



Connects students, parents and educators to career opportunities through business partnerships, training and resources.

Donor Spotlight: Lexington Medical Center

Special thanks to **Lexington Medical Center** for their recent contribution to **Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA)**. Lexington Medical Center’s generosity will allow MEBA to continue its many programs and services and further its mission to connect students, parents and educators to career opportunities through business partnerships, training and resources.

“Lexington Medical Center is proud to partner with MEBA in its mission to strengthen the connection between business and education,” says **Barbara Willm**, Vice President of Community Relations for Lexington Medical Center. “our investment helps to ensure we attract South Carolina’s best and brightest into the healthcare field and maintain superior care for our patients.”

Lexington Medical Center, in West Columbia, SC, anchors a county-wide health care network that includes six community medical centers throughout Lexington County. The network also includes the largest extended care facility in the state, an occupational health center and physician practices. At its heart is the 384-bed state-of-the-art Lexington Medical Center, with a reputation for the highest quality care.

Lexington Medical Center was voted one of the “Best Places to Work” by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, “Best Hospital” by readers of The State nine years in a row, “Best Hospital” by readers of The Free Times, “Best Place to Have a Baby” by readers of Palmetto Parent and the "Consumer Choice Award" from the National Research Corporation. ■

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MEBA's Educator Field Studies

Midlands educators continue to benefit from MEBA's Educator Field Studies series. Check out details and a few photos from our latest three.

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

The **Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Educator Field Study** was held on February 24, 2010, and began at **Midlands Technical College Airport Campus** with a presentation by **Tamie Head**, Human Resource Representative for the **Columbia Metropolitan Airport**, who spoke about career opportunities with the airport.

The group then boarded a bus for **Flextronics International** in West Columbia. Headquartered in Singapore, Flextronics is a leading Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) provider focused on



Educators listen to a presentation at Flextronics International.

delivering complete design, engineering and manufacturing services to automotive, computing, consumer digital, industrial, infrastructure, medical and

mobile OEMs. The group was met by **Valerie Saracin**, Global Logistics Manager, who spoke with the group and led them on a tour of the facility.

The group made a final stop at **Blue Bell Creamery** in Lexington. **Darren Waguespack**, Branch Manager, spoke with the group about operations, career opportunities and led a tour of the facility. The day concluded with a special tasting of some of Blue Bell's delicious products!

Information Technology

The **Information Technology Educator Field Study** was held on March 2, 2010, at **South Carolina Educational Television's (SCETV) Telecommunications Center**. The day began with a welcome from **Samantha Turner**, MEBA's Workforce Development Coordinator, and opening remarks by **Bobbie Kennedy** of SCETV. **Lonnie Emard**, Executive Director of the **Consortium for Enterprise Systems Management**, spoke with the group about the workforce needs in the information technology field as well as skill and training requirements. **Brack Clemons**, a technology educator with SCETV, also spoke with the group and **Ann Brown**, Chief Operating Officer of **Microburst Learning**, provided concluding remarks.

Architecture & Construction

The **Architecture & Construction Educator Field Study** was held on March 12, 2010, and began with a presentation and tour of **Mashburn Construction**, led by **Gene Haskins**, Senior Project Manager. The group then boarded a bus and traveled to the **Home Builders Association's (HBSA) Home and Garden Show** where they toured the show and heard from several industry professionals on various topics. **Jackie Adams** with **Paul D. Sloan Interiors** spoke to the group about the field of interior design. The group then learned about green careers in construction from **Joseph Gilmore** of **Gilmore Consulting**. **Patsy Sharpe**, Executive Director of **Palmetto Utility Protection Services** also addressed the group. Participants then enjoyed lunch and additional time at the HBA Home & Garden Show.

Thank you to all our business partners for helping make these three field studies so successful! ■

Midlands Students Build Laptops at Create IT Computer Camp

Twenty Midlands high school students recently build their own garnet-and-black laptop computers during **Create IT Computer Camp**, held February 27 through March 6, 2010, at the Carolina Coliseum. **The Consortium for Enterprise Systems Management** with its partner, the **University of South Carolina**, sponsored the camp.

Students were selected from 128 applicants based on their grade-point average, a letter of recommendation and an essay. They learned about computer applications, computer development, software development and the wide-range of exciting career opportunities in information technology. Students also toured USC's campus and **BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina's** data center.

The goal was to motivate high-achieving high school students to pursue an interest in technology and ultimately a career in information technology. The camp was taught by USC professors, USC students and BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina information technology professionals.

"This goal is vital to the future viability of our member companies," Consortium Executive Director **Lonnie Emard** said. "We need young students to experience firsthand what some of the future possibilities are and begin to know that having fun and earning a great salary can go hand in hand."

The Consortium for Enterprise Systems Management is a collaboration of companies, colleges and universities, and community groups that share a mission: Increase the number of people in the IT talent pipeline. It works from the classroom to the boardroom to increase the talent in the IT pipeline by teaching students about available opportunities and providing IT professionals with opportunities to develop their skills. For more, visit www.gocesm.org. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Law, Public Safety & Corrections Educator Field Study

April 28, 2010, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Begins at SC Army National Guard Armory

MEBA/Midlands REC Joint Board Meeting

May 4, 2010
MTC Northeast Campus

Business, Management & Administration Alliance

May 5, 2010, 9:00 - 10:30 am
Homewood Suites

Information Technology Alliance

May 5, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
VC3

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Alliance

May 6, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Columbia Metropolitan Airport

Teachers in the Workplace Course Begins

May 18, 2010
**Pending*

Architecture & Construction Alliance

May 19, 2010, 9:00 - 10:30 am
MTC Airport Campus, AC 115

Finance Alliance

May 20, 2010, 9:00 - 10:30 am
South Carolina Federal Credit Union

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Alliance

May 20, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
MTC Airport Campus, AC 115

Educators Exploring Career Clusters - Healthcare Course Begins

May 24, 2010

Health Science Alliance

May 26, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Remington College

Contextual Teaching & Learning Workshop

June 22, 2010, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
MTC Airport Campus, AC Room 143
[Click here for registration information](#)

SC TEAM CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL FORUM

A five-member team representing South Carolina attended the **American Youth Policy Forum** in Boston, Massachusetts. The event was hosted by **America's Promise Alliance** and the **National Governors Association Center for Best Practices**. The purpose of the forum was to continue South Carolina's effort in increasing the high school graduation and college readiness rates. The South Carolina team joined other policy makers and educators from Alabama, Delaware, and Kansas, as well as state leaders from Boston. Coordinating the travel for the SC team was the SC Department of Education, Office of Innovation.

Participating from South Carolina were **Dr. Sam Drew**, National Dropout Prevention Center; **Rep. Jerry Govan**, SC House of Representatives; **Dr. John Lane**, SC Department of Education; **Val Richardson**, Palmetto Health and Chair of the SC At-Risk Student Committee; and **Dr. Kaye Shaw**, Executive Director of Midlands Education and Business Alliance and Coordinator of Midlands Regional Education Center.



From l to r: Dr. John Lane, Val Richardson, Representative Jerry Govan, Dr. Kaye Shaw, and Dr. Sam Drew.

During the three-day session the state teams studied best practices centered around early identification of at-risk youth from Massachusetts educators including **Dr. Paul Reville**, Secretary of Education. The teams visited exemplary schools such as Gateway to College, an alternative high school on the campus of Wachusett Community College; Brockton High School, a 4400 pupil school that has had tremendous success in reaching all students through their literacy initiative; and Brockton's Pathways Center, a dropout recovery facility. ■

CAREERS ON WHEELS

On April 21 and 22, 2010, MEBA brought members of the **City of Columbia, Richland County** and the Columbia business community together for "**Careers On Wheels.**" This two-day career fair was held at Watkins-Nance Elementary School in Richland School District One. A big thank you to **Mildred Richard**, guidance counselor, and **Dr. Cohen**, principal, for their great efforts.

The event was full of great activities and exhibits for the students to enjoy. The City of Columbia, with special thanks to **Captain Barnett** and his team from the **Columbia Fire Department**, provided a hook and ladder fire truck. Students were also treated to a demonstration by **Officer Ron Felder** of the **City of Columbia's K-9 Unit**.



Students learn about one of the Columbia Fire Department's hook and ladder fire trucks.

Officer John Culley with Richland County was a big hit with his Emergency Medical Technology motorcycle, as was the **Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)** truck.



Richland County's Officer John Culley showcases his Emergency Medical Technology motorcycle.

MEBA's business partners also played a major role in the event. **Kenneth Belton, Jr.**,

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Your Child Is Job #1: Communicating with Your Child

by Kay Barlow

Our children learn to communicate as we coo and smile over their cribs. They learn to speak as we look lovingly into those bright toddler eyes.

But often as our children grow up, the communication slows and sometimes stops. As parents we need to keep the dialogue open for a lifetime, even during those difficult middle school and teen years.

It will be well worth the effort. Below are some tips to consider to help you keep the communication lines open.



MEBA's Kay Barlow talks to students at Arden Elementary about different careers.

- ▶ Have conversations, not lectures.
- ▶ Keep to one topic at a time.
- ▶ Listen as much as you speak.
- ▶ Conversation flows over food; eat together as often as possible.
- ▶ Have family meetings with everyone having time to talk.
- ▶ Try not to be critical.
- ▶ Always remember there are no dumb questions.
- ▶ You will want to know the information your child wants to share.
- ▶ Talk to your child's friends; it will be most interesting.
- ▶ Once a day let your child know you value his or her opinion.
- ▶ Remember, no one listens when you yell. ■

RICHLAND ONE'S PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY

W. S. Sandel Elementary School of Richland School District One hosted Dr. Kaye Shaw, Executive Director of MEBA and coordinator for the Midlands REC, as **Principal for a Day**. Dr. Shaw shadowed **Principal Mrs. Fae Young** on Tuesday, April 14, for the school district's day-wide event. According to **Dr. Percy Mack**, Richland One's superintendent, the purpose of the event is to showcase the outstanding programs, staff and students who make up the district.

"I came away from Sandel Elementary with many impressions that will stay with me. The most lasting memory will be the



MEBA's Dr. Kaye Shaw with Mrs. Fae Young, Principal of W. S. Sandel Elementary School.

smiles and hugs," says Shaw. "Sandel Elementary is a happy place to be. It takes a dedicated principal, teachers and staff to keep 550 K-5th graders organized, on task and happy all at the same time."

The day ended with a recognition reception at the Olympia Professional Development Center for the business, civic and education leaders who participated in the annual event. When asked, "Who will come back next year and be Principal for a Day again?" all hands in the room shot up. Most admitted, however, that they would need the year to rest up from the experience. ■

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showcased a limousine from **Leevy Funeral Home**, and **SCAP A's Bill Sanders** lifted several teachers high into the air with a "cherry picker" working unit. **Scholar** from **The Big DM** furnished great music from his sound truck for the event.



Kay Barlow with "Scholar" from The Big DM.

All of the participating professionals talked about career opportunities and education and training needs with the students. They also emphasized the importance of good manners, a strong work ethic, staying drug free and studying hard.

MEBA is grateful to the City of Columbia, Richland County and our many business partners for their involvement and commitment to strengthening the connection between education and business. ■

Quick Bytes

► **The South Carolina Employment Security Commission and Department of Social Services** are implementing an exciting new work program, the **South Carolina Subsidized Transitional Employment Program (STEP)**. This program will not only benefit our clients, it will be beneficial to any employer who would like to be a part of this work initiative. The STEP program will provide employers with the following benefits: wage reimbursements, employer tax credits, a qualified workforce, and a partnership with SCDSS and SCESC. For more about this and other work programs, please call (803) 898.0967.

► **Midlands Technical College** will host an **Architectural Engineering Technology Student Expo Drop-In** on Thursday, April 29, 2010, from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Midlands Technical College Beltline Campus, LET Building, Room 103. Stop by to meet the students, see them showcase their efforts and learn more about the AET Program. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Melissa Price at 822.7080. ■



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Midlands Education and Business Alliance does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in its programs and activities.

EConnections is an electronic publication of Midlands Education and Business Alliance. For more information, please contact Ashley Thomas at ashleythomas@mebasc.com.