



## **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Advancing Mississippi Conference Agenda** **Friday, September 26, 2025**

### **9:30 Welcome**

### **9:50-10:50 Session A - Preparing Our Children for the Future**

The Impact of Student Achievement and School Funding on the Mississippi Delta's Future  
*by Shanell Bailey*

Do TANF Rules Allow Mississippi the Flexibility to Increase Child Care Subsidies? *by Matt Williams*

Leaving Growth on the Table: Classroom-Level Effects of Kindergarten Readiness on Student Outcomes *by Lizzy Thornton*

### **11:00 – 12:00 Session B – Developing an Unstoppable Workforce**

Advancing Mississippi's Human Capital in the Age of AI: Targeted Workforce Strategies from AI Exposure and Complementarity Analysis *by Duy Nguyen*

*From Debut to Final Curtain: Investment in Highschool Theatre is Investment in Our Future*  
*by Scarlett Leake*

*Bridging Mississippi's Human Capital Gap: A Scalable Micro-Credentials Framework for Economic Growth* *by Marian Montgomery Chancellor*

### **12- 1:30 Lunch**

### **1:40-2:40 Session C - Mastering Post Secondary Education**

Gauging Environmental Influences to Recruit, Admit, and Graduate Students at Delta State University: A Geospatial Analysis of Mississippi *by Serge Herzog*

The Effect of On-Campus Housing and Off-Campus Rental Costs on Enrollment *by Kallen Zhou*

Recruiting, Retaining and Mentoring Black Male College Students *by Fredrick Webb*

## **2:50- 3:50 Session D – Generating Growth through Community**

Effects of Distressed Institutional Infrastructure on Entrepreneurial Firms. A Case Study of Jackson, Mississippi *by Sharon Simmons*

Creating Local Entrepreneurs and Healthy Communities in the Rural Mississippi Through Telehealth Kiosks *by Babu George*

Population Change & Community Vitality: Developing a Roadmap for the Future of Mississippi *by Population Change and Community Vitality Taskforce, MSU*

## **3:50 – 4 Closing Remarks**