



# CREATE

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI'S  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## April News and Updates

### *2017 Governor's Award*

*Imagine the Possibilities* Career Expo was honored with the Governor's Award from Mississippi Association of Partners in Education. MAPE recognized Mississippi's top school-community partnerships during its 15th annual Governor's Awards luncheon in March. MAPE awards partnerships programs that have produced outstanding results for students in Mississippi's K-12 public schools.



Sean Suggs, Toyota VP Manufacturing, accepts the award from Mike Clayborne, CREATE President.



### *In the News*

#### **OUR OPINION: Toyota shows power of regional collaboration**

Posted on [February 28, 2017](#) by [Daily Journal](#) in [Opinion](#)

Ten years have passed since an announcement that would have a deep impact on

Northeast Mississippi. Leaders from Toyota gathered at a ceremony at Tupelo High School's Performing Arts Center on Feb. 27, 2007 and said the company would open its eighth North American assembly plant at a site in Blue Springs in Union County.

The news was the culmination of years of hard work by area economic developers who had forged a unique partnership. Leaders in Pontotoc, Union and Lee counties came together to form the PUL Alliance, pooling their expertise, resources and efforts in order to increase their chances of bringing a major industrial project to Northeast Mississippi.

While the collaboration seems obvious now, it was trend-setting at the time. When the Mississippi Development Authority approved the formation of the PUL Alliance in 2003, it became the first regional alliance recognized by the state. Yet it just continued a long tradition in Northeast Mississippi of people putting aside individual interests and working together to achieve something far greater in scope. Continue reading [here](#).

### **OUR OPINION: Toyota's regional, state impact continues**

Posted on [March 17, 2017](#) by [Daily Journal](#) in [Opinion](#)

For the last 10 years, Northeast Mississippi has often seen firsthand the impact to our state brought on by Toyota Mississippi and its production facility in Blue Springs.

But seeing that impact detailed in a national study brings to light just how significant of a community partner Toyota is for our region and the entire Magnolia State.

The Center for Automotive Research, a national think tank, recently completed a study that detailed Toyota's contributions in Mississippi, the top highlights of which include \$960 million invested in facilities and 6,700 jobs – direct and indirect – throughout the state, among other items.

Since then, Toyota and its employees have contributed to the communities in our region significantly. Continue reading [here](#).

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## *New Funds Established*

### **ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

- Anonymous
- First Regional Library – Oxford Trust Endowment

### **SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDS**

- H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Excel)– Reading Readiness Initiative
  - Art and Healthy Foods Together Create a Happy Life
  - Itawamba County Bicentennial Celebration
-



# Imagine

the possibilities

Northeast Mississippi Career Expo

October 3-5, 2017

Sponsored by the Toyota Wellspring Education Fund at CREATE

**BECOME A  
SPONSOR**

Planning meetings for Imagine the Possibilities Career Expo 2017 have already begun!  
Mark your calendars for October 3-5!

Interested in sponsoring the event? Contact Albine Bennett at 844-8989 or please click on  
the button below for more information.

[ITP 2017 Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



**Kauffman Foundation**  
**FastTrac NewVenture Entrepreneurship**  
**Training Offered in the Fulton Area**

**Dates:** Thursday Evenings April 13–June 8, 2017

**Location:** ICDC Office- 107 W. Wiygul Street, Fulton, MS 38843  
(662) 862-4571

**Time:** 5:30-8:00 pm

**Area:** Northeast Mississippi including counties of Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Prentiss, Tishomingo

**Cost:** \$50.00 to register but recipients will receive a refund when they complete the course.

**Facilitator:** Bill Martin, Mississippi State University

**Partners:** Itawamba County Development Council  
Franklin Furniture Institute, Mississippi State University

**Sponsors:** Appalachian Regional Commission

**For More Information Contact:** Vaunita Martin, Executive Director  
Itawamba County Development Council  
Email: [vmartin@itawamba.com](mailto:vmartin@itawamba.com)  
Phone: 662-862-4571

**Register**

Contact Amy Garrard, Franklin Furniture Institute  
Mississippi State University  
Phone: 662.325.8453  
Email: [a.garrard@mssstate.edu](mailto:a.garrard@mssstate.edu)

*Why do you give?*

Judy and I have been making our charitable contributions for years through our Advised Fund at CREATE - whether it be to the church, St. Jude Hospital, our high school alma mater or to unexpected needs such as tornado relief in Tupelo recently and in neighboring Smithville a few years ago. CREATE handles all of the details and paperwork and, most important, respects and follows our charitable wishes to the letter.

- Larry Kirk

## OUR MISSION

CREATE Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for the people of Northeast Mississippi through:

- Building permanent community endowment assets
- Encouraging philanthropy and managing charitable funds contributed by individuals, families, organizations and corporations
- Strengthening the regional community development capacity
- Taking a leadership role on key community issues and impacting the region through gifts and targeted grant-making

CREATE Foundation | 662-844-8989 | 662-844-8149 | [www.createfoundation.com](http://www.createfoundation.com)



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