



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

Donor Spotlight: Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina

Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina recently awarded the **Midlands Education and Business Alliance**



Pictured from l to r: Katrina Spigner, Senior Program Officer, Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC; Barbara Blau, Chair, MEBA Board of Directors; George Zara, President & CEO, Providence Hospitals; Kelsey Mathias, Project Coordinator, Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC.

(MEBA) with a grant award of \$25,000 to support many MEBA efforts including *Your Child Is Job #1* presentations, student and teacher field studies and poverty training for educators.

“The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina is proud to support MEBA and its great work,” says **Katrina Spigner**, Senior Program Officer. “We are continually impressed with MEBA and their deep

commitment to developing young people through important learning and career opportunities. It’s a strong, solid strategy that works.”

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina works daily to address the needs of the poor and underserved in South Carolina through a variety of programs, grant opportunities, education and training for nonprofit organizations, evaluation, collaborative ventures and public policy work. The Foundation, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System, strives to impact the lives of the poor and be a voice for the underserved in all 46 South Carolina counties. For more information, please visit www.sistersofcharitysc.com. ■

IN THIS ISSUE

MEBA and Midlands REC Host Board Meeting.....Page 2

MEBA Named Outstanding Business Partner.....Page 2

Choice Bus Works to Reduce Dropout Rate.....Page 3

Upcoming EventsPage 3

2010 Midlands Technology Champion.....Page 4

Quick Bytes.....Page 4

Your Child: Learning through Leadership.....Page 5

Haiti House Project.....Page 5

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www.mebasc.com

MEBA and Midlands REC Hold Joint Board Meeting

Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA) and the Midlands Regional Education Center (REC) held a joint board meeting on May 4, 2010, at Midlands Technical College Northeast Campus. Barbara Blau, chair of the MEBA Board of Directors and president of DP Professionals, Inc., opened the meeting by introducing new board members Dr. Patrice Robinson, Superintendent of Fairfield County Schools, and Andy Barbee, Director of Nuclear Training for SCE&G Nuclear Operations. Blau also recognized three recent MEBA donors including Lexington Medical Center, Palmetto Health and the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina.

Dr. John Hudgens, with the Midlands Middle College and Acting President of Newberry College, also gave a special tribute to Dr. Stephen Hefner, Superintendent of Richland School District Two, who, after 36 years with the district, is retiring. Hefner has also served as a valuable member of the boards of both MEBA and the Midlands Middle College.



Dr. Stephen Hefner

Carole Fearington with the Midlands Middle College, along with Dr. Hudgens, then provided an update on the success of the College and plans and expectations for the coming year. This was followed by a presentation by Deb Huggins with the State Department of Education highlighting important data and statistics related to student completion of eIGPs, parent participation and cluster selection in the Midlands. A document titled, "Midlands Snapshot" was put together by MEBA and



Carole Fearington discusses the success and upcoming plans of the Midlands Middle College.

MEBA Named Business Partner of the Year by Lexington Richland School District Five

Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA) was recently named as Business Partner of the Year by School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties. MEBA was recognized at the district's annual Community Involvement Celebration Day, which was held on April 28, 2010. More than 300 volunteers, mentors and business partners were honored for their contributions and service to the school district.

Each school in the district submitted nominations in four categories - Volunteer of the Year, Volunteer Group of the Year, Mentor of the Year and Business Partner of the Year. A winner in each category was selected from elementary, middle and high schools. Nominated by Dutch Fork High School, MEBA was selected for the high school division.

"MEBA is extremely honored to be selected as Business Partner of the Year for the School District of Lexington Richland Five," says Lisa Call, MEBA's Chief Operating Officer. "We love partnering with educators and businesses to strengthen the connection between the classroom and the workplace, and we hope our work is making a great difference throughout the Midlands."

For more information and a complete list of all the winners, please visit the school district's website at www.lex5.k12.sc.us. ■

See Board Meeting Page 6

Choice Bus Works to Reduce Dropout Rate

Two Midlands schools were recently visited by **The Choice Bus**, the nation's first mobile learning experience dedicated to reducing the dropout rate.

The unique vehicle – half school bus and half prison cell – made a stop at **Pelion Middle School** on May 17 and **Dent Middle School** on May 18 before stopping by the **South Carolina**

Statehouse for a press conference and tours by community leaders, state officials and educators. **Dr. Kaye Shaw**, MEBA's Executive Director and Coordinator of



Students from Ms. Valerie Price's class at Pelion Middle School along with Bruce White and Susan Neal with State Farm Insurance (far left) in front of The Choice Bus.

the Midlands REC, was invited to participate in the event along with **Mark Bounds**, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Quality and Leadership at the **State Department of Education**; **Phil Christian**, Executive Director of the **Mattie C. Stewart Foundation**; and **Bruce White**, **State Farm Insurance**.

The bus is a learning tool designed to show young people the power of education, as well as the likely consequences of choosing to drop out of school. It contains a full scale replica of a prison cell, hidden behind a curtain, and a flat screen television.

On entering the bus, a four-minute movie quizzes the audience on the earning potential of a dropout versus a high school and college graduate. The movie also features several powerful testimonials from people who regret dropping out – prison inmates.

When the movie is finished, the prison cell replica is revealed to show the stark reality experienced by many dropouts. Students are then invited into the cell to briefly experience its uncomfortable living conditions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Educators Exploring Career Clusters:
Healthcare Course Begins**
May 24, 2010
MTC Airport Campus, AC 115

**Science, Technology, Engineering &
Mathematics Alliance**
May 25, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
MTC Airport Campus, AC 115

**Business, Management & Administration
Alliance**
May 26, 2010, 9:00 - 10:30 am
Homewood Suites, Greystone Boulevard

Health Science Alliance
May 26, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Remington College, 607 Bush River Road

Architecture & Construction Alliance
May 27, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Total Comfort, 346 Orchard Drive,
West Columbia

Military Career Pathways 101
June, 8, 9, 10
Radisson Hotel and Fort Jackson

Executive Committee
June 11, 2010, 7:45 - 9:00 am
MTC Beltline Campus,
Executive Conference Room

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

Education and Business Summit
June 27 - July 1, 2010
Carolina First Center, Greenville

See **Choice Bus** Page 6

TIMOTHY JOSEPH SCOTT NAMED 2010 TECHNOLOGY CHAMP FOR MIDLANDS REGION

For the eighth consecutive year South Carolina's top career and technology education students will be publically recognized during the opening session of the **Education**



*Midlands Region 2010
Technology Champion
Timothy Joseph Scott.*

and Business Summit on June 27 in Greenville. The students have been designated as "Technology Champions," a distinction bestowed only upon 12 very select, 2010 high school graduates. **Dr. Bob Couch**, Director of the Office of Career and Technology Education, proclaimed that the "South Carolina Department of Education is proud to salute the

Technology Champion students who are among the best and brightest career and technology students in our state."

Each of the champions was selected from a pool of nominations received from high schools and career and technology centers within each of the State's 12 regions. Regional selection was based upon such factors as GPA, attendance, awards and honors, school leadership and community service. A nominee must be a graduating senior in a career and technology education completer program.

Timothy Joseph Scott of **Lexington High School** and **Lexington Technology Center**, was selected as the 2010 Technology Champion for the Midlands Region.

This year's Technology Champions include academic letterman and students in the top percentage of their graduating class. Many are student government leaders and are active in their churches and communities. They are skilled technicians in occupational skill areas such as welding, carpentry, automotive collision technology, culinary arts, commercial graphics, information technology, pre-engineering and health science.

The Technology Champions recognition is made possible through a partnership among the **State Department of Education Office of Career and Technology Education**, **SC Army National Guard**, **SC Association for Career and Technology Education**, and **South Carolina's Regional Career Specialists**. ■

Quick Bytes

► **Camp Med** is a one-day health care career exploration program for rising 7th and 8th graders in the Midlands. Hosted by Providence Hospitals, this program will allow students to experience the health care profession firsthand. Through clinical rotations and instructional time, students will be exposed to life in a hospital and the opportunity to consider health care professions as part of their futures.

Camp Med will be held on Friday, August 6, 2010, from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm. The application deadline for participating is June 1, 2010. To access the application form online, please visit www.providencehospitals.com and click on "Careers: Student Opportunities: Elementary, Middle and High School Students." For more information, please contact Organizational Development at 256-5842.

► Save the date for MEBA's two upcoming **Student Career Days**. Careers for the Future: Emerging Careers will be held on October 11, 2010, for 8th grade students. The event will introduce students to automotive, finance, information technology, manufacturing, construction, transportation, distribution and logistics and engineering careers, as well as teach them how to prepare for these emerging careers.

The Healthcare, Human Services and Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Day will be held October 12, 2010, to introduce students to careers in these industries. Look for registration information for both days to be distributed in August. ■

Your Child Is Job #1: Learning Through Leadership by Kay Barlow

It has been my pleasure to participate in **Leadership Columbia** this year. Sponsored by the **Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce**, the Leadership Columbia program provides existing and emerging leaders with opportunities to enhance their civic knowledge and network.

Participating in Leadership Columbia has been one of the best experiences of my professional life. We are never too old to learn something new and something wonderful. Through Leadership Columbia I learned so many valuable lessons that we as parents and grandparents can teach our children of any age.

▶ Volunteering teaches us to give our time, talents and energy to a cause greater than ourselves. Start early. It is never too early to get that spotlight off your child and onto the needs of others.

▶ Dependability is a must. Often aggravating but always rewarding, leaders learn to depend on themselves and to surround themselves with dependable people. When you say you are going to do something, be certain you do it. What a great lesson for your child to learn.

▶ Planning is a lifelong skill. Leaders plan their time and choose their tasks wisely. A wise educator once told me that I needed to plan or I needed to plan to fail. Teach your children to set goals and plan their time.

▶ To be successful in life you must learn to be a team player. Help your children to do their share, to get along with others and to respect opinions that may not be their own.

▶ Embrace diversity. Young people, old people, people of color, all careers and all nationalities give our lives knowledge, laughter and amazement. Your child will be greatly enriched if he or she embraces diversity.

▶ Manners matter. Teach your children to take turns, listen with respect and to say thank you. ■

HAITI HOUSE BUILDING PROJECT

The **South Carolina SkillsUSA Competition** was held at the **Carolina First Center in Greenville** on April 16. South Carolina volunteer students, teachers from across the state, and members of the Home Builders Association of Greenville worked together to build a demonstration model of a small house that will be used to kickoff the **Haiti House Building Project**. The construction will begin in the fall of 2010 and actual pre-fabricated panelized houses will be loaded in containers and shipped to Haiti to assist with the relief effort.

Each school will build their own house as part of the construction curriculum while teaching the trades to students and helping others in need. The created houses will be flown to Haiti and assembled and given to waiting families.

The project is the brainchild of **Randy Granger** of **Donaldson Career Center** in Greenville, and he, along with **Dale Gilliland** of **Gilliland and Associates Architects**, and **Jim Spencer** of the **State Department of Education**, have worked to coordinate the effort. Sponsoring partners include **Addison Homes**, **Donaldson Career Center**, **Dewalt Tools**, **Fiberweb**, **Gilliland and Associates Architects**, **Heliothermics**, **Home Builders Association of Greenville**, **Lowes**, **South Carolina SkillsUSA** and the **State Department of Education**. For more information contact Jim Spencer at 734-8267 or jspencer@ed.sc.gov. ■

From **Choice Bus** Page 3

As students exit the bus, they receive a pledge card and are asked to make a commitment to finish school and make good choices in their lives. The Choice Bus experience is about 20 minutes long and is designed for grades 6-10.

“One in every four children in South Carolina fails to graduate from high school on time in four years, and the longer it takes a child to graduate, the more likely it is that he or she will drop out,” said Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent for Educator Quality and Leadership. “We have to use new and creative approaches to reach our youth, encourage them to stay in school and show them why it’s in their best interest to stay in school.”

The Choice Bus, unveiled in September 2008, has already impacted the lives of more than 200,000 students and has been featured on Shepard Smith’s Fox News Report and in USA Today. It’s a project of the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation, a national non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the dropout rate.

The Choice Bus’ visit is supported by State Farm Insurance and the South Carolina Department of Education. South Carolina Pathways provided volunteers and coordinated the tour. ■

The staff of MEBA wish you a safe and enjoyable summer. Please look for our next issue of eConnections in September.

From **Board Meeting** Page 2

the Midlands REC outlining this information and can be viewed on under the “Resources” section of MEBA’s website, www.mebasc.com, or by [clicking here](#).

The meeting concluded with a panel discussion focused on emerging careers in the Midlands.

Panelists included

Harold Cecil, Michelin Tire; Lee McElveen, SC Commission for Minority Affairs; Michael Williams, Fairfield Memorial Hospital; Lonnie Emard, Consortium for Enterprise Systems Management; Ralph Heath, Shaw Construction; Scott MacFarland, SCE&G Nuclear Operations; and Reggie Murphy, Asset Realty, Inc. Grant Jackson, Senior Vice President for Community Development for the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, moderated the panel. ■



Panelists discuss emerging careers at a joint board meeting of MEBA and the Midlands REC.



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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.