

# SOAR

— *Your Community Foundation*—  
*where Starkville/Oktibbeha contributions are spent  
for local enhancement projects.*

SOAR stands for Starkville/Oktibbeha Achieving Results and was established in 2002 as an affiliate with CREATE, a 42-year-old public, charitable, community foundation. SOAR's endowment fund is invested and managed by CREATE, but a **local** board of directors retains control over the money used for grants for projects aimed at benefiting Starkville and the entire county.

The current Board Members of SOAR, representing a cross section of the community, are John Robert Arnold, Dr. David Boles, Bobby Crosland, Suzanne Dressel, Dr. Dora Herring, Pat Lane, Paul Milsaps, Buddy Staggers, Nellah Taylor (Chair), Alan Tucker, Charles Weatherly, Dr. Martha Wells, Ross Williams, and Dr. Marty Wiseman.

As your community foundation, SOAR can serve as a clearinghouse for donors in their charitable giving. Gifts to SOAR can be made in cash, stock, real estate, personal property, insurance, charitable trusts, and bequests in wills. Cash gifts can be given by automatic bank draft, check, or online with a credit card. As a 501(c)(3) organization, gifts to SOAR are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

SOAR has awarded grants totaling \$122,816 to 27 different organizations and projects in Starkville and other communities in Oktibbeha County since 2005.

If you have any questions about SOAR or need more information about giving through SOAR, please contact Jan Eastman, Executive Director, at 662-534-3230 or [jeastma1@bellsouth.net](mailto:jeastma1@bellsouth.net).

SOAR Community Foundation presents

2016 Starkville/Oktibbeha

## *Teacher of Distinction*

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE THAT SETS ONE APART



HONORING THE SERVICE & DEDICATION  
OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOL TEACHERS  
THROUGHOUT OKTIBBEHA COUNTY



# 2016 Teacher of Distinction Nomination Form

(Please print clearly.)

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject(s) Taught: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s) Taught: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you believe this teacher should receive a Teacher of Distinction Award?

Nomination submitted by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nomination Deadline: June 1, 2016**  
**Mail to: SOAR, P.O. Box 80010, Starkville, MS 39760**

## Award Purpose

1. To recognize, reward, and support teachers of distinction in Starkville and Oktibbeha County.
2. To attract private and public resources to build the SOAR community endowment fund to help support excellent teaching

## Award Program

- Fund up to three (3) \$1000 awards for teachers
- Present a symbol of this designation as a Teacher of Distinction

## Award Criteria

- Teachers of grades K-12 (including Special Education) in Starkville and Oktibbeha County public and private schools
- Student academic performance and growth
- Ability to inspire students
- Excellence beyond required duties
- Professional achievement and development
- Ambassador for the school and education
- Effective approaches to teaching
- High level of integrity in all areas

## Nomination, Application, and Selection Process

- Nominations may be made by a student, parent, teacher, administrator, any school district employee or community citizen based on their observation and assessment of the nominee.
- A nominated teacher must then apply by submitting the required documentation supporting their nomination.
- A local screening committee designated to represent the community will provide an initial screening of all applications. An external selection will choose the award winners from that pool of teachers.
- Nominations will be due to SOAR by June 1, 2016. Awards will be presented in January, 2017.