



June News and Updates

State of the Region Address

Even though Jay Moon is president and CEO of the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, workforce issues go beyond manufacturing, he said.

Finding, training and keeping qualified workers in all fields and industries is the greatest challenge of today – and tomorrow.

“There are a lot of issues that affect workforce availability, including globalization and technology, not only across the nation but certainly the state and this region,” Moon said. “When we talk about the workforce, we have to talk about what’s going on in the work place. Manufacturing may be ground zero for technology and innovation, but it also impacts retail and the services industry. So when we talk about our communities and how vibrant they are, their GDP and how that makes it go in the community, there are a lot of challenges we face.”

Moon was one of the speakers at the CREATE Foundation’s annual “State of the Region” meeting, whose theme was “Expanding our Workforce.”

Also speaking was Kristy Luse, who directs the Toyota Wellspring Education Fund through CREATE, who said some of the initiatives launched in recent years – from the “Imagine the Possibilities” Career Expo, funding of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and



Jay Moon addresses the crowd. Photo Credit: Adam Robinson/The Daily Journal

Mathematics) programs and Districts of Innovation – serve as a beacon for the rest of the state.

Both Moon and Luse were clear in their central message that communities must do whatever they can to help guide and prepare today’s students and workers for the jobs of the future.

“We’re going to have to up our game in doing what’s right,” Moon said. “We’ve got a lot of competition around the world, and certainly here in the United States. What we have to do is focus on some big things, while on the community level focus on some small things in order to be competitive in the future.”

Read the entire story at [Daily Journal](#).



Dr. Kristy Luse presents during the State of the Region meeting. Photo Credit: Adam Robinson/The Daily Journal



COMMISSION
ON THE FUTURE OF NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI
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Dickie Scruggs shares his story and mission with 2nd Chance



Crowd at the annual State of the Region meeting. Photo Credit: Adam Robinson/The Daily Journal



Nettie Davis receives this year's Jack Reed, Sr. Community Leadership Award from Bo Collins, CREATE Chair. Photo credit: Adam Robinson/The Daily Journal



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[Click on the report above to view the entire report.](#)

*Updates from the
Toyota Wellspring
Education Fund*

[Toyota Wellspring leaders hear from career coaches about pilot program progress](#)

By Cristina Carreon Daily Journal



King early childhood center focuses on summer learning for rising kindergarteners

By Cristina Carreon Daily Journal



Evanoff: Putting dollars into vocational education

Ted Evanoff, Memphis Commercial Appeal

Jakiya Conway starts building her house with building blocks at King Early Childhood Education Center. Photo courtesy of Thomas Wells, Daily Journal.



Career day held in Holly Springs last month. Over 400 students participated from local schools.



Congrats to all North Pontotoc High School, South Pontotoc High School, and Pontotoc High School students signing with ICC, Northeast, Caterpillar, and the Military branches.

Why do you serve?

I contribute to the CREATE Foundation to further the great work and support that CREATE provides to the families and organizations in Northeast Mississippi.

- Cathy Robertson

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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