



MEBA Announces Leadership Changes



Dr. Kaye Shaw

Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA) Board of Directors announced staff leadership changes at its January board meeting. **Dr. Kaye K. Shaw**, Coordinator of the **Midlands Regional Education Center**, has been named MEBA's Executive Director. Shaw will continue to serve as Coordinator of the Midlands Regional Education Center, strengthening the partnership

between the two organizations and helping to boost the effectiveness and productivity of both.

"These leadership changes are being made to ensure that MEBA's organizational structure is closely aligned with the Education and Economic Development Act of 2005," said **Robert Dozier**, chair of MEBA's board of directors. "We are confident this improved structure will allow us to achieve greater results more efficiently, making us more effective and beneficial to the people and groups we serve."

"I am honored and eager to serve both of these dynamic organizations," said Shaw. "The joint efforts of MEBA and the Midlands Regional Education Center will allow us to better utilize our resources, provide more professional development and training opportunities and ultimately, offer more to the communities we serve."

Lisa D. Call has been named MEBA's Chief Operating Officer. Call has served as MEBA's Workforce Development Director and Career Specialist for nine years and recently served as its Interim Executive Director. In her new role, Call will be responsible for

UPCOMING EVENTS

Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Alliance

April 3, 2008

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus, AC 139

MEBA Board of Directors

Executive Committee

April 11, 2008

7:45 - 9:00 am

Midlands Technical College
Beltline Campus

Arts & Humanities Alliance

April 11, 2008

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Greater Columbia Chamber of
Commerce

Education & Training Alliance

April 15, 2008

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Midlands Technical College
Harbison Campus
Continuing Education Ctr, Rm 101

Career Connections

April 18, 2008

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Greater Columbia Chamber of
Commerce

Donor Spotlight: Lexington Medical Center

MEBA is pleased to recognize **Lexington Medical Center** for its generous support and continuous involvement with MEBA. Recently, **Kama Staton**, Workforce Development Coordinator for Lexington Medical Center, presented MEBA with a check for \$25,000 at MEBA's January board meeting. The donation is part of a three-year partnership between Lexington Medical Center and MEBA, with a total investment of \$75,000 as well as in-kind programmatic support. Lexington Medical Center's contribution will allow MEBA to continue healthcare workforce development programs and initiatives.



Kama Staton of Lexington Medical Center presents MEBA with a check for \$25,000. Pictured from l to r: Holly Cummings, Kama Staton and Robert Dozier.

Lexington Medical Center has long seen the importance and value of building a strong relationship with education to address future workforce needs. Now, due to the shortage of qualified candidates to fill many positions in the healthcare industry, Lexington Medical Center knows it is critically important to partner with organizations such as MEBA to strengthen their candidate pool and ultimately enhance their ability to serve the community well and efficiently.

Kama Staton, who is also a member of MEBA's board of directors, credits MEBA with improving Lexington Medical Center's connection with local schools and students. By partnering with MEBA, Lexington Medical Center is able to connect with students and teachers through teacher field studies, job shadowing and internship opportunities. Lexington Medical Center also provides opportunities for service learning and cooperative learning.

"We are definitely reaping the benefits of our investment in MEBA," says Staton. "By helping to expose students to careers in healthcare, we are increasing our potential applicant pool and improving our workforce." According to Staton, the results speak for themselves, as Lexington Medical Center consistently hires 40

MIDLANDS REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTER UPDATE

As outlined in the Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA), the main goal of all Regional Education Centers is to coordinate and facilitate the delivery of information, resources and services to students, educators, employers and the community. In order to successfully achieve this goal, Regional Education Centers must first identify agencies that offer education and economic development services in their respective communities. The receipt of the Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis Grant will allow the **Midlands Regional Education Center (MREC)** to do just that.

The Midlands Regional Education Center will use grant monies to support a partnership building initiative that will identify agencies in the Midlands that provide services for education, workforce development and economic development through a series of town hall meetings conducted in various areas of the Midlands. The town hall meetings will bring together key players and community leaders, and information collected will provide a comprehensive list of all organizations that currently provide education and economic development services. An attractive, easy-to-follow guide will paint a clear picture of available resources as well as gaps that need to be addressed.

According to **Dr. Kaye Shaw**,

More Than 600 Lexington Richland School District Five Educators Participate in MEBA Field Study



Educators participate in hands-on learning activity as part of MEBA field study.

More than 600 middle and high school educators from **School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties** participated in a special MEBA field study on February 18, 2008. The school district and MEBA partnered

together for this special event to give middle and high school educators a firsthand view of the world of work. The event exposed educators to various industries as well as information to make curriculum more relevant. The field study also allowed participants to learn about the types of skills required for specific career fields.

"I gathered a wealth of information through the MEBA field study," said **Julie Taylor**, a language arts teacher at **Dutch Fork**

Middle. "It's often hard for middle school students to comprehend that what they are learning in the classroom will be valuable to them in the future. Having these industry professionals stress the importance of



Educators tour warehouse at Time Warner Cable.

strong math, technical and language arts skills allows me to show my students the connection between their school work and the world of work."

Educators were able to visit two businesses. Participating business partners included **Lexington Medical Center, Continental Diesel Systems (Siemens), Time Warner Cable, Still Hopes, Michelin, Edventure, Palmetto Health - Baptist, Jim Hudson Toyota, Providence Hospitals, SCE&G, Hilton Garden Inn, BlueCross Blue Shield, Radisson Hotel** and **Total Comfort**.

Superintendent Scott AndersEn said, "We are so pleased that over 600 District Five teachers went out into the business community to help us reinforce the fact that we are not just preparing our students to graduate from high school. We are preparing them for the days, months and years after high school."



District Superintendent Scott AndersEn with Jim Hudson of Jim Hudson Toyota.

"By creating the connection between our teachers and businesses, we help enhance our opportunities to create high quality teaching and learning that is relevant to the real world and benefits our students," AndersEn said.

SAVE THE DATE!
2008 Education and Business Summit
June 22 - 26, 2008
Carolina First Center
Greenville, SC
www.ebsummit.info

MEBA Field Studies Continue to Connect

MEBA's field studies series continue to help educators make meaningful connections between curriculum and careers. It's not only the firsthand look and hands-on experience participants gain from visiting local business sites, but also the relationships they develop with industry professionals that help them bring the world of work - and its many career paths - to life for their students.

"The connections I make at MEBA's field studies are truly invaluable to me," says **Kim Neely**, a career specialist at **Dutch Fork High School**. "Being able to introduce my students to actual industry professionals, guide them towards opportunities for experience and bring relevance to their academic work is priceless."

Over the past few months, MEBA has hosted four such field studies focused on uptown careers, healthcare, public services and engineering and emerging technologies. Included here are brief recaps and photos from these exciting events.

Uptown Careers Field Study

The **Uptown Careers Field Study**, held on December 13, 2007, at the **Wachovia Building** in downtown Columbia, provided an in-depth look at careers in law, accounting, marketing, finance and



Edwin Breazeale of Midlands Technical College talks with attendees of Uptown Careers field study.

banking support services. The event began with breakfast and a tour of **Scott McElveen, LLP**, and a discussion of career opportunities related to accounting. Participants heard from **Deidra Crow** with the **City of Columbia** and **Edwin Breazeale** with **Midlands Technical College**, who provided insight into available career paths and necessary experience and skill requirements.

Participants then walked to **First Baptist Church** for a presentation on career opportunities in the legal field led by **Bill Musser** and **Michael Seezen**, attorneys with the **McNair Law Firm**. The group next toured the office facility of **Ameris Bank** and were treated to lunch and a presentation by **Mze Wilkins**, Midlands' President, and **Joe Reynolds**, SC Mortgage Executive, of Ameris Bank. Educators also were able to learn from **Ben Green**, with

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the daily operations of MEBA.

Kay H. Barlow will serve as Community and Parent Education Director, bolstering and enhancing the parent education component of MEBA's mission.

Stacey Westberry will serve as MEBA's Professional Development Director and Regional Career Specialist, providing more resources and professional development for career specialists and career development facilitators.

Holly D. Cummings serves as MEBA's Director of Development and Philanthropic Relations, strengthening the awareness of MEBA's mission and achievements as well as its financial base.

Linda Whitaker will continue to provide support to the MEBA team as its Administrative Assistant.

"The boards of both MEBA and the Midlands Regional Education Center have worked together closely since the beginning," said **Kama Staton**, chair of the Midlands Regional Education Center Advisory Board, member of MEBA's board of directors and the Midlands Workforce Development board, and Workforce Development Coordinator for **Lexington Medical Center**. "Bringing both organizations under the leadership of Dr. Shaw makes perfect sense. Her experience and leadership will ensure a seamless connection of missions and help expand our reach and maximize our value."

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CAREER CORNER

Updates for Career Development Facilitators

Connecting education and business is MEBA's constant focus and mission. One of the ways we achieve this mission is through providing **Career Development Facilitator** training to numerous educators and business members each year. Over the past several years, MEBA has provided this important training to more than 150 people throughout the Midlands. The impact, however, extends far beyond the course participants. MEBA's Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) professionals are able to return to their schools and places of business with a better understanding of career development resources and assessments as well as an awareness of professional strengths and needed improvements in the area of career guidance. Acquired knowledge and tools allow course participants to have a greater impact on the students they guide and the workforce they mold.

MEBA is proud of its role in providing this training to so many dedicated professionals and is dedicating this space in each *eConnections* newsletter to highlight what's happening in the realm of Career Development Facilitation including important resources and events. This month's highlights include:

- ◆ On April 9, 2008, MEBA will host a professional development opportunity for all GCDF professionals. The event will feature several speakers including **Mike Fox** with the **SC Student Loan Association**. Please join us from 9:00 - 11:00am in the Mary Robertson Conference Room at Midlands Technical College's Airport Campus.
- ◆ On April 15, 2008, MEBA will host the inaugural meeting of the **Education & Training Alliance**. This is a new alliance designed to bring together education and training professionals to network and discuss relative topics. The meeting will be from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm in Room 101 of the Continuing Education Center at Midlands Technical College's Harbison Campus.

*For questions or more information, please contact **Stacey Westberry**, MEBA's Professional Development Director and Regional Career Specialist, at 803-739-8833.*

Faces of MEBA: Theresa Counts-Davis

Theresa Counts-Davis is committed to students and to their success. For the past 20 years, she has worked on behalf of at-risk students to connect them to the opportunities they need to become successful and secure, happy and hopeful about their futures.



Counts-Davis

Counts-Davis currently serves as the Career and Technology Education Coordinator (CATE) for **Richland School District Two**. In this position, Counts-Davis oversees the CATE courses offered at the district's four comprehensive high schools, ensuring students have access to courses that prepare them for business, industry and beyond. Examples of CATE courses offered in Richland School District Two include carpentry, cosmetology, culinary arts, engineering, auto mechanics and auto body.

According to Counts-Davis, CATE courses are designed to provide students with the opportunity for hands-on learning and to help them see the relevance and application of what they are learning in their core academic courses.

"Our CATE courses serve as the beginning of a student's process to apply classroom learning to real world experiences," explains Counts-Davis. "CATE allows our students to pursue their interests, try new things, discover their nich-

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NATIONAL GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOWING DAY

For the 11th consecutive year, hundreds of Midlands students took a short leave from school to experience hands-on learning inside another type of classroom - the workplace. As part of **National Groundhog Job Shadowing Day**, students nationwide had the opportunity to explore future careers and see how what they are learning in school connects to the world of work.



L to R: Wofford O'Sullivan (SC Dept. of Ed.), Ryan Bennett and Quinton Epting

"Groundhog Job Shadowing Day is a great way for our students to gain firsthand, real-world work experience," says **Debbie Manos**, Work Based Learning Counselor at **Brookland-Cayce High School in Lexington School District Two**.

"My students thoroughly enjoyed learning about careers and what really goes on day to day."

Many of Manos' students were able to shadow key state executives.

Devin Landrum shadowed **Governor Mark Sanford**, and **Jennifer Warren** and **Evan Chastain** spent time with **Lt. Governor Andre Bauer**. The **SC Department of Education** hosted several students including **Quinton Epting**, **Flavia Sotelo**, **Heather Neely**, **Ryan Bennett**, **Tega Murphy**, **Rachel Snell**, **Ann Diggins**, **Brittnay Glover**, **Keira McLaughlin**, **Ashley Clegg** and **Maria Barron**. **Chris Hartzwarth** shadowed **Robert Barnett** of the **SC Chamber of Commerce**.



Devin Landrum with Governor Sanford

Students from the culinary arts program at **Heyward Career Center in Richland School District One** got firsthand culinary experience at **Lizard's Thicket**. Student shadows - **Chanty Gaskins**, **Travis Jackson** and **Laura Williams** - along with their teacher, **Chef Collins**, learned about food preparation and the restaurant business. Local anchor **Curtis Wilson** of **WLTX** joined the group and featured the program on **WLTX's** morning show.

Corey Littlejohn, from **Heathwood Hall**, served as an engineering shadow for two days at **Cox and Dinkins**, a local engineering firm. Littlejohn spent time learning about the various aspects of engineering from drafting to surveying to project management. Thank you to all the participating businesses, educators, students and organizers who made the event a great success!

Coming Soon
For more photos from 2008 National Groundhog Job Shadowing, please visit MEBA's online photo gallery at www.mebasc.com
Coming Soon

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percent of those students who have participated in one of the hospital's programs.

The rewards do not only belong to Lexington Medical Center explains **Lisa Call**, MEBA's Chief Operating Officer. "With the support of Lexington Medical Center we are able to provide educators and students with the tools and information they need to pursue successful careers in the healthcare industry," says Call. "Helping students find a better and more meaningful future is quite an accomplishment, and we are grateful to Lexington Medical Center and all of our partners for helping us do this day after day."

the **South Carolina Department of Commerce** and **Elliot E. Franks**, with the **South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority**.

The concluding event was an expert panel of professionals including **Dr. Bob Brookshire** with **Information Systems Technology** at the **University of South Carolina**; **Bruce Martin** with **Office Systems Technology** at **Midlands Technical College**; and **Marnie Robinson** of **Brookland Baptist Church**.

Healthcare Teacher Field Study



The **Healthcare Teacher Field Study** was held on January 23, 2008, and began at **Midlands Technical College Airport Campus** with a presentation by **Lara Hewitt** of the **South Carolina Hospital Association**. Hewitt discussed the role of the SC Hospital Association and their available resources. She also gave away a health careers

DVD set as a door prize. Participants were also able to tour and learn about the several allied health programs available at Midlands Technical College.

Participants then boarded a bus and traveled to **Palmetto Health Richland** where they met with **Dr. Eric Murdock**, Director of Surgery, toured a simulation lab and participated in a demonstration of a class session. The group next visited **Sisters of Charity Providence Hospital** where they visited various departments including pharmacy and radiology. **Carol Brenner**, Human Resources Specialist and Recruiter, spoke to the group about available needs and application procedures. Special thanks to **Felicia Blake**, Providence's Workforce Development Coordinator, for her help in organizing the visit.

Participants made a final stop at **Lexington Medical Center - Lexington**, an outpatient urgent care facility. **Barbara Willm**, Vice President of Community Medical Centers, and **Kama Staton**, Workforce Development Coordinator, welcomed the group and led tours of the emergency room and surgery and radiology departments.

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MEBA HOSTS POVERTY SEMINAR

On January 29, 2008, 110 educators attended **MEBA's Poverty Seminar** at the Northeast Campus of **Midlands Technical College**. The seminar, based on **Dr. Ruby K. Payne's "Framework for Understanding Poverty,"** provided attendees with tips, strategies and resources for working with children and parents of poverty.

The event began with an introduction by **Lisa Call**, MEBA's Chief Operating Officer, and remarks by **Kay Barlow**, MEBA's Community and Parent Education Director. **Dr. John Lane**, an EEDA Educational Associate with **Personal Pathways to Success**, discussed the "At-Risk Population," and stressed the importance educating school administrators and educators on the issues surrounding diversity and poverty. According to Lane, it is crucial for students and their parents to know that educators care enough to seek to understand their perspective and believe in them enough to help them succeed. Educators must work to involve the parents in a student's academic experience because the home remains the center of a child's life.

Lane also emphasized the importance of showing at-risk students

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es, and be better prepared for their futures."

Counts-Davis says there is no typical day in education. Each day presents new opportunities and challenges, and she thrives on working every day to help students achieve. Whether observing classrooms or working with teachers to make sure they have access to the latest information and technology, Counts-Davis knows her work ultimately benefits the students and their future career goals.

Counts-Davis began her career in education as a guidance counselor at **Blythewood Academy** six years ago. It was then she learned about **MEBA** after meeting MEBA's **Lisa Call** at an education event. "Lisa told me about MEBA and the services it provided, and I quickly began to take advantage of its resources," says Counts-Davis. Since then, Counts-Davis has continued her involvement with MEBA and is currently a member of **MEBA's Curriculum Alignment Committee** as well as **MEBA's Middle College Advisory Board**.

"MEBA plays a vital role in connecting educators to the resources they need," stresses Counts-Davis. "The work MEBA does in establishing connections with local businesses is invaluable to educators. MEBA does the leg-work, yet we are able to reap the benefits." Counts-Davis is also grateful to MEBA for its role in helping educators and business leaders come together and better understand each other's perspectives and needs, helping to establish a seamless connection from school to work.

"I have had a keen interest in the well-being of children for more than 20 years," says Counts-Davis. "I know that with guidance and structure, students can become productive citizens. MEBA understands this, too."

Before serving as guidance counselor at Blythewood Academy, Counts-Davis worked on behalf of at-risk students as an employee at various local non-profit agencies including the **Rape Crisis Network** and the **SC Department of Social Services** developing programs for teenage parents. She is originally from Bamberg County and received a degree as an education specialist in counselor education from the **University of South Carolina**.

MEBA Hosts January Board Meeting

Midlands Education and Business Alliance held its January **Board of Directors** meeting on January 15, 2008, at the Airport Camps of **Midlands Technical College**. The meeting began with the announcement of staff leadership changes, with the appointment of **Dr. Kaye Shaw** to once again serve as MEBA's Executive Director. Shaw also will continue to serve as coordi-



Lisa Call and Kaye Shaw

nator of the **Midlands Regional Education Center**, strengthening and streamlining the connection between the two organizations. **Lisa Call** will serve as MEBA's Chief Operating Officer and be responsible for its daily operations. For more on MEBA staff leadership changes, please see related article on page one of this issue of *eConnections*.

Several of MEBA's key donors and supporters attended the meeting and were recognized by **Chairman Robert Dozier** for their



l to r: Holly Cummings, Todd Avant, Robert Dozier

involvement and commitment to MEBA's mission. **Todd Avant**, President of **NAI Avant**, was recognized for NAI Avant's leadership and in-kind contribution of meeting

space for MEBA's executive committee meetings. **Kama Staton**, Workforce Development Coordinator for **Lexington Medical Center** and a member of MEBA's Board of Directors, was on hand to present

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Your Child Is Job #1: *What Makes a Good Father?*

We all know that parental involvement, support and encouragement is vital to a child's self-esteem, academic achievement and future success.

What we are learning more and more is just how vital the father's role is to a child's healthy development. **Kay Barlow**, MEBA's Community and Parent Education Director, spent time this month focusing on what makes a good father and sharing tips and anecdotes with Midlands parents. Through these discussions, she discovered that fathers are more than relatives, but role models and inspirations to many. As a result, Barlow offers the following descriptions of what makes a good father:



Kay Barlow

- ▶ A good father encourages.
- ▶ A good father praises for big and little successes.
- ▶ A good father guides and corrects, but gently.
- ▶ A good father stands by you and offers unconditional love.



Your Child Is Job #1 in Numbers:

2000 Fairfield County parents
27 City of Columbia employees
50 Providence and Palmetto Baptist employees
130 Ben Arnold Company employees

January - March Total
2207 people reached!

Elementary Students Visited by MEBA's Career Detective

On February 27, 2008, 129 students from **Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary** in **Richland School District Two** were treated to a visit from the **Career Detective**, better known in some circles as **Kay Barlow**, MEBA's Community and Parent Education Director. By sporting hats from a variety of occupations - chef, policeman, fireman, nurse, and construction engineer - Barlow emphasized the importance of math, reading and science skills as well as the soft skills of listening, kindness and respect. Barlow concluded the presentation by wearing a graduation cap and challenging the students to stay in school, strive for academic success and graduate.

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Coordinator of the Midlands Regional Education Center and Executive Director of MEBA, this information will allow MREC to do a better job of achieving its overall goal. "By evaluating what's out there and what's missing, we will bring together partners to provide a more complete and cohesive network of local services," explains Shaw. "This network will ultimately help students and adults access the guidance and opportunities they need to become the prepared employees South Carolina needs to compete and excel in the global economy."

Quick Bytes

- ◀ **Dent Middle School** is holding a career fair on April 11, 2008, from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. Please contact Joyce Simons by phone at 803-699-2750, extension 72198 or by E-mail at jsimons@richland2.org or Sylvie Golod at extension 72167 for further details or to register.
- ◀ MEBA will host a free **Contextual Methodology Seminar** on June 10, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Midlands Technical College Airport Campus, Academic Center, Room 139. **Kathy Mixson** will serve as the instructor. To sign up or for more information, please call MEBA's Stacey Westberry at 803-739-8833.
- ◀ A joint meeting of the executive committees of **Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA)**, **Midlands Regional Education Center (MREC)**, and **Midlands Workforce Development Board (MWDB)** was held on January 15, 2008. Committee members discussed the unified missions of all three organizations and the value of their close working relationships.



L to R: Reggie Murphy, MWDB Chair; Kama Staton, MREC Chair; Robert Dozier, MEBA Chair

Public Services Careers Field Study

The **Public Services Careers Field Study** took

place on February 13, 2008, at the **South Carolina Army National Guard Armory**. Attending educators were able to hear from several presenters representing a variety of public service



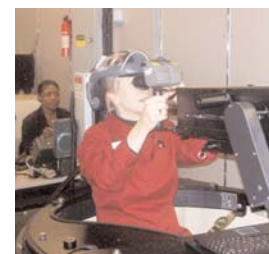
Chief Dunn

sectors including **Special Agent David Espie** of the **Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)**; **Lt. Hellman** with the **Columbia Police Department**; **Chief Dunn** with the **City of Columbia Fire Department**; and **Tiffany Harrison**, Economic Development Director with **Fairfield County**.

All four presenters discussed the types of careers available as well as the qualifications, characteristics and skills successful applicants must possess. A surprising qualification to many was the need for successful applicants to have a clean driving record, especially for careers with the FBI, police and fire departments. Presenters also stressed the importance of good reasoning and decision making skills as well as strong communication skills, specifically the ability to write clearly and concisely.

"Many people do not realize that police officials need to be able to write clearly and effectively," explained Lt. Hellman. "We have to complete reports and take statements, so good writing and communication skills are critical."

The educators then headed to the **McCrary Training Center** where they toured the facility and participated in various training activities designed to show the advanced technical skills and training required to



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BUSINESS MATTERS

MEBA's Business Matters Seminar was held on February 26, 2008, at the Northeast Campus of **Midlands Technical College**. More than 90 educators attended the event to learn firsthand why business matters to educators and how connecting with business can enhance classroom learning. Attendees were able to attend four sessions and enjoy a networking lunch where they could talk with fellow educators as well as local business and industry leaders. Session topics included effective interviewing techniques, dress for success, and hard skills vs. soft skills.



Carolyn Clemens of BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina

Sue Bailey with **Richland School District One** found the event extremely informative and beneficial, especially the opportunity to learn from business professionals. "Being able to take information gathered directly from local business professionals back to my students emphasizes what is important and what employers are looking for in a potential employee," explained Bailey. "Often it resonates more powerfully with students when I tell them this comes firsthand from a business professional."

Thank you to the following MEBA partners for their participation in the 2008 Business Matters Seminar:

Fred Millen, MidCarolina Electric Cooperative
Cory Chambers, UPS
Carolyn Clemens, BlueCross BlueShield of SC
Donna Lawrence, Midlands Technical College
Glen Southergill, University of Phoenix
Kama Staton, Lexington Medical Center
Randy Evans, Richland One
Tammy Beagan and Chris White, MWDB
Kaye Shaw, Midlands Regional Education Center
Cathy Pitts, Midlands Technical College
Mark D'Amico, SC Technical College System
Eleanor Vaughan and Donna Thompson, SCETV

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MEBA with a check for \$25,000 as the second installment of a three-year partnership between Lexington Medical Center and MEBA.

Dozier also recognized **Bernadette Houghton**, Workforce Program Manager for the **SC Department of Commerce**, for MEBA's recent receipt of a grant to provide funds for soft skills training and workforce development opportunities in the Midlands community. **Palmetto Health's Trip Gregory**, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, and **Val Richardson**, Workforce Development Manager, were recognized for Palmetto Health's contribution of \$50,000 for programmatic partnership activities. The donation is the second installment of a three-year partnership between Palmetto Health and MEBA.

George Fletcher, Executive Director of **New Carolina** and **SC's Council on Competitiveness**, provided the keynote address, sharing New Carolina's 2007



George Fletcher

accomplishments and highlighting the organization's statewide initiatives. New Carolina is a public-private partnership working to increase South Carolina's economic competitiveness through a cluster development strategy. Fletcher then called on **Amy Love**, Communications Director for New Carolina, to discuss New Carolina's parental involvement initiatives. Fletcher complimented MEBA, saying, "I am so impressed with the work MEBA is doing that I wish we had a giant Xerox machine to copy MEBA and put it all over the state." For more information about New Carolina, please visit www.newcarolina.org.

serve in certain military positions. Participants were treated to a lunch sponsored by **Career Training Concepts**. The day concluded with a presentation by **Rochelle Tindal**, director of Career Training Concepts, who highlighted the programs offered free-of-charge to schools, including writing resumes and cover letters.

Engineering and Emerging Technologies Field Study



Ted Chalgren

The **Engineering and Emerging Technologies Field Study** was held on March 5, 2008, and began with a tour of **Cox and Dinkins Civil Engineers'** new office building. **Ted Chalgren** spoke to the group about the building's environmentally friendly design and construction. Chalgren also discussed the types of careers

and levels available in the field of civil engineering and the corresponding education requirements and pay scale.

The group next visited **FN Manufacturing** where they toured the facility and heard from three engineers about the specific programs and skills they use, as well as the skills required and their educational backgrounds. During lunch, **Ralph Young**, Vice President for Operations, spoke to the group about career opportunities at FN Manufacturing.

Participants made a final stop at **Midlands Technical College Beltline Campus** where they toured the **Engineering Department** and heard from **Michelle Eargle**, the department's outreach coordinator, who discussed the opportunities available in the engineering field. Eargle explained that it often takes seven engineering technicians to support the job functions of one engineer.

The group learned about the various engineering programs and areas of study available through Midlands Technical College - architectural engineering, presented by **Christy Buchanan**; electronics engineering technology presented by **Kevin Luck**, **Keith Quigley** and **Moshen Lara**; and, a general overview by Eargle.

EConnections is an electronic publication of Midlands Education and Business Alliance. For more information, please contact Ashley Thomas at ashleythomas@mebasc.com or 803-665-6818.

the relationship between the classroom and their future success. "These students must see the relevance between what they are doing and where they are going," explained Lane. "We are doing a great job with the rigors of academics, but we must make sure we promote relevance and relationships as well."



Dr. John Lane

Brooks Harper, Enrollment Manager at **Southern Wesleyan University**, delivered a presentation on "Standing the Gap," and challenged educators to help inspire and support students at-risk or in poverty. Participants then listened to a panel discussion and had the opportunity to ask questions. Panelists included: **Tara Anderson**, **TRIO Program**; **Alicia Ballagh**, **Family Service Center of SC**; **Brooks Harper**, **Southern Wesleyan University**; **Susan Key**, **Boys and Girls Club**; **Melissa Klosterman**, **Clemson Road Child Development Center**; **Sue McLeese**, **Midlands Middle College**; and **Kama Staton**, **Lexington Medical Center**.



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.