



November News and Updates

CREATE Annual Meeting 2021

CREATE Foundation held its Annual Meeting on November 4th at the BancorpSouth Conference Center with very limited attendance.

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.

The CREATE Foundation, Inc. team is proud to recognize the efforts of leaders and organizations in our area that epitomize a spirit of giving back to Northeast Mississippi. Ed and Becky Meek received the McLean Award, and the Friends of Itawamba Responding to Secure Tomorrow (FIRST) received the James Hugh Ray Award presented annually to one of CREATE's 14 affiliates.

To watch the entire meeting, [please click here](#).

To read about the awards, [please click here](#).

McLean Award for Philanthropy Recipient Ed and Becky Meek



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.

Ed and Becky Meek are this year's recipients of the award. Some of their major contributions to the area include providing dozens of scholarships to students in their hometown of Charleston and have provided significant support and funding to the University of Mississippi, Blue Mountain College, and Mississippi College. The Meeks have been long time supporters of the Boy Scouts, Campus Crusade for Christ, Charleston Arts and Revitalization Efforts, Oxford School District, Mayo Clinic, Oxford University Methodist Church, and the Wesley Foundation. The Meeks have been active in the Oxford University Methodist Church, the Yocona Council of the Boy Scouts, and have served on the board of the Oxford-Lafayette County Affiliate of CREATE (LOFT).

James Hugh Ray Award Winner: Friends of Itawamba Responding to Secure Tomorrow (FIRST)

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's award goes to Friends of Itawamba Responding to Secure Tomorrow (FIRST). Since 2009, FIRST has given grants to 72 organizations in the total amount of \$282,060. Grants include monies to Fulton United Methodist Church – Food Pantry, Houston RCDC, Itawamba Agricultural High School, Itawamba Learning Center, MSU-Itawamba Extension Service, Pilot Club of Mantachie, Tuition Guarantee Program, Imagine the Possibilities Career Expo, Itawamba Attendance Center, Itawamba County Development Council, Itawamba Crossroads Ranch, Itawamba Food Angels, Mantachie School, and gift cards for teachers.



Pictured (L to R): Luke Montgomery, Mike Ellis, Bryan Quinn, Laken Osbirn, Vaunita Martin, Nina Strother, and Jim McCullough.

CREATE Announced New Building

CREATE Foundation Chairman, Bryan Wilson, announced yesterday the foundation board of directors has approved the construction of a new building in downtown Tupelo.

The building will be located on 1.12 acres of property on the corner of Jefferson and Commerce Streets. The property is being purchased from BNA Bank. McCarty Architects has been selected to design the building. It is uncertain at this time if any other organizations or businesses other than CREATE will be in the new building.

Wilson stated, "CREATE has experienced significant growth in the number of donors we serve, in regional programs, and in the work of the Toyota Wellspring Fund. We expect all of these areas to continue to grow. A new facility is needed to support our work."

Mike Clayborne, President of CREATE, said "We are excited about the future of the organization as we approach our 50th anniversary next year. A new facility will provide better access for our donors, expanded meeting space, and better space for our staff to work together."



Teacher of Distinction Winners



The Teacher of Distinction Awards program was started in 1999 by the CREATE Foundation as a result of a recommendation from the Innovations in Education Endowment Fund Committee. This endowment fund was established in 1988 from a \$100,000 grant received from the Ford Foundation. The purpose of the Teacher of Distinction Awards is to recognize, reward, and support teachers and assistant teachers of distinction in the Tupelo Public Schools. This year's awards are made possible by CREATE, AEE, and the following companies, families, funds, and organizations: – B & B Concrete, Inc., Imbler Foundation, Room to Room Furniture, BankPlus, Dr. Kristy Luse, Marilyn, and Bob Monroe Endowment Fund, Reed Family Trust Endowment Fund, Renasant Bank, Tupelo Kiwanis Club, Tupelo Rotary Club, Reed's Department Store, James and Frances Williams, Mize Foundation, Tupelo/Lee County Community Foundation, Hardy Reed, Community Bank, and Young Law Group.

Students, parents, teachers, administrators, other school district employees, or community citizens make nominations based on their observation and assessment of the teacher. An external selection committee chooses the award winners.

This year's winners were:

- Savannah Tucker, Early Childhood Education Center
- Sandy Corkern, Carver Elementary
- Joyce Juarez, Lawhon
- Katrina Berry-Ivy, Tupelo High School
- Precious Hill, Tupelo High School
- Cristina Hudgins Davis, Tupelo High School
- Kim Hudson, Tupelo Career Technical Center
- Richard Satterwhite, Lawndale
- Anna Beth Cates, Lawndale
- Tammy Robertson, Milam
- Chasicity Tate, Milam

Sharon Warren, Milam
Samuel Goins, Milam
Natasha Oyewumi, Milam
Christy Morgan, Rankin
Lindsey Hester, Rankin
Marley Maharrey, Tupelo Middle School
Zachary Thomas, Pierce
Erin Hall, Pierce
Katie Wood, Thomas

Beneficiary Designations

Did you know that you can make the CREATE Foundation a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account? Donating part or all of your unused retirement assets, such as your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension or other tax-deferred plan, is an excellent way to make a gift to support your favorite cause or organization. You could also use this gift to create an endowed fund or scholarship! Beneficiary gifts are easy to make and can help you avoid potential estate taxes.

If you have interest in making a beneficiary gift contact P.K. Thomas at 662-844-8989 or pk@createfoundation.com.

HOW IT WORKS: CHARITABLE BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

Donor



Complete a simple beneficiary designation form at your financial institution.

Financial Account



- IRA/Insurance Policy
- 401k
- Investment Accounts

Your Gift



After your lifetime, your account will transfer here to power our mission.



An annual accounting for my records and to be a part of the greater good that CREATE generates.

Jack Reed, Jr.

OUR MISSION

The mission of CREATE Foundation is to encourage philanthropy and provide leadership to impact regional issues.

CREATE Foundation | 662-844-8989 | 662-844-8149 | www.createfoundation.com

