



## November News and Updates

### *Annual Meeting 2019*

CREATE Foundation held it's Annual Meeting on November 1st at the BancorpSouth Conference Center. More than 200 community members from Northeast Mississippi attended the meeting.

The annual meeting serves as an annual update to donors as well as the awards ceremony for the McLean Award for Philanthropy and the James Hugh Ray Community Affiliate Award.

### *McLean Award Winners Mossy Oak*



Mossy Oak founder and CEO Toxey Haas, left, accepts the McLean Award from Bo Collins. Photo credit: Thomas well at Daily Journal.

Mossy Oak received the CREATE Foundation's McLean Award for Philanthropy at CREATE's Annual Meeting. The McLean Award for Philanthropy was established to honor those individuals, families and organizations that exemplify CREATE Founders George and Anna Keirseay McLean's spirit of charitable giving. It recognizes the extraordinary leadership of people working to improve the quality of life in their communities and in the northeast Mississippi region. Read about the award winner [here](#).

Some of their major contributions to the area include funds for Clay County 4H, Aiming for a Cure, Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Oak Hill Academy, MSU Foundation, Mullen Family 36 Foundation, Palmer Home for Children, Sportsmen Organized for Law Enforcement (SOLE), St Jude's Children Research Hospital, TK Martin Center for Technology and Disability, and WPCC Arts Council.

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*James Hugh Ray Award Winner:  
Tupelo/Lee County Community Foundation*

This award was established from a \$60,000 endowment, funded by the Journal and other friends of Mr. Ray following his death. Given his life's work in Northeast Mississippi, we determined this award would be a fitting way to memorialize his many contributions to our region and to the CREATE Foundation. The award is presented annually to a deserving community affiliate. This year award goes to Tupelo/Lee County Community Foundation located in Tupelo, MS. Since 2016, Tupelo/Lee County Community Foundation has given grants to 38 organizations in the total amount of \$51,250. Grants include monies to local police departments for body cameras, county's food pantries, Tupelo High School Band Boosters, Boys and Girls Clubs of North Mississippi, Tupelo Public Schools and Lee County School District, formation of the Tupelo/Lee County Hunger coalition, and recipients at "A Night for A Hand Up".



**TUPELO/LEE COUNTY**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
AN AFFILIATE OF CREATE FOUNDATION

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***CREATE Foundation Receives Prestigious  
Winter-Reed Partnership Award***



Mike Clayborne, President of CREATE, along with Bo Collins, chairman, receive the award. Photo credit: Daily Journal

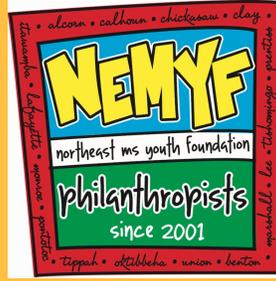
The Winter-Reed Partnership Award is a very special honor presented to Mississippians who are devoted to improving public education. Launched by MAPE in 2007, the award is designed to honor the unique bipartisan partnership forged by Governor William Winter and the late Tupelo businessman Jack Reed Sr. Since the inaugural presentation, the Winter-Reed Award has been presented annually to recognize Mississippians who have helped improve and promote public education in the state. Both Winter and Reed have a strong background in promoting and improving public education in Mississippi, the South and nationwide.

“No two organizations received more of Dad’s energy, thought, and effort than CREATE and the State Board of Education,” said Jack Reed Jr. “He would be enormously proud to have seen the CREATE Foundation honored in this way. He certainly would have felt it to be an appropriate recipient. He also would have given high praise to both the terrific professional staff of CREATE and to the exceptional quality of the members of the CREATE Board, which together have done much more than ‘light a single candle’ to fight the darkness of Mississippi’s struggles to provide excellence in public education.

“In making its selection for the Winter-Reed honoree,” says Dr. Leslie Griffin, President of MAPE, “the MAPE board seeks to shine a spotlight on those individuals or organizations who have achieved enduring positive impact on communities through education — particularly via school-community partnerships. It would be rare to have a conversation with colleagues in Northeast Mississippi about an education initiative without hearing a reference to the CREATE Foundation. There seems to be a sense of family among CREATE stakeholders—the idea that whatever the goal or issue, the CREATE Foundation is going to be at the table to support and move an initiative forward. This is particularly true in the area of education. These stakeholders reflect a great sense of pride in what they are able to accomplish through the network of partnerships and support established through the Foundation.”

*Incoming NEMYF Class of 2018-2019*

Northeast Mississippi Youth Foundation (NEMYF) welcomes the 2018-2019 class at the annual retreat at Global Outreach in Pontotoc, MS. NEMYF is youth directed foundation, established to offer 11th and 12th graders in Northeast Mississippi leadership opportunities and the chance to learn about philanthropy and community involvement.



Incoming board members work together on leadership skills, communication and teamwork.



2018-2019 NEMYF Board Members who were presented at the annual retreat.  
(Please note several members were missing due to other obligations).

## 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

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