



## July News and Updates



## State of the Region Meeting 2021



CREATE Foundation's Commission on the Future of Northeast Mississippi hosted its annual State of the Region meeting on Thursday, June 10, at the BancorpSouth Conference Center in Tupelo.

The featured speakers were Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann and Northern District Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley. Lt. Governor Hosemann addressed the topic "My Vision for



Hundreds of guests attended Thursday's annual State of Region meeting, held by the CREATE Foundation at the BancorpSouth Conference Center in Tupelo.

Thomas Wells | PHOTOS.DJOURNAL.COM

Mississippi.” Commissioner Presley presented his views on “Northeast Mississippi’s Broadband Revolution.”

To learn more about the event, please click on any of the links below.

[CREATE Foundation experiences unprecedented growth](#)

[Hosemann: Invest money for the next couple of generations](#)

[Presley: 'We're in the midst of a broadband revolution](#)

[State of the Region can grow stronger with 'generational change'](#)



Recipients of the CREATE Foundation’s 2020 Jack Reed, Sr. Northeast Mississippi Community Leadership Award include, from left, H.L. “Sandy” Williams, Hassell Franklin, and Mary Childs, who accepted on behalf of her late father, Bobby. Martin. Aubrey Patterson, not pictured, also received the award.

Thomas Wells | PHOTOS.DJOURNAL.COM



Northern District Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley informs guests of the progress that is being made throughout the region and the state getting high-speed internet into rural areas during CREATE Foundation’s annual State of Region meeting.

Thomas Wells | PHOTOS.DJOURNAL.COM



Lt. Gov. Delbert Hoseman delivers his vision for Mississippi, Thursday, at the annual State of Region meeting.

Thomas Wells | PHOTOS.DJOURNAL.COM

## Mike Clayborne Recognized for Leadership





During the 2021 State of the Region meeting, CREATE Foundation's Board of Directors recognized Mike Clayborne, CREATE President, for his outstanding leadership and service to the organization.

## Scholarships

CREATE Foundation's scholarship funds provide a way to honor and memorialize loved ones while giving deserving students the opportunity to further their education. Scholarship funds may be designated for a particular field of study, or a specific county, school, or area. CREATE currently has more than 90 scholarship funds. Scholarships may be set up as endowed funds or "pass-through" funds.

To learn more, please visit <https://createfoundation.com/scholarships/>. If you're interested in establishing a scholarship fund or making a gift to an existing scholarship fund, please contact P.K. Thomas at 662-844-8989 or [pk@createfoundation.com](mailto:pk@createfoundation.com).



## FIVE SMOOTH STONES SCHOLARSHIP

The Five Smooth Stones scholarship was created with the hopes of providing access to a dream for young, Mississippi African American students. As a young black high school student, it is often difficult to find the resources to continue secondary education. When we moved to the state of Mississippi, it was one of the lowest educational performing states in the nation. It has since made tremendous strides. Our contribution to the education solution was to give a scholarship in hopes of continued prosperity for our state.

The reasons why we chose the CREATE Foundation to administer this scholarship is because of the outstanding service and commitment, great people with a servant's heart and a group that has impeccable integrity.

Janet and I feel blessed to not only have the ability to give but to be a part of the CREATE family.

-Sean and Janet Suggs

The vision of Five Smooth Stones Scholarship is to provide a path to help ensure the success of African American high school students who are aspiring to go to college. The five smooth stones represent the story of David and Goliath and how he conquered the giant with one smooth stone. Although he took five smooth stones, it only took one to accomplish his mission. Our goal is to help young African Americans to conquer their giants in life. Our hope is that these scholarships will help them start their road to success.



### MS CARES

A PROGRAM OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS NETWORK

GRANTS FOR NONPROFITS  
AND FOOD PANTRIES

## *Community Foundations COVID-19 Grant Program Extension*

As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the State of Mississippi established the Community Foundations COVID-19 Grant Program during the 2020 legislative session. The program is administered by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), which issued Rules governing the program's operations. Program funding, a total of \$8 million divided equally between food pantries and nonprofits, was provided through the state's seven community foundations.

Although the original program timeline ran from **March 1, 2020-December 30, 2020**, the federal CARES grant legislation extended the timeline of eligible expenditures through the 2021 calendar year with an end date of **December 31, 2021**. Additionally, the Mississippi legislature passed **SB 2221** (<http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2021/pdf/history/SB/SB2221.xml>) related to food pantry funding, which eliminates the original **\$12,000** funding cap and allows for the transfer of funds between community foundations. There was no legislation passed related to the nonprofits, so the funding cap remains at **\$12,000** and there is no opportunity to transfer funds for nonprofit requests.

**The CREATE Foundation has about \$560,000 left in the food pantry funding based on not receiving enough applications to expend all funding, but there is not any additional funding in the nonprofit bucket based on receiving more requests than there were funds available.** A “food pantry” is defined in the legislation as “an organization, including, but not limited to Nonprofit Entities, not for profit entities, other tax-exempt agencies, churches, schools, junior colleges, universities and such entities which distribute food to low-income and unemployed individuals and households, including food from sources other than the Department of Agriculture, to relieve situations of emergency and distress in the distribution of food to low-income and unemployed individuals and households. The Food Pantry shall distribute food or provide services at no cost to the recipient.” An organization that operates multiple food pantries may qualify each food pantry as a separate Eligible Grantee, provided that each pantry serves a distinct and separate geographic area and population.

The application for the extension of the grant program goes live on **Tues., June 15** for the CREATE Foundation. Grant applications must be completed online through the grant’s portal at [www.mscaresgrant.com](http://www.mscaresgrant.com), which is accessible via all web browsers except for Internet Explorer.

Applications must be submitted no later than **5:00 pm CT on Saturday, January 15, 2022**, but funding is on a first-come, first-served basis so earlier applications are encouraged.

## **South Monroe Community Foundation grants benefit nonprofits, education, and law enforcement**



Attendees of the South Monroe County Community Fund's grant awards included, from left, Sheriff Kevin Crook; P.K. Thomas of the CREATE Foundation; Em Walters of the Bukka White Blues Festival; acting Aberdeen assistant police chief Chris Dobbins; Aberdeen Visitors Bureau Director Tina Robbins; Henry Smith, Dorothy Hale-Smith and Eric Jonas of the Prairie RCDC; Ann Tackett of Aberdeen Main Street and Tenn-Tom Moving Youth; and Aberdeen School District Superintendent Jeff Clay. RAY VAN DUSEN/BUY AT PHOTOS.MONROECOUNTYJOURNAL.COM

Read the entire story [here](#).



### **Students get a firsthand look at manufacturing during Tek2Go camp**



Doug Ferguson, CTE Program Coordinator at the Belden Center & Electrical Technology Instructor at Itawamba Community College, left, teachers John David Hagood and Kemp Smith, center, how to operate and write a program to a Yaskawa 6 axis robot during the 2021 Tek2Go Advanced Manufacturing Camp at ICC Belden on Tuesday morning. Adam Robison | PHOTOS.DJOURNAL.COM

Read the entire story [here](#).

### **Schools get Toyota grants for early childhood programs**



The Toyota Wellspring Education Fund (TWEF) vision is for Northeast Mississippi to build a world-class, home-grown workforce to ensure all young people are exposed, prepared, and connected to living-wage employment opportunities through strong career guidance and education-to-career experiences. The foundation for this work is started with early childhood, and the TWEF committee has committed \$89,500 in grant funding annually over the next three years for this purpose.

These funds can be requested across the eight school districts in the Pontotoc, Union, and Lee counties.

Read the entire story [here](#).

# Why do you give?



To support causes that our family believes in and helping our community.

*Becky Rollins*

## 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)

