



## **MEBA eConnections Fall 2021**

**Dear Friends,**

After a unique and challenging time, we are happy to be looking towards the future and moving forward this fall. Since August, we have been hard at work establishing new partnerships and collaborating with existing partners to provide career programs and resources to students, educators, and parents. While we remain flexible and ready to adapt to partners' needs, we have offered a wide range of in-person and virtual programs to stakeholders. This fall, we are working with education partners to conduct a comprehensive local needs assessment in which MEBA will compile and share the results with you in early 2022. As we look at the year ahead, we are excited to provide an industry showcase for all 8th grade students in the Midlands over a two-day event in March, as well as other opportunities for career connections. To learn more about these initiatives and how you can participate, please read our newsletter below.

We are thankful for your continued support and partnership.

Best regards,

Lisa and Samantha

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### **Batesburg-Leesville High School Students Build Picnic Tables for South Carolina State Fair**

In a new partner meeting with SC State Fair, MEBA discovered many work-based learning opportunities for students in agriculture education, cooking demonstrations, marketing through social media, and various construction projects. As a result of this partnership, the building construction program at Batesburg-Leesville High School made 9 picnic tables for SC State Fair. The picnic tables were ready just in time for the annual state fair.

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### **Annual Creating Career Connections Symposium held September 29, 2021**

Each fall, MEBA connects educators to industry and community partners to learn about the latest workforce development needs, emerging career trends and employer expectations in the Midlands region. The symposium

is an opportunity for learning, networking, developing new partnerships and collaborating with peers. Educators leave better prepared to align curriculum and career programs with industry needs and assist students in college and career readiness. Thank you to our partners who presented on workforce and economic development topics specific to the Midlands and South Carolina including **Ferrous Engineering and Tool, SC Department of Commerce, SC Department of Agriculture, City of Columbia Economic Development, Capgemini, Core Technology Solutions, SC Geography Alliance, SC Paving and Asphalt Association, and Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina, The Honorable Pamela Evette**. Also, thank you to our other partners who participated as exhibitors: **Apprenticeship Carolina, Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands, Mental Health Americas, Midlands Technical College and SC Geography Alliance**.

Thank you to our sponsors for helping to make event successful: **Bank of America, Dominion Energy, International Paper, Midlands Technical College, SC Department of Commerce and Truist Foundation**.



*Thank you to longtime MEBA friend and international speaker/author **Brooks Harper** for sharing his new book, **Just Chill: A Student's Guide to Managing Stress**, with educators and speaking to them about ways to manage their stress during challenging times.*

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## **What are Your Workforce Needs?**

### **MEBA Conducting Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment with Education Partners**

As employers in the Midlands experience significant labor shortages, Midlands Education and Business Alliance, Midlands Regional Education Center, Midlands Technical College and school districts from Lexington, Richland and Fairfield Counties are working together to conduct a workforce needs assessment for the Midlands region. The results of this workforce assessment will be used to determine how we can most effectively align school curriculum to employer workforce needs in the Midlands. Please allow your voice to be heard by taking 3 to 4 minutes to complete the survey below.

#### **[Participate in the 2021 Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment](#)**

Once results are compiled, results will be shared with education, business and community partners accordingly. Please forward the survey to clients and professional networks in the Midlands who may want to participate.

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**Connect with the Future Workforce!**

Midlands Regional Industry Showcase for All 8th Grade Students in the Midlands  
March 22-23, 2022

**Purpose:** Career exploration event allowing 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from across the Midlands to explore careers of their interest to include the 16 career clusters as well as career programs at their high schools and Midlands Technical College.

**Presenters:** Industry and community partners will showcase their organization and industry through booth exhibits, presentation, and interactive activities with students.

**Impact:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from across the Midlands will leave with a better understanding of career pathways and career expectations. Industry and community partners will promote their brand and career opportunities to their next pipeline of customers and workers in the Midlands and South Carolina.

**Registration and Sponsorship Opportunities:**

If your organization is interested in participating in the Midlands Regional Industry Showcase for 8th Graders, *Creating Career Connections*, please complete the registration form below. Sponsorship opportunities are also included. Registration deadline is February 15, 2022.

[Partner and Sponsor Registration for Industry Showcase](#)

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**Invest in the Future**

Consider making a gift to MEBA's Annual Fund Campaign

Since 1990, Midlands Education and Business Alliance has connected students, parents and educators to career opportunities through business partnerships, training and resources. Please consider supporting our mission by donating today to the 2021-22 Annual Fund Campaign.

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