



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

## Donor Spotlight:

*Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals Partners with MEBA to Meet the Health, Education and Social Needs of the Midlands Community*



*Pictured from l to r: Dr. Kaye Shaw, Rick Grooms, Holly Cummings, Donna Plunkett, Katrina Spigner, Thomas Keith and Steve Benjamin*

MEBA is proud of our success in achieving our mission to connect students, parents, educators and employers to education and career opportunities in the Midlands through programs and partnerships of business, school, college, faith and other community leaders. This past year alone, through resources and onsite work opportunities,

MEBA has reached more than 50,000 students and more than 9,000 parents in all nine school districts of **Fairfield, Richland and Lexington** Counties. We have engaged more than 250 business partners to create pathways for young people to higher education and their career goals. We know this success would not be possible without the tremendous support of individuals and organizations such as **Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina and Providence Hospitals.**

The Midlands community has benefited for several years from the strong partnership formed between MEBA and **Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals.** "We are proud of MEBA's ongoing partnership with Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals," says **Lisa Call**, MEBA's interim executive director. "Their commitment to our work and to the Midlands community is evident in their presence on our board and alliances, at key events and in opening their doors to educators and students to enhance and strengthen their educational experiences."

**Rick Grooms** serves as a member of MEBA's Board of Directors

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## Upcoming Events

### Teachers in the Workplace Course

June 4 - 8, 2007

### MEBA Executive Committee

June 8, 2007, 7:45 - 9:15 am  
NAI Avant

### SC Education and Business Summit

June 24 - 28, 2007  
Carolina First Center  
Greenville, SC

## Save the Date!

*MEBA Committee and Alliance members please mark your calendars for the next MEBA Orientation.*

### MEBA Orientation

Friday, August 31, 2007

8:30 - 10:00 am

Midlands Technical College  
Northeast Campus



## Carver Lyon Elementary Students Participate in Healthcare Careers Institute



Carver Lyon Elementary students participate in Health Careers Institute.

Throughout the past school year, fourth grade students from **Carver Lyon Elementary School in Richland School District One** participated in a **Healthcare Careers Institute** sponsored by **MEBA, Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals, and USC Speciality Clinics College of Nursing**. The goal of the institute was to promote healthcare careers while teaching and reinforcing basic math, science, social studies and English competencies. Institute sessions were held every other Thursday from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m. at the school and included presentations on healthcare careers such as nurse technician, nurse practitioner, admissions representative, receptionist, respiratory therapist, nutritionist and orthopedist. **Lisa Call**, MEBA's interim executive director and workforce development director, and **Kay Barlow**, MEBA's Education and Community Coordinator, helped organize the institute and distributed informative brochures, coloring books and educational prizes.

Thank you to the following business partners for their participation and involvement: **Evelyn Ethridge, USC Clinic; Eddie Jackson, Midlands Technical College; Shemia Miller**, nurse technician with **Providence Hospitals; Gary Summerfield**, registered nurse at **Providence Hospitals; Farrah Wigand, Providence Hospitals; Richland County EMS**; and other business participants. Special thanks also to **Donna Plunkett** with Providence Hospitals and **Sandra Dietel** with USC's **Speciality Clinics College of Nursing** for helping to make the institute a great success. Thank you also to **Mickey Richard**, guidance counselor at Carver Lyon Elementary, for organizing the event.



*Dr. Denise Routhier, a USC team doctor, talks with Carver Lyon Elementary fourth graders about "splinting."*

## Calling All Fairfield County Educators -- Sign Up Now for Fairfield Educators Field Study!

Fairfield County educators are invited to join MEBA and Fairfield County businesses in bringing an industry perspective to your classroom. Educator Field Studies connect teachers, counselors, administrators and school board members to the ever changing world of business.

Participants will hear from professionals in many different career fields on the skills students need today for tomorrow's workforce. Educators will learn how to make curriculum relevant, useful and meaning for students and gain a better understanding about how content areas connect to the world of work.

The field study will be held on August 15, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided and there is no charge for participants from Fairfield County schools. Sign up to take part in this exciting event by contacting Lisa Call at 803-822-3776 or by E-mail at lcall@mebasc.com. You can also download a registration form from MEBA's website at [www.mebasc.com](http://www.mebasc.com).

Check out MEBA's website at [www.mebasc.com](http://www.mebasc.com).

## Your Child Is Job #1: Summer Safety

This month, as part of the *Your Child Is Job #1* program, MEBA's **Kay Barlow** visited hundreds of parents at their places of work to talk about the importance of summer safety. Barlow's presentation, titled "Lifesavers Come in All Shapes: Summer Safety for Your Children," outlined ways parents and caregivers can help their children stay safe this summer. Barlow emphasized that MEBA cares about the whole child, not just their education, and that's why summer safety is key to good parenting.

According to Barlow, one of the most important ways we can keep our children safe is to spend quality time with them. "During the summer, children, especially teenagers, may have too much non-productive downtime," says Barlow. "That time is going to be filled with something, so let's make sure it is filled with a person, attitude or activity of which we approve. Let's fill that time with ourselves - all time spent with our children is golden and it is important that we are the major influence in their lives."

Some of Barlow's other tips for summer safety include:

- **Sun Safety:** Make sure your children wear sun screen. Sunscreen needs to be applied every 30 minutes.
- **Insect Safety:** Protect your children against insect bites by applying insect repellent before they play outside. Insect repellent only needs to be applied once a day.
- **Bicycle Safety:** Insist your child wears a helmet when riding a bicycle or skating.
- **Water Safety:** Make certain your child participates in swim lessons. Do not depend on lifeguards when you and your child are at a swimming facility. It's your responsibility to watch your child at all times.
- **Food Safety:** When enjoying picnics outside, make sure not to leave food out for more than 10 minutes. Make sure grills and propane tanks are out of reach from your children.

### Your Child Is Job #1 in Numbers

2000 Fairfield County television viewers  
6 City of Columbia Fire Station 1 employees  
165 Spirax Sarco employees  
15 Health Alliance business leaders  
100 Lexington Medical Center employees

*May Total: 2351 people reached!*

## Colonial Supplemental Insurance Hosts "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day"

On April 26, 2007, 35 students ranging in age from late elementary school to early high school were able to join mom and dad on the job at **Colonial Supplemental Insurance** to learn more about what really goes on in the world of work.

The students and their parents arrived at Colonial Supplemental Insurance at 8:30 am and were welcomed and given an overview of the company by **Marie McGehee, Colonial's Manager of Community Relations**. **MEBA's Stacey Westberry** then treated the students to a reading of *How Santa Got His Job* and discussed the importance of education and career decisions. Throughout the day, students participated in various workshops and activities designed to generate career awareness, enjoyed a catered lunch with their parents, and toured the Colonial Life facility.

and is Vice President for Human Resources at Providence Hospitals. Grooms has long been interested in educational initiatives and his dedication to connecting schools and businesses is at the core of why he wanted to be involved with MEBA. "I enjoy every aspect of education," says Grooms. "As a hospital, we believe in giving back to the community and MEBA provides a great way for us to become involved and to see a positive return on our investment."

This year, MEBA's partnership with Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals has been enhanced through a \$25,000 grant from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. The grant, "Strengthening Education, Workforce and Economic Development," will help expand and bolster MEBA's efforts in three key areas: *Framework for Understanding Poverty* training for 30 educators from schools located in low-to-moderate income areas; job shadowing opportunities for 2,000 students; and *Your Child Is Job #1* sessions for 500 parents at their places of work.

"As a Foundation, we were impressed with MEBA's record and their approach for support," says **Katrina Spigner** of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. "MEBA took tremendous time and effort to illustrate how what they are doing is truly making a difference and to help us understand the significance of our involvement."

**Thomas Keith**, executive director of the Foundation, believes that the connection between the Foundation's mission and MEBA's provides the groundwork for a productive partnership. "MEBA's work aligns itself with the Foundation's mission of understanding the root causes of poverty, nurturing the growth of healthy communities and emphasizing youth and family," explains Keith, executive director of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. "By targeting Midlands educators, students and parents, the Alliance is working to impact the community for years to come."

## MEBA's 2007 Technology Champion Named

**Taylor Gilliam**, a senior at **Brookland-Cayce High School** in **Lexington School District Two**, has been named **MEBA's 2007 Technology Champion**. Gilliam,



along with champions from the 15 other regions, will be recognized at the **2007 Technology Champions Celebration**. The celebration is to be held in conjunction with the **State Department of Education's Annual Education and Business Summit** on June 24, 2007, at the Carolina First Center in Greenville, South Carolina.

At Brookland-Cayce High School, Gilliam is active in many organizations. He serves as parliamentarian of Student Council, battalion commander of the JROTC program, vice president of the Ruritan Club, treasurer of the National Honor Society chapter, a member of the Math Team and the Recycling Team. Gilliam also serves as an intern at the accounting firm of **Dooley and Company**. Upon graduation, Gilliam plans to attend The Citadel, where he has earned a full academic scholarship. Gilliam would like to major in business administration and one day open his own accounting firm.

Technology Champions represent the talent that will help South Carolina continue to meet its need for skilled, knowledgeable workers who are ready to face the challenges of an ever-changing global economy. The Technology Champions Celebration showcases South Carolina's most outstanding career and technology education students and provides public recognition of their hard work and dedi-

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## Richland One Showcases Schools in CA Johnson Neighborhood



*MEBA partners Theresa Baker and Brooks Harper talk with attendees at the Johnson Cluster Showcase Extravaganza.*

On Saturday, April 21, 2007, the principals from five neighboring **Richland One** schools invited the community to learn more about the schools' exciting programs, exceptional students and accomplishments at the **Johnson Cluster Showcase Extravaganza**. More than 300 parents, students and community members attended the event, which began at **C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy**. Shuttle buses were available to transport the attendees to all of the participating schools for tours and presentations. Entertainment was provided by the W.A. Perry band, Spanish dancers, a step team and student fashion models.

The Johnson Cluster is made up of **Carver-Lyon Elementary, Watkins-Nance Elementary, W.A. Perry Middle School, C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy** and the **Challenger Learning Center**. The schools boast world-famous alumni such as astronaut Major General Charles Bolden and thousands of other graduates who have gone on to pursue careers, family life and other interests.

The event provided attendees the opportunity to learn about the schools' business partnerships, as well as services available to families. Parents were given information about college admissions and financial aid, and faculty and staff from all five schools greeted visitors and answered questions about the schools' programs and services. Displays throughout the schools provided insights into the topics students are studying. The Midlands Education and Business Alliance partners were on hand to distribute career awareness information and resources and to talk with attendees. Representing **MEBA** were **Lisa Call**, MEBA's interim executive director; **Theresa Baker** of **Midlands Technical College**; and **Brooks Harper** of **Southern Wesleyan University**.

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## Batesburg-Leesville High Hosts School Career Event



*Melissa Price of Midlands Technical College distributes information and talks with Batesburg-Leesville High School students.*

On April 27, 2007, **MEBA** and **Midlands Technical College** hosted a career event for 200 **Batesburg-Leesville High School** students to showcase Midlands Technical College's course offerings and programs as well as related careers. The event, coordinated by **Walter Hallman**, Batesburg-Leesville High School's School to Careers Coordinator and MEBA's **Lisa Call**, provided students the opportunity to listen and talk with presenters including **Dianne BouFawaz**, Nursing; **Greg Lee** with Industrial Programs; **Mark Drew** with Continuing Education; **Melissa Price**, Career Programs; and **Theresa Baker**, Business and Community Outreach Coordinator. MEBA's Lisa Call also spoke with the students and distributed career awareness materials.

## Brookland-Cayce High School Career Fair



Kama Staton of Lexington Medical Center talks with students at Brookland-Cayce High School Career Fair.

**Brookland-Cayce High School** held a successful career fair for its students on March 29, 2007. MEBA's **Lisa Call** and **Debbie Manos**, School to Careers Counselor for Brookland-Cayce High School, coordinated the event. Thank you to the following businesses and representatives who helped make the Brookland-Cayce High School Career Fair a great success: **Kama Staton, Lexington**

**Medical Center; Michelle Berry, FBI; John Spires, Westinghouse; David Bullock, Total Comfort Service Center; Rochelle Tindal and Staff Sgt. Horace Miller with the South Carolina Army National Guard; Fred Millen, Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Derek Burrell, CMC Steel of South Carolina; Greg Lee, Jane Napier, Melissa Price** and other representatives from **Midlands Technical College; Lexington County EMS; and the Lexington County Sheriff's Department.** The pictures below highlight the great involvement of some of these MEBA business partners.

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The event demonstrates the value of education/business partnerships, rewards those businesses that believe in the promise of career and technology education, and encourages others to follow suit. An important part of the celebration is the recognition of the vital role of parents who have supported and encouraged their children to pursue their dreams as well as acknowledgement of the importance of principals and schools who have provided daily educational opportunities for these outstanding students. Technology Champions receive scholarship awards, affording them the opportunity to continue their education beyond high school.

The Technology Champions Celebration is sponsored by the **Silver Crescent Foundation**, a nonprofit organization committed to inspiring, supporting and preparing students for success in the workforce while helping to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.



John Spires of Westinghouse



Fred Millen of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Derek Burrell of CMC Steel of South Carolina



Staff Sgt. Horace Miller with the SC Army National Guard

MEBA wishes you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Please look for a special *eConnections* issue featuring the 2007 Teachers in the Workplace summer course later this month. The next full issue of *eConnections* will be published in August.

## Quick Bytes

- ◀ Congratulations to **Swansea High School** students **Scott West** and **Dereck Mitchell**! West and Mitchell qualified to compete in the **Ford/AAA 2007 Student Auto Skills Competition** and received the distinction of the First Place Winning Team for South Carolina. Congratulations also to their instructor, **Lonnie Holloway**.
- ◀ On April 30, 2007, **MEBA's Lisa Call** and **Theresa Baker** with **Midlands Technical College** participated in a **Health Summit** for students and educators at **C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy** in **Richland School District One**. The event included diabetes screening, CPR and First Aid training and a Red Cross blood drive sign-up. Local health organizations participated in event workshops and set up information booths to help students learn more about careers in healthcare. Participating groups included: **Matin Chiropractic Group, Inc.**; **The Drew Wellness Center**; **SC AHEC**; **United States Navy**; **USC's Medical College**; **Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals**; and **Palmetto Health**.
- ◀ Ten Midlands educators will take part in the 2007 **Teachers in the Workplace** summer course June 4 through 8, 2007. Participants will gain 40 hours of direct contact and learning on a business site. Upon completion, the educator interns will earn three hours of graduate credit at **Coastal Carolina University**. Thank you to this year's business participants including: **Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.**; **Siemens Diesel Systems Technology**; **Total Comfort, Inc.**; **South Carolina Electric & Gas**; **Palmetto Health**; **Lexington Medical Center**; **Recruiting Solutions**; **Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals**; and **CMC Steel of South Carolina**.

## Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars now for two exciting events for Midlands high school students to be held October 2007.

### Engineering & Industrial Technology Day

October 8, 2007, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm  
MTC Airport Campus  
Academic Center Commons Area

*\*Hosted by MEBA's Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Alliance and Engineering & Industrial Alliance as well as Midlands Technical College Office of Recruitment and Community Outreach.*

### Healthcare Career Day

October 9, 2007, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm  
MTC Airport Campus  
Academic Center Commons Area

*\*Hosted by MEBA's Health & Human Services Alliance and Midlands Technical College Office of Recruitment and Community Outreach.*



[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).