



## March News and Updates

### *DROPOUT PREVENTION SUMMIT XI*

Northeast Mississippi school leaders came together last week to talk dropout prevention and reflect on improvements in the region's high school graduation rates shown in the latest data released by the state department of education.

Twenty-five of the 32 school districts covered by the Commission on the Future of Northeast Mississippi, an arm of the CREATE Foundation, were represented at this year's Dropout Prevention Summit.

The annual event brings educators together to look at best practices for increasing graduation rates and reducing the number of dropouts.

The Commission has been studying dropout rates in Northeast Mississippi for the past 12 years.

According to Lewis Whitfield,



**COMMISSION**  
ON THE FUTURE OF NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI  
CREATE FOUNDATION



Mimmo Parisi, executive director for the National Strategic Planning & Analysis Research Center, gives dropout statistics as he speaks to area school administrators at the annual CREATE Dropout Prevention Summit. Photo Credit Daily Journal.

CREATE senior vice president, the dropout rate for the state of Mississippi has improved dramatically since 2006, dropping from 17.6 percent to 10.6 percent.

In looking at the most recent data, Whitfield said 25 of the 32 school districts in the region have a dropout rate at or below the state average.

Nineteen of those 32 districts have a dropout rate below 10 percent, which is the Commission's goal for all of its school districts.

Continue reading at [Daily Journal here](#).

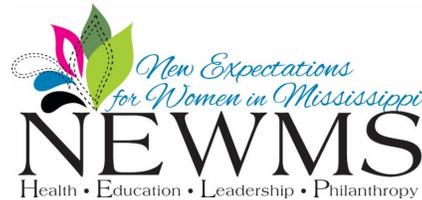


Northeast Mississippi school administrators attend the annual Dropout Prevention Summit. Photo credit: Daily Journal.

## *In the News*



**Career Expo wins statewide recognition**



**NEWMS to honor five female leaders at Women of Distinction luncheon**



# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Phantom Ball

Save **THE** Date

APRIL 1st, 2018

Show your support for Tupelo/Lee County Community Foundation by donating from your couch or office today!

Please mail your donation to: CREATE Foundation C/O Tupelo/Lee County Community Foundation  
P.O. Box 1053, Tupelo, MS 38802

## *Scholarship Opportunities*



Do you know of graduating high school senior? Are they planning on pursuing post-secondary education? Make sure they know about our scholarships! 18 counties have scholarships available with deadlines fast approaching!

**CREATE Scholarships**



# Imagine

the possibilities

Northeast Mississippi Career Expo  
In affiliation with Pathways2Possibilities

October 2-4, 2018

Sponsored by the Toyota Wellspring Education Fund at CREATE

# BECOME A SPONSOR

Planning meetings for *Imagine the Possibilities* Career Expo 2018 have already begun! Mark your calendars for October 2-4!

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

[ITP 2018 Sponsorship Levels](#)

## *Why do you serve?*

Service on the CREATE board is a wonderful opportunity to support our efforts to build community throughout the northeast Mississippi region. As has been the case with so many of his ideas, George McLean's vision of an entity to carry the goals of the Daily Journal forward to future generations continues to be fruitful. We also know that the charitable contributions we make through CREATE are put to work with a strong focus on our fiduciary responsibility to the donor.

- Aubrey Patterson

**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)

