



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

MEBA Hosts Student Career Days



Cynthia Rice, an RN with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, demonstrates first aid techniques for Doretha Glymph of MTC.

During the month of October, more than 350 Midlands students and teachers came together to learn firsthand about various careers in engineering and industrial technologies and healthcare as part of two **MEBA Student Career Days**. Both events were held at **Midlands Technical College Airport Campus** and provided students with the opportunity to learn about relative career paths and to meet with industry professionals.

Brooks Harper of **Southern Wesleyan University** and **Monster.Com**, delivered opening remarks at both career days, speaking with the students about the importance of academic success, career goals and hard work. Harper encouraged the students to think about successful people they have encountered in their lives and emphasized the two characteristics all successful people share - desire and know how. "Desire is a personal decision," said Harper. "What you do now as a student in terms of work ethic and academic performance shows potential employers how successful you can be as a part of their organization."



Brooks Harper

Engineering & Industrial Technologies Student Career Day: Your Blue Print for the Future
On October 8, 2007, 161 students and teachers participated in **MEBA's Engineering & Industrial Technologies Student Career Day** and attended sessions on Telecommunications

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Donor Spotlight:

Sisters of Charity Grant Supports Partnership Between MEBA and Local Women's Shelter

MEBA is pleased to announce its receipt of grant from the **Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina**. The grant will support MEBA in helping extend its programs and services to



John Boudreaux, Board President, Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC; Thomas C. Keith, Executive Director, Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC; Holly Cummings, MEBA; and Sister Judith Ann Karam, CEO and President, Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals and Sisters of Charity Health System

a local women's shelter. MEBA will provide career awareness, soft skills training and parental support activities to women who have suffered dramatic hardships and are trying to reintegrate themselves back into society.

MEBA is one of 13 organizations statewide to receive an award out of

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MEBA Hosts Construction Technologies Field Study

On September 19, 2007, more than 50 Midlands educators came together for **MEBA's Construction Technologies Field Study**. The event began at **Total Comfort Service Center** with refreshments and informative presentations provided by Total Comfort team members. **Todd Wagstaff**, General Manager for Comfort Services, Comfort Institute and **Scott Livingston**, HVAC Technician both spoke to the group about industry careers, necessary skills, position responsibilities and hiring practices.

In addition to academic credentials, Wagstaff also stressed the importance of soft skills such as team work, positive attitude, patience and a willingness to learn. "I can always teach someone the technical skills of a job," explained Wagstaff, "but I need them to come to me already possessing qualities and soft skills of a good employee. Things as simple as eye contact, a strong handshake and a genuine desire to do good work are often learned outside the classroom and are just as important."



Greg Lee

Greg Lee, Midlands Technical College's Industrial Technologies Department Chair, addressed the group and emphasized companies need to find qualified, responsible employees to represent their organization. "In this industry it is all about sales," explained Lee. "Even if an employee is not involved in direct sales, he or she is out there selling the

company by the quality of their work product and their job performance."

Lee stressed the importance of strong academic skills and talked about the education opportunities available through Midlands Technical College's Industrial Technologies Department. According to Lee, successful students must possess high levels of reading, writing and math skills in order to gain admittance in the program and to secure future employment.

Participants also heard from **Christy Buchanan** of **Midlands Technical College's Engineering Department** on "What is Architecture?" and **Pete Williams**, President of **Atherm Remodeling**, on "What the Industry Needs."

Upcoming Events

Career Connections and Career Specialists

November 27, 2007
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Midlands Technical College,
Northeast Campus

Health Sciences & Human Services Alliance

November 28, 2007
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Midlands Technical College,
Airport Campus, AC 115

Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Alliance

November 29, 2007
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Midlands Technical College
Harbison Campus
Continuing Education Building
Room 113

MEBA Board Meeting

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

Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus
Mary Robertson Conference
Room 143

Midlands Regional Education Center Update

The **National Career Pathways Network** offered training and a national career pathways certification in conjunction with their annual conference, held October 10-13, 2007 in Louisville, Kentucky, with attendance of 3800.



Dr. Kaye Shaw, Dr. Cynthia Pitts, Dr. David Bond, Director of the National Career Pathways Network, and Cheryl Lewis at the annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Kaye Shaw, Coordinator of the **Midlands Regional Education Center**; **Dr. Cynthia Pitts**, Coordinator of the **Upper Savannah Regional Education Center**; and **Cheryl Lewis**, Coordinator of the **Pee Dee Regional Education Center**, attended the event and completed 15 hours of training and will receive a national career pathways certification. Certification was limited to 50

people nationwide and provided participants with training on topics such as Emerging Economies and the Need for Change, Community Teaming, Adult Career Pathways, Career Pathways 101, and Perkins IV Legislation and What it Means to Educators. The Regional Education Center coordinators are currently working with the national organization to bring the training to the South Carolina in 2008.

Six of the twelve Regional Education Centers planned for South Carolina are fully operational, with the other six coming on board by the first quarter of 2008. The statewide organization of the Regional Education Centers has formed a Review Team composed of educators from secondary and postsecondary institutions, business partners, WIA personnel, Economic Development personnel, OneStop personnel, and adult education specialists to design a new web-based system that will link educators with the business community. The Review Team, with facilitation led by **Tom Ledbetter** of **Midlands Technical College**, will present their findings to the statewide committee and hope to be able to provide the new system in early 2008.

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Educators tour Parade of Homes.

Homebuilders Association's Parade of Homes at Turners Point of Lake Murray. At the Parade of Homes, participants were also treated to lunch sponsored by Association. The group made a final stop at commercial site of **Mashburn Construction** before returning to Total Comfort for dismissal.

Following the presentations, the educators boarded a bus to tour the **Greater Columbia**

Homebuilders Association's

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Holly Cummings

more than 200 submissions received by the Foundation. **Holly Cummings**, MEBA's Community Development Director, attended

the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina Responsive Grant Luncheon on September 19, 2007, to share information about MEBA's new partnership with the local shelter and to receive the first installment of the two-year allocation.

In the spirit of creating pathways to help individuals become self-sustaining citizens in the Midlands community, MEBA and the local women's shelter will work together to expose and promote the areas of knowledge, skills and abilities that shelter residents need to become self-sustaining individuals as they create new lives for themselves.

Faces of MEBA -- Dr. Frank Vail



Dr. Frank Vail has served as superintendent of **Lexington School District Four** for more than 15 years, and his involvement with MEBA spans as many years.

"When I came to Lexington Four in January of 1992 I quickly learned about MEBA (then known as the Midlands Tech Prep Consortia)," says Vail. "I knew I needed to get involved because of the opportunity it provided for education and business to connect in order to make academic work more meaningful to students and their future careers."

Over the years, Vail has continued to play an active role in MEBA and has seen firsthand the advantage of several of MEBA's key initiatives such as the Teachers in the Workplace course, educator and student field studies, and training for guidance counselors and career facilitators. According to Vail, these initiatives have provided important information, resources and opportunities to benefit his schools and students.

Vail believes one of MEBA's greatest strengths is its ability to bring people together. Vail credits MEBA with bringing all players - educators, business members and community leaders -- together around one table to learn from one another and to understand the needs and focus of each sector.

In addition, MEBA is able to reach across district lines to focus on the entire Midlands community. "In terms of academic success and economic development, working together is crucial," emphasizes Vail. "We have to understand that employers do not hire based on the performance of a single school district. Employers look at the community as a whole. By bringing us together as region, MEBA helps promote a stronger workforce and healthier economy in which we all can benefit."

With the recent establishment of the **Midlands Regional Education Center (MREC)**, Vail looks forward to the two organizations working together to build on the achievements and reach of MEBA, specifically in the area of adult education. "By partnering together, MEBA and the MREC will be able to expand K-12 services and opportunities to benefit those K through life," says Vail. "There is no limit to what we can achieve and the overall winner will be the Midlands community."

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Systems, Architectural Engineering, Chemical and Fuel Cell Technology, Electronics Engineering and Commercial Graphics. Additional sessions were hosted by **SCE&G** on transmission lines and transmission planning, and by **SCANA** and **Michelin Tire**.

One event highlight was the opportunity for students learn about and watch

SCE&G's bucket truck operate at a height of 105 feet.

Casey Forrester, a transmission lineman with SCE&G, showed

students how he operates the truck and stressed the importance of safety and job skills.

"My students are so excited to be here," said **Bryan Waters** an instructor at **Gilbert High School in Lexington School District One**, "It's a great way for students to experience all of the different career areas and opportunities that are available to them. It helps open their minds to the many possibilities for their future."

Several local business representatives as well as Midlands Technical College faculty members were on hand to meet with the students and share useful information about future career opportunities, academic programs, education requirements, and position responsibilities and



Students watch operation of SCE&G bucket truck.

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Your Child Is Job #1: School Safety and Your Student

In a continual effort to help parents and caregivers be their child's first and best teacher, MEBA's **Kay Barlow** shares important information and resources with hundreds of parents each month at their places of work. This month, as part of MEBA's *Your Child Is Job #1* program, Barlow talked with parents about the important issue of school safety.

Recent news reports show that violence has unfortunately become a very real part of our lives and the lives our children. By being aware and prepared, we can do our part to protect our children and to keep our schools and communities safe. Barlow offers the following tips to help combat school and community violence:

- ▶ Be involved in your child's social life, especially during middle and high school. Pay attention to what your children are saying as well as their attitudes and dress. Teach your children to pick their friends wisely and help them to exercise kindness to others.
- ▶ Get involved in your student's school. Be visible and get to know your student's teachers, school officials and other school employees.
- ▶ Talk to your child about discipline - its need and importance and how your family's discipline may differ from other's.
- ▶ Have age-appropriate conversations with your child about violence that appears on television, in movies and throughout the world. Listen and discuss. Pay attention to your child's thoughts and concerns.
- ▶ Teach your student to solve problems without physical violence. Encourage healthy conflict resolution.
- ▶ Make sure your student understands his or her school's discipline policy, including the policy on bullying. If there is no policy on bullying in place at your child's school, help develop one.
- ▶ If you own a gun, keep it locked away in a safe place and exercise gun safety.
- ▶ Teach your student the important and life-saving difference between "tattling" and "reporting." If your student hears of a violent act or plans for one, make certain your student reports it to the proper school authorities. "Reporting" can save lives.
- ▶ You are a great resource in violence prevention. Help your child understand that violence is never the answer.

Your Child Is Job #1 in Numbers

22	City of Columbia Fireman
82	Arden Elementary Smart Matters Parents
95	Ben Arnold Company employees
75	Michelin employees
100	Palmetto Baptist Hospital employees
150	Palmetto Richland Hospital employees

October Total: 524 People Reached!

Educator Resource: Virtual Job Shadowing

The following websites provide virtual job shadowing opportunities through career videos and resources that may be useful to you and your students.

www.acinet.org

www.jobstvnews.com

www.myplan.com

www.imagine-America.org

www.pf-videolibrary.com

www.nextsteps.org

www.careerexplorer.net/careervideos

MEBA Hosts Hospitality & Tourism Field Study

On October 30, 2007, 56 Midlands educators participated in **MEBA's Hospitality & Tourism Field Study**, sponsored by **MEBA's Hospitality & Tourism Alliance**.

After meeting at **Riverbanks Zoo & Garden**, the participants boarded a bus and traveled to **Embassy Suites Columbia** for a continental breakfast and tour of the facility. The group then traveled to the **Hilton Columbia Center** where they toured both the Hilton Columbia Center and **Ruth's Chris Steak House**, which is located in the lobby of the hotel. In addition to touring both facilities, participants were able to meet and ask questions of hotel and restaurant personnel.



Educators enjoy lunch and presentations at USC's McCutchen House.

The group then traveled to the **McCutchen House** at the **University of South Carolina** where they were treated to lunch and presentations on careers in the hospitality and tourism industry. Presenters included **Monica Miller** with the **South Carolina Hospitality Association** and **Karen Kemp** with the **University of**

South Carolina College of Hospitality, Retail and Sports Management.

Before returning to Riverbanks Zoo & Garden, participants made a final stop at the **Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center and Visitors Bureau** where they were able to tour the center and learn about career opportunities within the organization.

Back at the zoo, the educators toured the zoo and garden and learned about career opportunities and available programs from Kim Benson, HR Director. Following the presentation, participants were free to leisurely stroll throughout the zoo and garden to take in the beauty of the grounds.

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benefits. Industry representatives included: **American Technical, Intertape Polymer Group, Michelin Tire, Monterey Construction Company, South Carolina Air National Guard, SCANA and SCE&G.** Representatives from the following **Midlands Technical College** departments were also present: **Automotive Service Technology, Telecommunications Systems, Architectural Engineering, Chemical and Fuel Cell Technology, Electronics Engineering, Machine Tool Technology and Student Life.**

Healthcare Career Check-up: Your Prescription for the Future

MEBA's Healthcare Student Career Day was held on October 9, 2007, and provided 191 students and

teachers the opportunity to attend several sessions focused on careers in nursing, surgical technology, radiology, dentistry, health information systems, physical



Krysten Hartley, a student at Batesburg-Leesville High School, works on a dental mold.

therapy, respiratory therapy, and medical lab technology. **Palmetto Health, Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals** and the **South Carolina Army National Guard** also hosted sessions to provide students with information about the many careers available within each of these organizations.

"My teacher knew I am interested in a career in healthcare and she encouraged me to come today," explained **Kayla Kenner**, a ninth grade student at **Airport High School in Lexington School District Two.** "Before today I wasn't aware of just how many opportunities exist in

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healthcare. The information I have received will be very helpful in deciding exactly which path I want to take."

Career Day participants were also able to gather information and insight from several business exhibitors. Students visited information booths, talked directly with industry professionals and received tailored career guidance and information.

Industry representatives included: **Lexington County EMS, Lexington Medical Center, Palmetto Health, Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals, Reliant Hospice, South Carolina Army National Guard, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, and the University of South Carolina College of Nursing.** Representatives from the following **Midlands Technical College** departments were also present: **Continuing Ed, Health Tracks, Information Systems, PreHealth and Student Life.**

Students are not the only ones who benefit from MEBA's Students Career Days. Business and industry representatives also see the advantage of reaching out to students today to foster a stronger workforce tomorrow. "It is extremely important to Lexington Medical Center and to everyone here that we have the opportunity to reach out to these students and teachers and give them the information they need to chose a successful and viable career path," said **Kama Staton**, Workforce Development Coordinator for Lexington Medical Center.

"MEBA's Career Days foster a strong connection and provides a win-win for us all."



l to r: Helen Rivers and Kama Staton

Quick Bytes

- ▶ **W. J. Keenan High School** will host a Career Day on November 27, 2007, from 8:15 until 11:00 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. For more information, please contact Linda DeLaughter, guidance counselor, at (803) 714-2509 or ldelaughter@richlandone.org.
- ▶ The 22nd Annual **Careers Conference** will be held January 29 - 30, 2008, in Madison, WI. The conference, titled "Preparing for a Lifetime of Change" will consist of more than 150 sessions. For more information, please visit www.cew.wisc.edu/careers.
- ▶ Congratulations to **Joyce Simons** and **Sylvie Golod**, career specialists at **Dent Middle School**, were able to secure at **State Farm YAB/Good Neighbor Grant** in the amount of \$5,000. By partnering with State Farm, Simons and Golod will be able to advance service learning within Dent Middle School.



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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