



March News and Updates

DROPOUT PREVENTION SUMMIT XII

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 registered for 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 working with its partners to reduce dropout rates in Northeast Mississippi for the past 12 years.

According to Lewis Whitfield, CREATE senior vice president, the dropout rate for



Corinth School Superintendent Dr. Lee Childress discusses his District of Innovation and how it has improved the students' education despite the State of Mississippi giving it a failing grade. Photo Credit Daily Journal.

the state of Mississippi has improved dramatically since 2006, dropping from 17.6 percent to 10.1 percent.

In looking at the most recent data, Whitfield said 25 of the 32 school districts in the region have a dropout rate below the state average and below the Commission's goal of 10% for all of the region's school districts.



Read entire story [here](#).

Christy Maulding of Starkville takes notes as she listens to speakers at the Dropout Prevention Summit at the UM-Tupelo Advanced Education Center on Briar Ridge Road in Tupelo.
Photo credit: Daily Journal.



Announcing the hiring of
Rebecca Nelson

Director of Volunteer
Northeast Mississippi



Contact her at
662-432-0158 or
rebecca@unitedwaynems.org

volunteernems.org

Scholarship Opportunities



Do you know a 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 1-3, 2019

Sponsored by the Toyota Wellspring Education Fund at CREATE

**BECOME A
SPONSOR**

Planning meetings for *Imagine the Possibilities* Career Expo 2019 have already begun! Mark your calendars for October 1-3!

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

ITP 2019 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

