



Donor Spotlight: Palmetto Health

Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA) is proud to announce the receipt of \$50,000 from **Palmetto Health** for general operating and program support. The donation is the second installment of a three-year partnership between Palmetto Health and MEBA, with a total investment of \$150,000 as well as in-kind programmatic partnership activities.

"Palmetto Health partners with MEBA to grow its future workforce and improve the lives of many young people who never dared to dream," says **Trip Gregory**, Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Palmetto Health.

The partnership marks the continuation of a long-standing relationship between Palmetto Health and MEBA and the second three-year partnership. Palmetto Health's generous donation will allow MEBA to continue to offer many of its signature programs to the Midlands community including *Your Child Is Job #1*, educator and student field studies and the Teachers in the Workplace Institute.

Palmetto Health's involvement and support of MEBA does not end with its financial contributions. It partners with MEBA in a number of ways that strengthen workforce development as it relates to healthcare services. Palmetto Health hosts field studies, provides internship and job shadowing opportunities for teachers and students, sponsors *Your Child Is Job #1* events and distributes relative materials to its employees, provides career speakers for classroom learning and participates in numerous student career events.

"We are grateful to Palmetto Health for their tremendous and continual support of MEBA," says **Lisa Call**, MEBA's Interim Executive Director and Workforce Development Director and Career Specialist. "This partnership plays a vital role in helping MEBA achieve success and allowing us to work together to build a stronger and better connected community."

Upcoming Events

Engineering & Industrial Technology Alliance

January 8, 2008
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Heyward Career Center

Business Management & Information Systems Alliance

January 9, 2008
9:00 - 10:30 am
Midlands Technical College
Northeast Campus, Room 214

Curriculum Alignment Committee

January 10, 2008
9:30 - 11:00 am
Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus
Academic Center, Room 115

MEBA Board of Directors Executive Committee

January 11, 2008
10:00 - 11:15 a.m.
Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus
Academic Center, Room 139

See more Upcoming Events on Page 2



Midlands Educators Attend MEBA Automotive Field Study

On November 7, 2007, 40 Midlands educators attended **MEBA's Automotive Field Study** hosted by the automotive subgroup of **MEBA's Engineering & Industrial Technologies Alliance**.

The field study was part of a continuing series offered by MEBA designed to bring together teachers, counselors and administrators for a day of in-depth learning about a specific career cluster. MEBA's field studies afford educators the opportunity to spend a day visiting work sites and hearing firsthand from industry professionals.



Midlands educators attend session at MTC Automotive Lab.

The event began at **Midlands Technical College's Automotive Lab** located on the college's **Beltline Campus**. **Lisa Call**, MEBA's Interim Executive Director and Workforce Development Director and Career Specialist; **Dena Feagin**, AYES Manager; and **Carson Conner**, Program Coordinator for the Automotive Department, all provided welcoming remarks.

Conner provided attendees with an overview of the Automotive Lab and delivered a presentation titled "Automotive Technology: A New Horizon," where he discussed the many career opportunities available and the need to change the public's perception of the automotive industry. "If it drives, flies, floats, crawls or rolls, it's a service opportunity for us," said Conner. "The automotive industry and the education and training opportunities available here are always in need and in demand."



Carson Conner

Conner encouraged attending educators to make sure students are aware of all the different educational opportunities and careers available to them. "Not everyone has to attend a traditional four-year college to be successful," said Conner. "That path is not for everyone. As educators, it is important that we help our students

Upcoming Events (continued)

Career Connections Committee

January 11, 2008
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Location TBA

MEBA Board of Directors

January 15, 2008
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus
Academic Center, Room 143

Health Sciences & Human Services Alliance

January 16, 2008
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus, Room TBA

Career Specialists Committee

January 17, 2008
9:00 - 11:00 am
Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus
Academic Center, Room 139

Health Careers Field Study

January 23, 2008
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Begins at Midlands Technical
College Airport Campus

Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Alliance

January 24, 2008
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Location TBA

MIDLANDS REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTER CELEBRATES ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The **Midlands Regional Education Center Advisory Board (RECAB)** can point to numerous accomplishments since their initial meeting on December 1, 2006. Under the direction of **Chairman Mike Sisk**, the 21-member board served as a model and pilot for the other regions in the state.

In mid-February the Midlands RECAB hired **Dr. Kaye Shaw** as coordinator and appointed **Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA)** as administrative partner and **Midlands Technical College** as fiscal agent.

The following is a message from Chairman Sisk about the board's first-year accomplishments:

"One of our first-year accomplishments that I believe will have the most lasting impact on the Midlands is



*Mike Sisk, MREC
Advisory Board Chair*

the renewed and strengthened partnership between the **RECAB**, **MEBA** and the **Workforce Investment Board**. Together, the members of these three boards representing all three counties in the Midlands have committed to identifying gaps in workforce development, education and economic development to work together to address gaps in service.

We adopted the following mission statement as we

laid out our strategic plan and our vision for the Midlands REC: To enable every person in the Midlands to reach his or her potential in education attainment and workforce accomplishments. The Midlands REC board has committed itself to focus on developing partnerships that will continue to strengthen the entire Midlands region. We will continue to seek new venues to market ***Personal Pathways to Success*** so that students, parents, adult learners and the business community will be aware of the many resources available through the REC and our partner organizations.

Our board and staff are committed to working daily to make the Midlands the area in South Carolina where students graduate from high school and move on to higher education, whether that be a four-year institution, a two-year institution or advanced career and technology training; where parents are engaged in their child's education; where adults who are unemployed or underemployed can find resources to improve their marketability in the workforce; and where businesses thrive and new business wants to locate.

We have laid a strong foundation of partnerships on which we can continue to build a brighter future for all Midlands education and economic development stakeholders. By focusing on continuing to build strong regional partnerships we will ensure that we fulfill our mission for many years to come."

Happy New Year from MEBA!

During this time of reflection and optimism, we are grateful to all those who have made our progress and success possible and who continue to support our work.

*In this spirit, we say simply but sincerely, thank you and best wishes for the new year.
We look forward to continued success in 2008!*

Midlands Education and Business Alliance Staff

Faces of MEBA - Ray Boland



Coordinating hundreds of classes and career and technical education programs at six schools that serve more than 8,000 students, **Ray Boland** embodies **MEBA's** mission of connecting school to work. As the coordinator of career and technical education for **Lexington Richland School District Five**,

Boland is committed to equipping his students today with the tools and resources they will need in the workforce of tomorrow. "It is important that students have the opportunities they need to prepare for the future," says Boland. "Whether by adding additional courses, updating the curriculum, or providing training for our educators, I want to make sure our students have what they need to be successful."

In his position as coordinator of career and technical education, Boland's primary focus is making the connection between school and work stronger and more beneficial. His days are spent working with other district coordinators, implementing additional courses and revising current courses, continually reviewing and updating the district's course catalogue, making sure educators have the materials and equipment they need for their courses, addressing Perkins standards and seeking or maintaining program certifications.

Lexington Richland School District Five offers numerous career and technical education courses and programs that fall under Boland's direction and range in subject from engineering to health science to computer programming. Because of the district's commitment and Boland's hard work, students are able to take courses in keyboarding, architectural engineering, business and marketing, auto technology, auto collision repair, law enforcement services, carpentry, occupational childcare, graphics communications, computer animation and audio visual technology, just to name a few.

According to Boland, 65 percent of today's students need to possess strong technical skills in order to find viable jobs in the workforce. Schools also must prepare students for jobs that do not currently exist but that will in the

See Boland Page 7

Save the Date!

MEBA Board of Directors
Meeting

January 15, 2008
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus
Academic Center
Room 143

Feature presentation by
New Carolina

Lexington Richland Five Holds MEBA Field Study

On November 30, 2007, 16 principals and administrators from **Lexington Richland School District Five** participated in a special MEBA field study, visiting worksites and learning directly from industry professionals. The field study was in preparation for a district-wide field study scheduled for February 18, 2008, where all middle and high school educators - a total of more than 600 - from Lexington Richland School District Five will attend a MEBA field study.

The field study provided participants the opportunity to visit both **Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative** and **Total Comfort Services, Inc.** **Fred Millen**, Human Resources Director for Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, and **Dave McCallister**, General Manager of Total Comfort Services, Inc., both met with the group and shared important career and industry information and answered questions from participants.

Your Child Is Job # 1: Learning during the Holidays

The holiday season is upon us - a time for festive decorations, fun get-togethers with family and friends, and giving. Amid the hustle and bustle, MEBA's **Kay Barlow** wants us to remember that the most important gift we can give our children is our time. According to Barlow, the holidays provide many wonderful learning opportunities we can share with our children. Barlow offers the following examples for how we can incorporate learning into our holiday activities:

- ▶ Financial skills such as budgeting and money management can be taught through gift buying.
- ▶ Math skills such as measurements can be taught when preparing favorite holiday dishes.
- ▶ Reading and comprehension skills can be taught when reading directions for toy assembly. Students who like to work with their hands can be great assistants in putting together toys for family and friends who need help.
- ▶ Responsibility and leadership can be taught by having older students run errands or help younger siblings with shopping.
- ▶ Decision making can be taught when decorating and buying gifts.
- ▶ Teamwork skills can be encouraged by sharing the responsibilities that come with holiday preparations. Children who participate in family traditions and hear stories of past holidays experience a sense of history and belonging.
- ▶ Most importantly, the value of time spent together can be taught by sharing family history and our wishes and hopes for the New Year. Take time to talk with your children, and take a double amount of time to listen to them.

Your Child Is Job #1 in Numbers

- ▶ 30 Sandhills Middle School parents (Lexington Four)
- ▶ 100 Ben Arnold Company employees
- ▶ 155 Department of Juvenile Justice employees
- ▶ 10 City of Columbia Public Works Department employees

*November and December Total:
295 people reached!*

From Automotive Field Study Page 2

find the path that is right for them and to let them know technical college and other avenues can lead to successful, lucrative and fulfilling careers."

Following Conner's presentation, participants boarded a bus to tour several local automotive dealerships.

The first stop was at

Saturn of Columbia



Angela Broadway

where the group met with **James Engle**, Manager, and **France Loper** of the service department. The group then traveled to **Hampton Automotive** where they were greeted by **Johnny Counts**, Service Manager, who led a tour of the dealership and discussed various careers and skill requirements.

The group then had lunch at the **Summit Club**, hosted by the



Pat Watson

New Car Dealers of Columbia and Lexington

(NCDCL). During lunch, attendees had the opportunity to hear from Rob McDaniel, NCDCL President, and **Pat Watson**, Executive Vice President of the **South Carolina Automotive Dealers Association**.

Following lunch, participants made a final stop at **Herndon Chevrolet** where they met with **Vince Pizzola**, General Manager, and toured the parts and service department.

MEBA Hosts Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Field Study

MEBA's Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Alliance held a field study for Midlands educators on December 5, 2007.



Dolton Norman

Forty educators attended the event which began at **Midlands Technical College's Precision Machine Tool Facility**, located at the college's Beltline campus. **Dolton Norman**, Program Director of the Precision Machine Tool Facility, spoke to the group about the training and hands-on learning available as well as related careers. The group was then able to tour the facility and meet with several

students who showcased their projects, explained how several of the machines worked, and discussed their coursework and plans for the future.

Branden Dowling, a graduate of **Chapin High School** who is currently enrolled in the Machine Tool Technology program, talked about his interest in the field and explained the importance of strong math skills.

"Before I entered the program, I had never done anything like this, but I have a good math background and I like making things and working with my hands, so



Branden Dowling

this was a great fit for me," said Dowling. "I use things I learned in trigonometry and calculus every day, and I really enjoy it."

Attending educators were impressed with the professional, high-tech and clean environment of the facility and enjoyed learning about the industry and the various skills involved. "This is really fascinating to me because it's something with which I am not at all familiar," explained **Nina Howard**, a career specialist at **White Knoll High School in Lexington School District One**. "It's amazing that someone can take a simple piece of metal and transform it into an important tool or product."

See Manufacturing Field Study Page 8

Upcoming Seminars

Poverty Training Seminar January 29, 2008

This seminar will provide tips, strategies and resources for working with children and parents of poverty.

Business Matters Seminar February 26, 2008

This year's Business Matters seminar will include sessions from the MEBA Business Alliances, School-Based Committees and the Midlands Regional Education Center.

*Registration forms for both seminars can be found by visiting MEBA's website at www.mebasc.com. Click on "Educators" and then "Professional Development."

Quick Bytes

From Boland Page 4

- ▶ **Eau Claire High School in Richland School District One** is planning a **Career/College Expo** for Wednesday, February 27, 2008. The Expo is designed to give students exposure to the various vocational opportunities available in our society. As a part of Eau Claire's proactive career guidance efforts, the National Honor Society (NHS) is sponsoring the Career/College Expo. To get involved or for more information, please contact **Stefanie Harrison** at 735-7600 ext. 2518 or at Sharrison@richlandone.org.
- ▶ The date for **Chapin Middle School's Career Day** has been changed. The career day will be held on February 29, 2008. To get involved or for more information, please contact **Katherine E. Yeoman** at 345-1466 or at kyeoman@lex5.k12.sc.us.
- ▶ On November 27, 2007, MEBA's **Career Connections** and **Career Specialists** committees held a joint meeting. This was the first time the committees have met together, and the meeting provided a great opportunity for members to network and share information.
- ▶ A new publication is now available from MEBA! Download a copy of the new ***Your Child Is Job #1: A Resource for Parents*** brochure today.
- ▶ Information about **Lexington Medical Center's Partners Program** for rising high school junior and seniors is available on www.lexmed.com. This career awareness program offers students a three week paid summer internship where they perform clinical rotations and participate in classroom instruction time in order to direct career interest in the healthcare industry. For more information, please contact **Kama Staton** at 916-7898 or kjstaton@lexhealth.org.
- ▶ **Academic Innovations** is offering a one-day introductory workshop designed for educators interested in learning about the Course Standards for Freshman Transition Classes, Dropout Prevention and exploring Career Choices curriculum. The workshop will take place on January 22, 2008, at the Inn at USC. For more information, please visit www.academicinnovations.com or contact **Karen Shiner** at 1-800-967-8016 ext. 308 or karen@academicinnovations.com.

future. Boland believes the types of courses his districts offers and the growing emphasis being placed on career clusters and majors statewide as part of the new EEDA legislation is a strong step in making sure students are ready for future careers.

Boland is also grateful for the opportunities MEBA provides for educators to come together to learn from one another and also to learn from business professionals and industry representatives. In fact, Boland is such a fan of **MEBA's Educator Field Studies Series**, he and a team from Lexington Richland School District Five are coordinating an educator field study for all middle and high school educators in the district to take place on February 18, 2008. The field study will allow more than 600 district educators to visit various worksites and to learn firsthand from industry professionals.

"We wanted to think outside of the box to provide our teachers with an experience that would really help connect what they are doing in the classroom to what is needed in the workforce and to make curriculum relevant for the students," explains Boland. "When we came up with the idea I immediately called **Lisa Call** and she and the MEBA staff have been a tremendous help in putting together such a large and meaningful event."

Boland has been involved with MEBA since its inception and currently serves on the **Curriculum Alignment Committee** as well as a member of **MEBA's Middle College Board of Directors**. A graduate of **Irmo High School**, Boland has been with Lexington Richland School District Five since 1976 when he began his career as a pre-vocational teacher. He is a member of the **Skills USA Board of Directors** and past president of the **South Carolina Association of Career and Technical Education**.

MEBA Photo Gallery



Members of the South Carolina National Guard Youth Challenge Academy at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School visited USC's McCutchen House to learn about culinary and hospitality careers.



Members of MEBA's Guidance Committee recently visited Clayton Rawl Farms in Lexington to learn about careers in agriculture. Pictured with Chris Rawl (front center) from l to r: Erin Farmer, Schiria Wilson, Kenetta Pierce, Zelder Pressley, Beth Zambrano, Janet Vargas, Doretha Glymph, Tara Houston, Connie Mitchell, and Patrick Lengel.

Following the tour of the Precious Machine Tool Facility, participants boarded a bus and traveled to **Cooper Power Tools**,



Paul Merz

where they were able to tour the plant and discuss career opportunities and job skills with **Paul Merz**, Plant Manager, and **Kelly Kosek**, Human Resources Director. The educators were then treated to a lunch sponsored by Cooper Power Tools.

The group made a final stop at **Michelin** where they also toured the facility and heard from several Michelin leaders including **Joe McClintock**, Engineering and Maintenance Manager; **Randy Crutfield**, Site Communications and Community Relations Manager; **Raul Fernandez**, Plant Manager; and **Dean Campbell**, Manager of Technical Training, Recruiting and Assessments. The speakers emphasized Michelin's commitment to the Midlands community and stressed the importance of a skilled workforce. "We don't just need Harvard MBAs," said Fernandez. "We need a diverse workforce. If we only had employees with MBAs, our plant would close. A key element to our success is having employees with skills."



www.mebasc.com

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

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