



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

## MEBA Hosts Career Days for Midlands Students



Monte Lemmon of Monteray Construction shows a student how to operate a Bobcat.

During the month of October, the **Midlands Education and Business Alliance**, along with **Midlands Technical College**, hosted two exciting Career Days for local high school students at the College's Airport Campus. At both events, students and their teachers participated in a variety of hands-on sessions designed to expose them to the many different career opportunities available to them.

**Technologies Career Day** was held on October 9, 2006, and provided students the opportunity to operate construction equipment, learn how ducts are created and installed, and view how a hot stick is used to connect and disconnect energized lines. Participating businesses and organizations included: **Atherm Remodelers; Cox & Dinkins; CMC Steel SC; Project HOPE** and the **Homebuilders Institute; Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative; Monteray Construction; SCANA; SC Air National Guard; Total Comfort; Tyson Prepared Foods;** and the **Automotive, Commercial Graphics, Industrial, Machine Tool and Engineering departments of Midlands Technical College.**

**Matt Sherman**, a transition specialist at **Blythewood High School**, attended the Industrial & Engineering Technologies Career Day with his students and praised the event for the access it provided students. "It is great for students to have the chance to see things first hand and outside of the traditional classroom setting," said Sherman. "It helps them understand the importance and relevance of what they are learning at school and how it correlates with the opportunities available to them in the world of work."



Tanya Spigner and Bea Whetsone share information about medical careers with the SC Air National Guard.



Valerie Hook, a Paramedic with Lexington County EMS, shows a student important rescue equipment and techniques.

### Check it Out!

MEBA's Web site now features streaming video of individuals sharing their thoughts on the importance and benefits of MEBA's work.

Watch John Beard with the City of Columbia's Water Division and Kama Staton of Lexington Medical Center talk about their involvement with MEBA.

[www.mebasc.com](http://www.mebasc.com)

## Donor Spotlight:

*Palmetto Health, Lexington Medical Center, Bank of America, Columbia and Lexington New Car Dealers Association*



From L to R: Dr. Kaye Shaw, MEBA; Melissa Drescher, Bank of America; Trip Gregory, Palmetto Health; Kama Staton, Lexington Medical Center; J. T. Gandolfo, Lexington and Columbia New Car Dealers Association; Holly Cummings, MEBA.

Local business representatives emphasized their commitment and support of MEBA and its work by presenting the organization with more than \$90,000 in new funding at the October 24 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Trip Gregory**, Senior Vice President of Human Resources for **Palmetto Health**, presented MEBA board chair, **Stephen Benjamin**, with a check for \$50,000. This is the first installment of a three-year commitment totaling \$150,000.

"MEBA is the only alliance in the Midlands that brings the power of education and business leaders together to effect change in the quality of life we enjoy," said Gregory. "It is also the best vehicle to improve that quality of life."

**Kama Staton**, Workforce Development Coordinator for **Lexington Medical Center**, presented MEBA \$25,000 on behalf of Lexington Medical Center. The donation is the first installment of a three year commitment, totaling \$75,000. "Opportunities for rewarding careers exist for young people who are prepared to enter a demanding workforce that is responsive to the needs of a dynamic economy," explained Staton. "MEBA recognizes this importance. By partnering with MEBA, we have reached thousands of students by creating work-based learning opportunities in order to build the pipeline for future healthcare professionals."

**Melissa Drescher**, Senior Vice President and Market Development Manager for **Bank of America**, presented MEBA with \$10,000 earmarked for the development of *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* training. **J. T. Gandolfo** with the **Columbia and Lexington New Car Dealers Association** also presented MEBA with \$6,800.

These funds will help support MEBA's mission to connect students, parents, educators and employers to education and career opportunities in the Midlands through programs such as *Your Child Is Job # 1*, *Teachers in the Workplace* and *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* training.

"We are grateful for the commitment these industries have shown and for their generosity," said **Dr. Kaye Shaw**, MEBA's Executive Director. "With their support we can continue to make significant strides to ensure education and business work together to produce a qualified and productive workforce."

## Upcoming Events

### Automotive Field Study

November 8, 8:15 am - 2:30 pm

Event begins at Midlands Technical College - Beltline Campus

### Curriculum Alignment Committee Meeting

November 9, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Midlands Technical College Airport Campus Academic Center, Room 139

### Executive Committee Meeting

November 10, 7:45 - 9:15 am

NAI Avant, Main Street

### Hospitality Alliance Meeting

November 13, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Palmetto Room

### Engineering & Industrial Technology Alliance Meeting

November 14, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Total Comfort, 346 Orchard Drive, West Columbia

### Health Sciences & Human Services Alliance Meeting

November 15, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Providence Hospital Northeast, Conference Room 1

### Career Connections Committee Meeting

November 15, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

SCETV, George Rogers Boulevard

### Manufacturing & Industrial Maintenance Alliance Meeting

November 30, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Tyson Foods, 1979 Bluff Road

### Equal Access Committee Meeting

November 29, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

SC Department of Juvenile Justice

## MEBA Hosts Public Services Careers Field Study for Midlands Educators



*City of Columbia Mayor Bob Coble addresses field study participants.*

Nearly 50 Midlands educators attended MEBA's **Public Services Career Field Study** on October 26, 2006. Co-sponsored by the **South Carolina National Guard**, the event was held at the South Carolina Army National Guard Amory and was designed to showcase the many careers in public services and to equip educators with various educational resources.

**Rochelle Tindal**, Director of Educational Outreach for **Career Training Concepts, Inc.**, worked with MEBA's **Lisa Call** to organize the event and provided the morning's welcoming remarks. **Sergeant First Class John Terrapin** and **First Lieutenant Brian Wire** spoke to the group about the career benefits of the National Guard. **Columbia Mayor Bob Coble** also addressed the group and explained many of the public services careers that are available with the City of Columbia. Attending educators were then treated to a sneak preview tour of **The South Carolina Military Museum** led by **LTC Ewell "Buddy" G. Sturgis, Jr.** The Museum is scheduled to open in January 2007, and museum officials hope it will be a great resource for teachers, students and interested individuals throughout the state.

A highlight of the day was a presentation by the **South Carolina National Guard Counterdrug Task Force Drug Demand Reduction Team**. **Sergeant Danielle Camp** and **SSG James Martin** spoke to the group about the many programs they can bring into local schools to promote drug-free, positive and healthy lifestyles in South Carolina. The programs can be tailored to the requesting teacher's special needs and to the target age group. Programs include a "Just Say No" puppet show, career presentations and Career Vehicle Day demonstrations, "Fit For Life" Physical Education Trainers and ROPES Courses.

Other presenters included **John A. Govan**, Military Coordinator; **Tiffany Harrison**, Fairfield County Economic Development Director; **Wayne Freeman**, Lexington County Public Safety Recruiter; **Ernest Pryor**, Parks & Recreation Athletic Director, City of Columbia; **Dwayne Lee**, Criminal Justice, Midlands Technical College; **Ronald Scott**, Lexington County Community Development Director; and **Michelle Berry**, Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Special thanks to **Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Hannock** and to the South Carolina National Guard for providing the meeting facility, breakfast and lunch.

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The **Healthcare Career Day**, held on October 10, 2006, provided students with the opportunity to learn more about careers in the healthcare industry. "When students think of a career in healthcare, they often think of a being a nurse," said **Brian Rosefield**, a job coordinator at **Ridge View High School**. "By bringing our students to this event, we hope to open their eyes to the many careers, in addition to nursing, that can be available to them."

Students attended sessions to learn more about careers in respiratory therapy, hospice, physical therapy and emergency rescue, among others. The sessions allowed the students to work with different healthcare equipment, tour the inside of an ambulance and ask questions of career specialists and industry representatives.

**Kayla Hale**, a senior at **White Knoll High School**, hopes to become a nurse and loved the Healthcare Career Day because it showed her the many different tracks and opportunities available in the nursing field. "There are so many different options," explained Hale. "I have loved learning about all of the different nursing careers. Being on a college campus has made me excited about graduating and continuing my education."

Participating businesses and organizations in the Healthcare Career Day included: **Lexington County Department of Public Safety; Lexington County EMS; Lexington Medical Center; Midlands Technical College; Newberry College; Palmetto Health; Reliant Hospice; South Carolina Health Occupations Students of America; South Carolina Air National Guard; Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals; Southeastern School of Neuromuscular Therapy; and, University of South Carolina College of Nursing.**

## Faces of MEBA -- Douglas O'Flaherty



As Executive Director of the **South Carolina Tourism and Hospitality Education Foundation** and Director of Operations for the **Hospitality Association of South Carolina**, **Douglas O'Flaherty** spends a great deal of time working with students and teachers at more than 50 high schools across the state. O'Flaherty works with these high schools to implement and strengthen hospitality programs that help connect students to the skills and careers of the

industry. That's why when he learned about **MEBA** more than four years ago, O'Flaherty immediately understood the value of its work.

"MEBA's role in connecting students, parents and educators to business opportunities and career awareness is vital to our education system and to our future workforce," asserts O'Flaherty. This mission to connect and the related goals of the Hospitality Association made him eager to become involved. O'Flaherty first served as a member of MEBA's **Business Management & Information Systems Alliance**. Last year, he worked with **Dr. Kaye Shaw**, MEBA's Executive Director, and **Lisa Call**, MEBA's Workforce Development Director and Career Specialist, to establish the **Hospitality & Tourism Alliance**.

"One of our major goals is to change the public perception that working in the hospitality and tourism industry is a dead-end job," states O'Flaherty. "We want people to realize that there are many opportunities and good careers within our industry. If you have the desire and the drive, you can have a very successful and rewarding career."

O'Flaherty also stresses to students and individuals interested in a career in hospitality or tourism the importance of hard work and first-hand experience. "Almost everyone in this industry started at the bottom and worked their way up," explains O'Flaherty. "Whether it's as a front desk clerk or a bellman, you have to know the industry from the ground up in order to achieve success."

O'Flaherty himself began his career as a dishwasher. After graduating from college in Ohio with a dual degree in culinary arts and hotel, restaurant and tourism management, O'Flaherty moved to South Carolina and worked as a dishwasher, restaurant manager and hotel salesperson. He was then recruited by the Hospitality Association of South Carolina where he has worked for the past five years.

*Faces of MEBA is a monthly feature designed to highlight those individuals who exemplify MEBA's mission. If you know of someone you think we should profile, please contact us at [connect@mebasc.com](mailto:connect@mebasc.com).*

## Your Child Is Job #1: "The Workforce of the Future"

How we work and the skills we use every day are constantly changing and evolving. As parents, it is important that we help prepare our children for the workforce of the future. This month, MEBA's Education and Community Director, **Kay Barlow**, spent time with several groups focusing on this very topic as part of the *Your Child Is Job #1* program.

Barlow spoke with the **City of Columbia** firemen and women at Stations 1 and 3 as well as the employees of **Spirax Sarco** about the role parents must play in helping their children develop strong technical and literacy skills. Parents should also encourage their children to appreciate diversity and to respect the need for change and be flexible and willing to adapt to workforce advancements.

### *Your Child Is Job #1* in Numbers

Ever wonder just how many people our programs are affecting? Each month, we will try to give you a glimpse of the number of people MEBA touches through the *Your Child Is Job #1* program.

- 20 City of Columbia firemen and women
- 112 Spirax Sarco employees
- 100 Parents at Blythewood Middle School, Richland School District Two

**October Total: 232 People Reached!**



## MEBA Board of Directors Learn About Success of Midlands Middle College

At the recent MEBA Board of Directors meeting held on October 24, 2006, attendees were treated to a special presentation by students and faculty of the **Midlands Middle College**. A panelist of two parents and three students spoke candidly to the group about the difference the Midlands Middle College has made in their lives. Panelists included:

**Kevin Bryant**, a junior from Richland School District One; **Chandra Salley**, a senior from Lexington School District Four; **Ford Seigler**, a junior from Lexington/Richland School District Five; **John Ramsey**, a parent from Fairfield County School District; and **Tina Seigler**, a parent from Lexington/Richland School District Five.



*Sue McLeese, Director of the Midlands Middle College, and Dr. Sonny White, President of Midlands Technical College, at MEBA's October Board Meeting.*

"Before attending the Middle College, I never really thought about my future and what I was going to do," explained Chandra Salley. "Now I know there is more for me out there and that I can work hard and accomplish things."

Kevin Bryant credits the smaller class sizes, teachers and faculty, and the college campus location with helping him regain focus and succeed academically. "The classes are smaller and the teachers pay a lot of attention to me and how I am doing," said Bryant. "The material is the same as my old school but the environment is different, and it makes me want to do even more than what I'm asked."

**Robert Dozier, Jr.**, Vice-Chair of MEBA's Board of Director and Chair of Midlands Technical College's Commission, and **Dr. Sonny White**, President of Midlands Technical College, also addressed the group about the success and future of the Middle College. They emphasized their continued commitment to making the Midlands Middle College a place where students will be able to graduate from high school, take advantage of Midlands Technical College's curriculum and connect to careers. Following the presentations, attendees were able to tour the Midlands Middle College facility.

South Carolina congressional leaders were invited to join members of MEBA's board of directors for this special meeting. Attending were: **Representative Nathan Ballentine**; **Representative Kenneth Clark**; **Preston Grisha** and **Micah Edmond** representing **US Representative Joe Wilson**; **Melissa Lindler** representing **US Representative James Clyburn**; and **Sara Snell** representing **US Senator Lindsey Graham**.

## Champions of the Environment

Do you have a project that improves or protects the environment? Would you like money to use for your project? Are you a K-12 student or teacher of K-12 students in South Carolina? If so, you can apply to the Champions of the Environment's Monthly Award Program. Winners receive a \$500 cash award; a commercial about the project which airs on WIS-TV in Columbia; a listing on the Champions' Web site; T-shirts; and a chance to win more money in Overall Awards.

Champions of the Environment is sponsored by WIS-TV, International Paper, Eastman Chemical Company and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. For more information, please call Champions' Coordinator at 803.898.4384 or visit [www.scdhec.gov/champions](http://www.scdhec.gov/champions).

## New Resource for Educators: Museum Honoring South Carolina's Heroes to Open in January 2007

After more than 20 years of planning and development, the **South Carolina Military Museum** will open its doors in January 2007. The rich history of the South Carolina National Guard will be captured through exhibits spanning the Guard's early days during the Colonial Wars to current efforts in the Middle East.

The museum will be located in the rear of the South Carolina National Guard Armory at 1225 Bluff Road in Columbia, South Carolina. Admission is free. Teachers are encouraged to contact the Museum to schedule special tours and educational opportunities. For more information, please call 803-806-4440 or E-mail Buddy Sturgis at [sturgiseg@tag.scmd.state.sc.us](mailto:sturgiseg@tag.scmd.state.sc.us).