



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

## Teachers in the Workplace

Ask anyone to describe the **Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA)** and the word you'll hear most often is "connect." MEBA makes



From l to r: Lisa Call, Kathryn Padgett, Kathleen Taylor, Yvette Sumter, Rick Counts, Deborah McDonald, Tiffany Poole, Paula Williamson, Lorie McDuffie, Butch Knight, Jane Gregory, Brad Lindsey, Rose Marie Baird Bates and Kaye Shaw.

thousands of connections between education and business each year to improve the quality of life for all Midlands citizens. This past month through the Teachers in the Workplace summer graduate course, MEBA made a surprise connection when teacher and student became reacquainted through a reversal of roles.

When teacher **Jane Gregory** received a call from her contact at the **South Carolina Department of Transportation** where she would be working for MEBA's Teachers in the Workplace course, she recognized the voice on the other end of the line right away. **Rose Marie Baird Bates**, a 1991 graduate of Brookland-Cayce High School and Gregory's former student, was now a manager of workforce planning and special projects at DOT and would be one of Gregory's advisors for the course.

"I have a new appreciation for the world of work and the sense of exhaustion," laughs Gregory. "Each day, I returned home energized and exhausted -- excited about what I had learned but barely able to put dinner on the table, write in my journal and crawl into bed!" At DOT, Gregory saw the math skills she teaches everyday put to real-world use as she attended meetings, participated in problem-solving activities and assisted technicians at job sites. "What impressed me most,"



Jane Gregory and Rose Marie Baird Bates

### UPCOMING EVENTS

2009 Education & Business Summit  
*"Innovation for Education & Business in South Carolina"*

June 21 - 25, 2009  
Carolina First Center, Greenville

Central Fairfield High School  
Career Exploration Camp

*"Build Your Career"*  
June 29, 2009, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Executive Committee  
August 14, 2009, 7:45 - 9:00 am  
President's Conference Room  
Midlands Technical College Bellline Campus

MEBA's Annual Orientation  
August 28, 2009, 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Midlands Technical College Northeast Campus

*"Your Blue Print for the Future"*  
8th Grade Student Career Day  
October 12, 2009  
Midlands Technical College Airport Campus

*"Career Checkup"*  
8th Grade Student Career Day  
October 13, 2009  
Midlands Technical College Airport Campus

*The staff of MEBA wish you a safe and enjoyable summer! Look for a special Back-to-School issue of eConnections in August.*



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

## Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina

Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA) is proud to announce the recent receipt of a \$25,000 grant from



*From l to r: Tom Keith, president of Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC; Kaye Shaw, MEBA's executive director; and Kevin Hall, board chair, Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC.*

**Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina** to support activities that impact poverty in the Midlands. The grant award was presented on June 4, 2009, at the Foundation's orientation and

awards luncheon. Sisters of Charity continues to be a strong and involved supporter of MEBA and its mission to connect students, parents and educators to the career resources, training and opportunities they need to be successful.

MEBA was one of twelve nonprofit and faith-based organizations to be awarded a Responsive Grant by the Foundation. Responsive Grants are designed to address the root causes of poverty using strategic methods that allow the Foundation to work closely with grantees and develop collaborative relationships through focused technical assistance and monitoring.

"These organizations are relentlessly working to address poverty in South Carolina through their programs and services," said **Kevin Hall**, board chair of the Foundation. "It is our hope that the funding from the Foundation will help strengthen and build their capacity to serve those in need."

Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina works daily to address the needs of the state's poor and underserved through a variety of programs, grant opportunities, education and training for nonprofit organizations, evaluation, collaborative ventures and public policy work. For more information about the Foundation, please visit [www.sistersofcharitysc.com](http://www.sistersofcharitysc.com). ■

*Don't Delay!  
MEBA's Annual Fund  
Drive Ends This Month*

MEBA's 2008-2009 Annual Fund Drive comes to a close this month. Thank you to everyone who has already made your pledge or donation. If it has slipped your mind, there is still time, but please hurry. The last day to contribute to MEBA's 2008-2009 Annual Fund is Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

MEBA's Annual Fund is key to MEBA's efforts to provide resources, programs and services that help strengthen the Midlands community. MEBA is fortunate to have so many engaged and dedicated partners and friends, and we hope you will consider taking your involvement one step further by donating to MEBA's annual fund. No matter the size, your gift matters!

Contributions are tax-deductible. Please contact MEBA's Samantha Turner at (803) 732-5359 or [sturner@mebasc.com](mailto:sturner@mebasc.com) to donate today. Donations also may be mailed directly to MEBA, Attn: Samantha Turner, PO Box 2408, Columbia, SC 29202.

From **Teachers in the Workplace**, Page 1

says Gregory,” was the respect all the employees show for each other and how well they work together as a team. That’s something I will definitely take back to my students in addition to the practical math skill application examples.”

Her first experience with MEBA, the course made an impression on Bates as well. “As a business partner, I want educators to visit our facility and work with us to see what is needed in today’s workforce,” says Bates. “By connecting with one teacher, we are really connecting with thousands of students for years to come.” As Gregory shares her experience with students, Bates hopes interests will be sparked and some will want to learn more about DOT and available career opportunities. Bates also was impressed with the way business and education are partnering together to ensure today’s students have the skills they need to be successful and businesses have the employees they need to thrive. “It’s the ultimate win-win,” says Bates.

In addition to Gregory, eight educators participated in the course including: **Rick Counts, Butch Knight, Deborah McDonald, Lorie McDuffie, Kathryn Padgett, Tiffany Poole, Kathleen Taylor and Paula Williamson.** ■



*From l to r: Brad Lindsey, Deborah McDonald and Donnie Glenn.*



*Rick Counts (center) with members of the Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism team.*



*Butch Knight, Lisa Call, and Chris Salmon at Argand Energy Solutions.*

## Midlands' Technology Champ

For the seventh consecutive year South Carolina's top career and technology education students will be publicly recognized at the **Education and Business Summit** on June 21 in Greenville. A distinction bestowed upon 12 very select, 2009 high school graduates, these “**Technology Champs**,” were selected from a pool of nominations received from high schools and career and technology centers within the state. Regional selection was based upon such factors as GPA, attendance, awards and honors, school leadership and community service.



*Mitchell Isaac, Midlands Technology Champ*

**Mitchell Isaac of Spring Valley High School in Richland School District Two** was selected as the 2009 Technology Champion for the Midlands Region. "We are so proud of Mitchell and all of the students who participated," said **Dr. Kaye Shaw**, executive director of MEBA, which helped coordinate the Midlands application and selection process. "The program helps students identify and spotlight their unique talents and proves South Carolina's students have what it takes to be competitive and successful in the 21st Century." ■

Thank you to MEBA's 2009 Teachers in the Workplace business partners!

Argand Energy Solutions

CMC Steel SC

Midlands Authority for  
Convention, Sports and Tourism

Palmetto Health

Recruiting Solutions

SC Department of  
Transportation

SCANA

Sisters of Charity Providence  
Hospitals

UPS

Check out more great photos of all course participants and their workplace experience on MEBA's online photo gallery at [www.mebasc.com/photos](http://www.mebasc.com/photos).

## Quick Bytes

- Congratulations to **Marysusan Williamson** of **Lexington School District Two** for being named the 2009 Governor's Carolina Career and Technology Teacher of the Year. The award is presented to a teacher who has incorporated Carolina Career concepts in the classroom such as providing students with first-hand knowledge of careers through shadowing, field trips and career speakers. Williamson, a National Board Certified business education teacher, has taught at **Brookland-Cayce High School** for 10 years. "Williamson exemplifies all of the qualities to receive this prestigious award," says **Debbie Manos**, work-based learning counselor for Brookland-Cayce High School. "We are pleased to have her in Lexington Two."



Marysusan Williamson

- MEBA welcomes new business partners **South Carolina Department of Transportation** and **Argand Energy Solutions**. Learn more about these businesses by visiting their Web sites at [www.dot.state.sc.us](http://www.dot.state.sc.us) and [www.argandenergy.com](http://www.argandenergy.com).
- Educators, do you have students interested in a career with the **FBI**? Check out [www.fbi.gov/fbikids.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/fbikids.htm), the FBI's Web page designed to help students kindergarten through 12th grade learn more about the FBI through age-appropriate games, tips, stories and interactives.
- Congratulations to two MEBA business partners, **Tom Ledbetter** and **Buddy Smith**, for recent awards each received from the **Greater Lexington County Chamber of Commerce**. Ledbetter, who serves as executive director of **Midlands Technical College's Enterprise Campus** and as a member of MEBA's board of directors, was presented with the H. Odelle Harman REACH (Recognizing Educational and Community Humanitarism) Award, for major contributions to the community's education system, specifically his work in developing the "school to work" program between Lexington District One and local industries.

Smith received the A. L. Harman Award for "selfless dedication over and beyond the call of duty as a volunteer to help the Chamber succeed in its primary mission to promote and serve the business community." Smith, a technical consultant with **Total Comfort Services, Inc.**, has served as a Chamber Ambassador for many years and also as a MEBA business partner. Congratulations to both Ledbetter and Smith for this well-deserved recognition! ■

## MEBA IN ACTION: *Arts Alliance Tours "Careers to Cezanne"*

On May 22, 2009, MEBA's Arts Alliance and the Columbia Museum of Art hosted career specialists and guidance counselors for a presentation on careers at the museum.

Attendees were then treated to a tour of the highly acclaimed "Turner to Cezanne" exhibit. Special thanks to the Columbia Museum of Art, **Ellen**



Ellen Woodoff and  
Ali Borchardt

**Woodoff**, director of marketing and communications, and **Ali Borchardt**, director of education, for their partnership and commitment to education. The event was part of the alliance's news series, "Focus on Futures," to provide information on careers in various areas of the arts. To learn more about the Columbia Museum of Art, visit [www.columbiamuseum.org](http://www.columbiamuseum.org). ■



[www.mebasc.com](http://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](mailto:ashleythomas@mebasc.com).