

**Education Achievement Council Meeting  
Monday, October 23, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**BE IT REMEMBERED that the Education Achievement Council met in the Mississippi Community College Board Room in Jackson, Mississippi, at 2:00 p.m. on October 23, 2023. Some members and guests participated via zoom, as listed below.**

**Council Members Present:**

Dr. Jay Allen, President, Itawamba Community College  
Ms. Kristen Windham representing Dr. Eileen K. Beazley, Head Start Collaboration Office Director, Governor's Office, via zoom  
Dr. Donna Boone representing Dr. Raymond Morgigno, Interim State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi Department of Education  
Dr. Glenn F. Boyce, Chancellor, University of Mississippi, via zoom  
Dr. Jerryl Briggs, President, Mississippi Valley State University, via zoom  
Mr. Chris Burgio, Campus Director, Concorde Career College, via zoom  
Dr. Tracy Cook, Interim President, Alcorn State University, via zoom  
Dr. Jason Dean, Executive Director, Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
The Honorable Briggs Hopson, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Appropriations Committee, via zoom  
Dr. Tyrone Jackson, President, Mississippi Delta Community College, via zoom  
Mr. John Pigott, Chairman, Mississippi Community College Board, via zoom  
Ms. Vickie Powell, representing Mr. Scott Waller, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mississippi Economic Council  
Dr. Al Rankins, Commissioner of Higher Education, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
Mr. Kell Smith, Executive Director, Mississippi Community College Board

**Council Members Absent:**

Ms. Rosemary Aultman, Chair, State Board of Education  
The Honorable Richard Bennett, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Education Committee  
The Honorable Dennis DeBar, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Education Committee  
Mr. Tom Duff, Trustee, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
Dr. Jim Haffey, President, Holmes Community College  
Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Trustee, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
The Honorable Mac Huddleston, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Universities and Colleges Committee  
Ms. Dolly Marascalco, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board  
Mr. Adam Moore, Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
The Honorable Rita Parks, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Universities and Colleges Committee  
The Honorable John Read, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Appropriations Committee

**Others Present:**

Mr. Tyler Camp, Special Assistant to the President, Itawamba Community College  
Mr. Jason Carter, Deputy Executive Director for Finance and Administration, Mississippi Community College Board  
Mr. Jimmy Clarke, Senior Director of State Policy, HCM Strategists, via zoom

Mrs. Marilyn Gardner, Administrative Assistant for Academic and Student Affairs, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
Ms. Yolanda Houston, Director of MS Consortium for Higher Education in Prisons, Woodward Hines Education Foundation, via zoom  
Ms. Cynthia Jiles, Director of Human Resources, Mississippi Community College Board, via zoom  
Ms. Jean Massey, Executive Director, Ascent to 55%  
Ms. Heather Morrison, Director of P20 Partnerships, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
Dr. Rachel DeVaughan-Partrick, Deputy Executive Director for Programs, Mississippi Community College Board, via zoom  
Dr. Angela Payne, Assistant Executive Director for Institutional Research and Effectiveness, Mississippi Community College Board  
Dr. Casey Prestwood, Associate Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, and EAC Executive Secretary  
Dr. Sheriece Robinson, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Institutions of Higher Learning, viz zoom  
Dr. Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, via zoom  
Dr. Kim Verneuille, Director of the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration, Mississippi Community College Board

### **Welcome**

EAC Chairman Dr. Jay Allen called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. He welcomed members of the EAC and all others in attendance to the meeting.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Allen asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Dr. Jason Dean moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Kell Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Allen called for approval of the minutes from the April 24, 2023, meeting. Mr. Kell Smith moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Al Rankins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Adoption of Annual Report Cards**

Dr. Angela Payne, Assistant Executive Director for Institutional Research and Effectiveness, Mississippi Community College Board, presented the annual report cards for the community colleges (Exhibit #1).

Ms. Mitzi Gendron, Director of Strategic Research, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, presented the annual report cards for the universities (Exhibit #2).

Dr. Jason Dean, Executive Director, Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities presented a report on the degrees awarded by the Mississippi Independent Colleges and Universities for AY 22-23 (Exhibit #3).

Mr. Chris Burgio, Chair of the Mississippi Association of Proprietary Schools and Colleges, presented a report on the degrees awarded by the Proprietary Schools and Colleges for FY 2023 (Exhibit #4).

Mr. Kell Smith moved to adopt the report cards as presented. Dr. Jason Dean seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The report cards will be published on the EAC webpage, [www.mississippi.edu/eac](http://www.mississippi.edu/eac) by November 1<sup>st</sup>, as required by statute.

**Update on Educational Attainment Goal:**

Ms. Jean Massey, Executive Director, Ascent to 55%, and Dr. Jason Dean, Executive Director, Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, gave an update on the Ascent to 55% presentation. Ms. Massey reported Mississippi's attainment rate is at 48.5 percent. The number of Mississippians with either a Bachelors or a Graduate or Professional degree increased between 2013 and 2021 from 318,581 to 369,332. Dr. Dean added the number of degrees awarded to individuals has increased even though the population has declined.

Ms. Massey referred to the "Theory of Change: Ascent to 55%" that will align Accelerate Mississippi's occupational demands with Ascent to 55% attainment goals. As part of the Theory of Change, it will ensure Mississippi State Board of Education's public school accountability model aligns with the workforce training needs of the state. It will also help develop specific policies that align relevant career pathways between high schools and college-level workforce training opportunities.

Over the next year, the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) and AccelerateMS will continue to conduct eight regional Ecosystem listening tours to gather essential information to help form the strategic plan for Mississippi's Ascent to 55% initiative.

To help achieve the goals of "Ascent to 55%", Ms. Massey would like to establish Ecosystem Attainment Workforce Committees (EAWC) in four areas across the state. Accelerate MS has agreed to assign coordinators in each of those four areas, but there is a need to have additional individuals serve on that committee. A copy of the Ascent to 55% presentation is attached to these minutes.

Dr. Dean shared a handout "Ascent to 55%" that includes the data relating to Mississippians aged 24-65 with credentials of value and data that shows the needed growth by credentials by 2030. A copy of that handout is attached to these minutes.

**College and Career Readiness:**

Ms. Heather Morrison reported that at the EAC meeting held on October 24, 2022, Dr. Allen assigned a P20 Taskforce charged with creating a college and career readiness definition for Mississippi. At a meeting held in May, the members worked on creating a clear definition for Mississippi but felt a need to review it over the summer months.

On behalf of the committee members, Ms. Morrison will present a definition to the EAC at a later time due to changes that might be made to the Mississippi Department of Education's Accountability Model.

**Noncredit Mobility Academy- Call for State Teams:**

Dr. Casey Prestwood reported the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), in partnership with the Education Strategy Group (ESG) and Opportunity America (OA), is offering states an opportunity to form teams that participate in the noncredit mobility academy. The Noncredit Mobility Academy is a two-year initiative that will support states as they develop a vision for noncredit workforce education and how noncredit training can serve as starting point and an accelerator on a pathway to completing a credit-bearing credential or degree.

There are four goals set. Each state will choose one of the four goals to pursue during the two-year academy. Each state will also be asked to recruit a steering committee. A copy of the Noncredit Mobility Academy is attached to these minutes.

Dr. Allen, on behalf of the EAC, would like to endorse the Noncredit Mobility Academy. He asked the steering committee that is assigned to the Noncredit Mobility Academy to bring back an update to the EAC.

Mr. Kell Smith made a motion for the Education Achievement Council to consider endorsing the Noncredit Mobility Academy. Dr. Jason Dean seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting of the Education Achievement Council meeting will be determined at a later date.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.