentation is attached to these minutes.

## **IV. Graduation Rate Report Update**

Dr. Jim Borsig gave an update on the effort to determine an accurate graduation rate that accounts for all students. This effort will review data for all students who enrolled in 2007 full-time or part time in community colleges and universities. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate actual productivity for public higher education in Mississippi. Federal graduation rates do not report data for all students, so they do not give a full picture of completion rates. Drs. Smith and Borsig are working with the institutional research directors for IHL and MCCB to complete this project. Data will be requested from the National Student Clearinghouse to account for students who transfer to private institutions. Once the initial study is complete, the work can be repeated in order to compare data year over year.

## **V. Update on Financial Aid Study**

Dr. Smith reviewed the prior work of the study committee. He asked that IHL and MCCB recommend staff members to serve on the committee going forward.

The study committee will look at current programs and their effectiveness, examine programs geared toward adult and part-time students in other states, and seek opportunities to work with other organizations, such as the Kellogg Foundation, who have an interest in helping non-traditional students.

Chairman Frierson asked that the committee look for ways to tie taxpayer-sponsored aid to the probability of student success. He advised examining the success of past recipients of state aid programs.

Dr. Jimmy Clarke offered assistance and resources from the Lumina Strategy Labs to support the financial aid study. Dr. William Bynum also volunteered to serve on the study committee.

## **VI. Other Business**

Report cards will be presented at the October meeting. Colleges and universities will be reminded of the appropriate publication requirements.

## **VII. Upcoming Meeting**

The next meeting of the Education Achievement Council will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. in the IHL Board Room.

## **IX. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



# PHI THETA KAPPA

HONOR SOCIETY

## The Completion Challenge

### Phi Theta Kappa

- The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students.
- To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa provides opportunity for the development of leadership skills and the ideal of service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of idea and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.

## Phi Theta Kappa Size & Scope

- **Largest** honor society in higher education with 1,284 chapters on college campuses in all 50 United States and 9 sovereign nations.
  - 33 chapters in Mississippi
- Nearly 3 million students inducted since its founding in 1918.
- Approximately 131,000 students inducted annually.
- Headquartered in Jackson, MS.

## Phi Theta Kappa & the Completion Agenda

- Phi Theta Kappa was the only student organization invited to sign Democracy's Colleges: Call to Action.
- Credential completion opens doors for community college students and creates opportunities to help them reach their full potential, which is ultimately Phi Theta Kappa's mission.
- Phi Theta Kappa members not only support their fellow members in encouraging completion but also raise awareness of the necessity to complete a degree among all community college students.



## The Completion Challenge – WHY?

- Double the number of United States citizens who have earned a higher education credential or degree by 2020.
- Five million more community college graduates by 2020.

## Developing a Culture of Completion

To change organizational culture – members of a group first must *collectively* understand why behavioral change is necessary:

**“WHY COMPLETION MATTERS”**

- Trustees
- Faculty
- Staff
- Students
- Industry
- K-12 Partners
- Four-year institutions

## Why Complete?

- By transferring to a senior college prior to earning an associate degree, the likelihood of never earning a baccalaureate degree increases.
- In less than four years, nearly all new jobs will require a post secondary credential or degree.
- Students who drop out of college due to an unforeseen life experience without having earned a credential or degree will be hired less often than those with a degree or credential



## Community College Completion Corps

A student-led initiative to:

- Increase student success – students helping students finish what they start.
- Increase student awareness on the benefits of completion and the consequences of not.
- Plan for completion and transfer to senior college ([CollegeFish.org](http://CollegeFish.org)).
- Engage faculty, staff, and administrators in the effort to establish a culture of completion on campus.



## Community College Completion Corps

### *C4 Program Plan*

- Statewide and Local C4 planning committees formed.
- Phi Theta Kappa chapter officers and/or select student leaders meet with college president, administrators, and faculty leaders to discuss Statewide C4 initiative and gain commitment for college-wide support.
- College President, administrators, chapter advisor, and chapter officer sign C4 Commitment letter and send to Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters.



## Community College Completion Corps

### *C4 Program Plan*

- C4 materials requested from Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters, provided to campuses at no charge while supplies last.
- Dates set for one week during the fall term when all campuses will hold C4 activities – **November 17-21**.
- Plan C4 activities (example: one stop for students to complete a degree audit, declare a major, meet with career advisors and local employers, meet with an advisor, attend senior college fair, sign up for [CollegeFish.org](http://CollegeFish.org)).



## Community College Completion Corps

### *C4 Program Plan*

- Coordinate statewide press for C4 week with the State CC Office. Use press release template.
- Target Senior Colleges to participate by subscribing to and using [CollegeFish.org](http://CollegeFish.org) to highlight scholarship opportunities.



## Community College Completion Corps

### *C4 Program Plan – Students Commit to Complete*

- Distribute Commit to Complete cards (or electronic completion) to student organization leaders, who collect contact information section of the cards or provide electronic file to college.
- College flags records of students who sign Commitment to Complete. College sends communications to students to ensure that they are on track to complete, identifying in sequence tasks they should complete and support resources.
- Students who sign Commitment to Complete are invited to sign banner and are given a Completion Champion card to take to faculty or staff.
- Students present Completion Champion pledge to faculty/ staff members. Student assists with electronic completion of pledge and provides file listing all champions to college.



## Community College Completion Corps

### *The Student Pledge:*

- Commit to plan for college completion.
- Commit to discuss career planning with college instructors and staff.
- Commit to seek advisement on course selection to ensure timely college completion.
- Commit to serve as a role model by attending classes, being prepared, participating in and engaging in discussions with instructors and students inside and outside of class.
- Commit to reach out to students in need by encouraging, nurturing and guiding them toward college completion
- Commit to help at least one other student succeed



## Community College Completion Corps

### *The Faculty/Staff Pledge:*

- Commit to a change in the community college culture, from an emphasis on access only, to an emphasis on student success.
- Commit to eliminate the attainment gaps that separate student groups.
- Commit to act on facts & proven research to make positive changes in the interest of student success & college completion.
- Commit to reach out to students by mentoring, encouraging, & guiding them toward college completion.



## Community College Completion Corps

### *Completion Champions Pledge*

- Faculty & staff are presented the Completion Champion pledge by a student who has signed the Commit to Complete pledge.
- Faculty & staff sign pledge.
- Faculty & staff are invited to sign the Completion Champion banner.
- College recognizes campus-wide those who have signed the Completion Champion pledge and compiles & circulates collectively the specific ways they have committed to helping students complete.



## Community College Completion Corps Toolkits

- Promotional Posters (5 for students; 2 for faculty/staff)
- “Call to Action” Poster
- Student “Commit to Complete” Cards
- Faculty/staff “Completion Champions” Cards
- C4 Planning Guides
- Student Signing Banner
- Faculty/staff Signing Banner
- Access to [CollegeFish.org](http://CollegeFish.org)



## Community College Completion Corps

### Phi Theta Kappa Senior College Partners in Mississippi

Alcorn State University  
Belhaven University  
Blue Mountain College  
Delta State University  
Jackson State University  
Millsaps College  
Mississippi College

Mississippi State University  
Mississippi University for  
Women  
University of Mississippi  
University of Southern  
Mississippi  
William Carey University



The image shows a screenshot of the website [www.cccompletioncorps.org](http://www.cccompletioncorps.org). At the top left is the C4 logo. The main content area features a video player with the text "JOIN THE CORPS" in large white letters on a black background. Below the video player is a blue button that says "Pledge Now!". The background of the video player is a collage of handwritten notes and signatures, including names like "Michael" and "Cole".



The image shows a screenshot of the website [www.cccompletioncorps.org](http://www.cccompletioncorps.org) with the title "Statewide Initiatives". The C4 logo is in the top left corner. The page lists the following states in two columns:

California	Mississippi
Colorado	Montana
Delaware	Nebraska
Georgia	New Jersey
Indiana	New York
Iowa	New Mexico
Kansas	Pennsylvania
Kentucky	Nevada
Louisiana	Tennessee
Maryland	Texas
Minnesota	Wisconsin
Missouri	