

**Education Achievement Council Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2024**

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Education Achievement Council met in the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board Room in Jackson, Mississippi, at 2:00 p.m. on October 21, 2024. Some members and guests participated via zoom, as listed below.

Council Members Present:

Dr. Jay Allen, President, Itawamba Community College, via zoom
Dr. Eileen K. Beazley, Head Start Collaboration Office Director, Governor's Office, via zoom
Dr. Glenn F. Boyce, Chancellor, University of Mississippi, via zoom
Senator Nicole Boyd, Chair, Universities and Colleges Committee
Dr. Adam Breerwood, President, Pearl River Community College, via zoom
Dr. Jerryl Briggs, President, Mississippi Valley State University, via zoom
Mr. Chris Burgio, Campus Director, Concorde Career College, via zoom
Dr. Jason Dean, Executive Director, Mississippi Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities
Dr. Lance Evans, State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi Department of Education
Ms. Dolly Marascalco, Board Member, 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
Ms. Teresa Webster, Interim President, Mississippi Delta Community College, via zoom

Council Members Absent:

Dr. Tracy Cook, President, Alcorn State University
Senator Dennis DeBar, Chairman, Education Committee
Mr. Glen East, Chair, Mississippi State Board of Education
Senator Briggs Hopson, Chairman, Appropriations Committee
Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Trustee, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Mr. Adam Moore, Director of the Office of Planning and Communications, Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Mr. John Pigott, Chairman, Mississippi Community College Board
Representative Donnie Scoggin, Chairman, Universities and Colleges Committee
Representative John Read, Chairman, Appropriations Committee
Representative Rob Roberson, Chairman, Education Committee

Others Present:

Mr. Henry Anderson, Website and Systems Administrator, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Mr. Jason Carter, Deputy Executive Director for Finance and Administration, Mississippi Community College Board
Dr. Erin Eaton, Assistant Executive Director for Academic and Student Affairs, Mississippi Community College Board
Mrs. Marilyn Gardner, Administrative Assistant for Academic and Student Affairs, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Ms. Mitzi Gendron, Director of Strategic Research, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Dr. Satya Maddali, Research Analyst for Accountability, Mississippi Community College Board

Ms. Jean Massey, Executive Director, Ascent to 55%
Dr. Laura Mayer, Assistant Commissioner for External Affairs, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
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. Marie Roberts, Assistant Director for Communications and Policy Advocacy, Woodward Hines Education Foundation
Ms. Holly Robinson, Lt. Governor's Office
Mr. John Sewell, Director of Communications, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Ms. Leah Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff, Senators Office
Dr. Melissa Temple, Director of Nursing Education, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Dr. Kim Verneuille, Director of the Commission on Proprietary Schools and College Registration, Mississippi Community College Board
Ms. Shanell Watson, Program Office, Woodward Hines Education Foundation

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. Senator Nicole Boyd moved to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Al Rankins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Allen called for approval of the minutes from the April 22, 2024, meeting. Mr. Kell Smith moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Jason Dean seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adoption of Annual Report Cards

Mr. Kell Smith, Executive Director, 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 Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities presented a report on the degrees awarded by the Mississippi Independent Colleges and Universities for AY 23-24 (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 2024 (Exhibit #4).

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

The report cards will be published on the EAC webpage, www.mississippi.edu/eac by November 1st, as required by statute.

Update on Educational Attainment Goal:

Ms. Jean Massey, Executive Director, Ascent to 55%, gave an update on Ascent to 55%. Since the last EAC meeting, the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) and AccelerateMS conducted regional Ecosystem listening tours across the state.

In May, Woodward Hines Education Foundation (WHEF) legislative delegation visited with congressional members to discuss Ascent to 55%, Prison Education, and FAFSA.

Moving forward, WHEF and MEC is in the process of planning an Ascent to 55% Convening for October 2025 and will host a “Work Ready Community” meeting on February 11, 2025.

Dr. Marie Roberts, Assistant Director for Communications and Policy Advocacy, WHEF, presented a revised Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) program called MTAG Works.

MTAG Works will help meet the workforce demand and boost economic growth in line with Mississippi’s Ascent to 55% goal (Exhibits#5). MTAG was created in 1995 to help middle-class families, but the program hasn’t changed to meet today’s needs.

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 at 2:45 p.m.