



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

'Tis the Season for Giving!

Is MEBA on your gift list this year?

With our **Annual Fund Campaign** well underway, we humbly ask that you remember the **Midlands Education and Business Alliance** on your gift list this year. During today's tight economic times, giving to MEBA is a great way to make sure your dollars go farther, by impacting students, educators, parents, employers and employees not only today, but also for years to come. Since 1991, MEBA has empowered the future by providing the programs, events and services to give people of the Midlands with the tools and knowledge to improve their lives and futures.



A charitable gift in honor of someone is perfect for everyone on your gift list. When making your donation to MEBA, simply specify whom you wish to honor with your gift, and MEBA will send them a letter letting them know of your thoughtful support. For assistance or more information, please contact **Samantha Turner**, MEBA's workforce development coordinator, at 732.5359 or sturner@mebasc.com. To find out more about giving opportunities, please visit our Web site at www.mebasc.com/involvement/foundation.php. Remember, all gifts to MEBA are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support and involvement of MEBA, and for your gifts that will help MEBA continue to positively impact the lives of so many in the Midlands community. ■

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Happy Holidays!

*In the spirit of the season,
the staff of MEBA offer our
heartfelt thanks and best
wishes for a joyous holiday
season and prosperous
New Year.*



A Gift that Keeps on Giving: MEBA's Educator Field Studies

MEBA's Educator Field Studies epitomize the gift that keeps on giving. Through our field studies, Midlands educators are able to gain valuable firsthand experience, information and business contacts to take back to their classrooms. The knowledge gained and contacts made help bring relevance to curriculum as well as shadowing and internship opportunities to students. These students are then better prepared to determine the right career path for them and their future employers. With already six held this year and six more planned for the new year, MEBA's Educator Field Studies are a true gift.

Information Technology -- November 20, 2009

Hosted by the **Information Technology Alliance**, MEBA's

Information Technology Educator Field Study began at **BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina** with a

welcome by **Samantha Turner**, workforce development coordinator for MEBA, and **Kristine Hooker**, program

talent acquisition coordinator for BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina. **Lonnie Emard**, director of **Consortium for Enterprise Systems Management**, then provided the group with an introduction to Information Technology before they boarded a bus for SCANA. At SCANA, educators were treated to a tour of the facility and a presentation on necessary skills and training related to IT careers led by **Karen Baranich** of SCANA.

The group then enjoyed lunch with a feature presentation by **Bob Brookshire** with the **University of South Carolina** and the Consortium for Enterprise Systems Management. Following, the group traveled to **Business Vitals** where they

participated in a tour and presentation led by **Jeff Brewer**, president and CEO. Business Vitals provides secure information solutions that help customers meet their business goals and reduce the risk of IT failures. The group then returned to BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina for distribution of completion certificates and dismissal.



Jeff Brewer, President and CEO of Business Vitals.

Uptown Careers - December 9, 2009

Hosted by MEBA's **Business Management & Administration** and **Finance Alliances**, the **Uptown Careers Educator Field Study** introduced participants to businesses specializing in legal, accounting, marketing, finance and banking support services. Several business and industry representatives were on hand to share information on the education and training requirements and many career opportunities available in these fields. The event was held at **Scott McElveen, LLP**, an accounting and financial management firm, with an introduction and overview of careers in accounting provided by **Bill West, CPA**, a tax and advisory partner with Scott McElveen.

Morning presenters included **Heather Bowers** with **Recruiting Solutions**; **Caroline Agardy**, HR director for the **SC Budget and Control Board**, along with **Sara Pope**, employee development, and **Kathleen Pierce**, employee benefits; and **Thela Thatch**, owner of **Mrs. HR Consulting**. Following lunch, educators enjoyed presentations by **Tracie McCoy**, business development and area manager for marketing with **SC Federal Credit Union**; **Rob Tyson**, attorney, and **Karen Anders**, paralegal, with **Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC**; **Kathleen Abraham**, assistant vice president of **Security Federal Bank**; **Laurie Bruce** with education and training at **First Community Bank**; and **Ryan Barnes**, assistant branch manager with **The National Bank of South Carolina**. ■



Kristine Hooker welcomes educator participants to BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina for MEBA's Information Technology Educator Field Study.

Your Child Is Job #1: Learning Through the Holidays

by Kay Barlow

The Holiday Season is a time of great expectations and high spirits. We have festive decorations, fun get-togethers with family and friends and many opportunities to give. This is also a wonderful time of the year to teach your child to give of himself or herself, to give of the spirit and to give from the heart. It's a time to reexamine the role model we are setting for our children, and to



MEBA's Kay Barlow shares tips on learning during the Holiday Season.

remember that if we do not take care of ourselves, we may find we have nothing to give others.

The holidays also can be a learning time for each of our children.

Remember the greatest gift you can give others

is the gift of yourself, the gift of time. This year, try giving these simple gifts to your children as a way to give them even more of yourself.

- ✓ **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, map directions and recipes.
- ✓ **Leadership and responsibility** can be fostered by allowing children to help with holiday shopping, errands and babysitting.
- ✓ **Decision making** should be practiced year round. The holidays are full of choices your child can make. What gift to buy? What party to attend? Which treat to bake?

✓ A family holiday is good practice for **teamwork skills**. We learn to value the opinion of others, respect their time and their feelings and to share ourselves with others. Sharing family history and holiday traditions give each of us a sense of belonging.

✓ The holidays offer a great time for **hands-on learning**. Those children who learn well by using their hands can help put together toys and games. Let children set the table and help with holiday decorating.

Most importantly, remember the holidays are about **sharing** your time, love and memories. Long after the gifts are gone, relatives have returned home and the tinsel and paper have been thrown away, the memories of time shared, of love given and of memories made will be in the hearts of your child.

Through *Your Child Is Job #1*, Kay Barlow, MEBA's community and parent education director, spends time each month sharing important tips and resources with parents to help them in their most important job -- **their child's first and primary teacher**. MEBA's partnerships with many Midlands businesses allow Barlow to reach out to parents at their places of employment. For more information, please visit MEBA's Web site at www.mebasc.com/business/job1.php or contact Barlow at 790.7502 or kbarlow@mebasc.com. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Break

December 21, 2009 - January 1, 2010

Business Management & Administration Alliance

January 6, 2010, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Midlands Technical College, Airport Campus, AC 115

Information Technology Alliance

January 6, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Midlands Technical College, Airport Campus, AC 115

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Alliance

January 7, 2010, 9:00 - 10:30 am

Midlands Technical College, Airport Campus, LX 140

Law, Public Safety & Corrections Alliance

January 7, 2010, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Midlands Technical College, Airport Campus, LX 140

MEBA Executive Committee

January 8, 2010, 7:45 - 9:00 am

MTC Beltline Campus, Executive Conference Room

Law, Public Safety & Corrections Educator Field Study

January 12, 2010

Ridgeview High School Educator Field Study

January 15, 2010

Career Connections Committee

January 15, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

MTC Airport Campus, Academic Center 139

Architecture & Construction Alliance

January 20, 2010, 9:00 - 10:30 am

MTC Airport Campus, Academic Center 115

Finance Alliance

January 21, 2010, 9:00 - 10:30 am

MTC Airport Campus, Academic Center 115

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Alliance

January 21, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

MTC Airport Campus, Academic Center 115

LEARNING THAT'S FUN AND SMART

Always looking for new ways to get in the classroom and to keep up with technology, **Susan Herndon**, career specialist at **Irmo Middle**, worked smarter to make learning fun and technologically savvy.

Herndon recently designed special career-focused games to be played on SMART boards. She converted MEBA's school-to-work site chart into a SMART board game and also included a



An Irmo Middle School student plays a career-focused game on the SMART board. The game is one of several designed by career specialist Susan Herndon.

short career video at the end of the lesson. Other games included a two cluster game, a crossword puzzle about character traits and the high school requirement game.

“It was fun to visit the classrooms and watch the students engaged in and enjoying the games,” says Herndon. According to the teachers, the games were a great success, with students having fun and engaged and great conversations. Some teachers have even asked if they can use the games for emergency lesson activities for substitute teachers.

For more information about this project, please contact **Susan Herndon** at 476.3600 or sherndon@lex5.k12.sc.us. ■

See **Upcoming Events Continued** on Page 5

Career Corner

Stacey Westberry, MEBA's professional development director and regional career specialist, and one of only four National Career Development Association (NCDA) Master Trainers in South Carolina, held her first Career Development Facilitator Instructor Training. The training was held December 2 through 4, 2009, and course participants are now certified and ready to teach their own CDF classes. A big thank you to Westberry and MEBA for offering this important course and congratulations to the participants for completing this beneficial training. ■



Career Development Facilitator Instructor Training course participants. Back row from l to r: Kathy Campbell, South Aiken High; Patricia Ferguson, Trident Regional Education Center; Xyreese Trapp, Fairfield Middle; Kay McNutt, Rock Hill Schools of York 3; Stacey Gray-Feaster, Fairfield Career & Technology Center; and Mike King, SC Department of Education. Front row from l to r: Stacey Westberry (instructor); Lisa Robbins, Catawba Regional Education Center; Muffy Allison, Midlands Technical College; and Robbie Tweito, Pendleton's Regional Career Specialist.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Continued)

GCDF Professional Development Workshop

January 22, 2010, 9:00 - 11:00 am
Paul Mitchell The School, Columbia

Education & Training Alliance

January 22, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
300 Canal Street

Midlands Middle College Educator Field Study

January 25, 2010

Health Science Alliance

January 27, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
MTC Airport Campus, Academic Center 115

Manufacturing Alliance

January 28, 2010, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Hayward Career & Technology Center

2010 SC AHEC Summit

*"Promoting Diversity in Healthcare: Building a
Lasting Contribution"*

February 22, 2010

Brookland Baptist Church Conference Center

Register online at

www.scahec.net/diversitysummit.html



www.mebasc.com

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.