



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

## Chad Foster Helps MEBA and Midlands Regional Education Center Celebrate New School Year

More than 200 people came together to celebrate a new school year at a back-to-school event hosted by **MEBA** and the **Midlands Regional Education Center** and featuring **Chad Foster**, best-selling author and motivational speaker. The event was held on September 5, 2008, at **Midlands Technical College Airport Campus**.

Foster's remarks focused on the importance of experience and connections, key points also highlighted in his bestselling books, *Teenagers Preparing for the Real World* and *Financial Literacy for Teens*. Foster emphasized the need for students to participate in internship and shadowing opportunities which allow them to gain real-world experience just as vital as what is learned in the classroom. Foster encouraged students to develop strong people skills and to realize that there is something to learn from every experience and every person. MEBA and the MREC purchased copies of Foster's books to present to attending students.



Chad Foster talks to Midlands students about success in the real world at MEBA and the MREC's Back-to-School celebration.

The event also provided the venue for the annual passing of the gavel. **Robert Dozier**, MEBA's 2007-2008 board chair, was recognized for his service as **Dr. Marshall (Sonny) White**, President of Midlands Technical College, was named MEBA's 2008-2009 board chair. **Kama Staton**, chair of the MREC Advisory Board, also stepped down as she begins a new career as a career specialist with Lexington Richland School District Five. **Reggie Murphy** of Asset Realty, Inc. succeeds Staton as chair.

"Our Back-to-School event was a great success and the perfect way to begin another year full of achievement," said **Lisa Call**, MEBA's COO. "Foster's remarks along with the good work of our past chairs and promise of the new chairs prove our mission and work is making a difference." ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Curriculum Alignment Committee**  
November 6, 2008  
7:30 – 11:30 am  
MTC Airport Campus, AC 115

**Arts Alliance**  
November 7, 2008, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
MTC Airport Campus,  
Student Center Conference Room 225

**Equal Access Committee**  
November 11, 2008, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
MTC Airport Campus

**Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Alliance**  
November 11, 2008, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
MTC Airport Campus, AC 115

**Automotive Industry Field Study**  
November 12, 2008  
Participants will meet at 8:15 am at MTC Beltline Campus,  
Automotive Facility

**Connect 2 Business Orientation Breakfast**  
November 13, 2008, 8:00 – 9:30 am  
MTC Northeast Campus Auditorium

**Executive Committee**  
November 14, 2008, 7:45 – 9:00 am  
MTC Beltline Campus, President's Conference Room

**Career Connections Committee**  
November 14, 2008, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
MTC Airport Campus, AC 115

**Education & Training Alliance**  
November 14, 2008, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
MTC Airport Campus

See Upcoming Events Page 5



## Midlands Middle College's Ribbon Cutting Marks Start of Third Successful Year

MEBA's Midlands Middle College held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, to celebrate the start of its third successful year. Located on the Airport Campus of Midlands Technical College, the Middle College is a unique, three-county initiative designed to help students who are academically capable, but at risk of dropping out of high school.

"We are here today because we are making a real difference in people's lives," said **Dr. Marshall (Sonny) White**, President of Midlands Technical College and Chair of MEBA's Board of Directors. "The Midlands Middle College offers school districts and students another choice for academic excellence and future success."



Students from the Midlands Middle College cut the ribbon to celebrate the start of a third successful year.

Joining Dr. White to celebrate the success of the Midlands Middle College were several featured speakers including **Dr. Karen Woodward**, Superintendent of **Lexington School District One**; **Mrs. Sandy Roberts**, parent of a current student; **Kimberly Letton** current student from Airport High School; **Matthew Newton**, current student from Lexington High School; and **Dr. John Hudgens**, Field Representative for the Midlands Middle College.

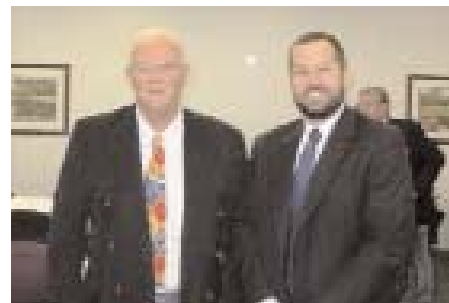
"I am very grateful to my high school guidance counselor and to the faculty of the Midlands Middle College for giving me another chance for success," said student **Matthew Newton**. "The small class sizes and one-on-one attention I receive at the Midlands Middle College is what I needed to stay focused and to excel. I know the people here truly care about my future and that gives me the confidence and drive to know I can succeed."

Midlands Middle College works with nine Midlands school districts to provide students with another option for academic excellence and encouragement to graduate from high school. Under the leadership and direction of **Jim Taylor** and **Carole Fearington**, Midlands Middle College works to reduce the high school dropout rate in the Midlands, create a seamless transition to college programs, afford students real-world experiences and encourage collaboration between K-12 and higher education. ■

## KUDOS

*MEBA and its Middle College would like to give special recognition to attorney **Michael Kozlarek** and the law firm of **Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP** for assistance in applying for 501(c)3 status to establish the Middle College as an independent non-profit. This status will qualify the Middle College as a tax-exempt organization, enhancing fundraising efforts and grant applications.*

*"The work that Michael Kozlarek and the firm of Parker Poe are doing pro bono for the Midlands Middle College is invaluable," explains Carole Fearington, lead teacher. "He has spent countless hours gathering, organizing and compiling required information. He is helping us to assume an independence we have thus far not enjoyed and allowed us to broaden opportunities for fundraising and support. We cannot thank him enough for his expertise and hard work."*



*Jim Taylor, Midlands Middle College, and Michael Kozlarek, Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP.*

# MEBA Hosts Career Days for Midlands Students

During October, MEBA hosted two career days for Midlands students interested in learning more about careers in engineering, industrial technologies and healthcare. Both events were co-hosted by **Midlands Technical College's Office of Recruitment and Community Outreach** and were held at **Midlands Technical College Airport Campus**. Approximately 300 Midlands students and their teachers attended the events and had the opportunity to speak directly with industry professionals and educational representatives, participate in hands-on learning activities and view exhibits.

The **Engineering & Industrial Technologies Student Career Day**, "Your Blue Print for the Future" was held on October 13, 2008, and hosted by MEBA and its **Architecture & Construction; Manufacturing; and Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Alliances**. **Brooks Harper** of **Southern Wesleyan University** and **Monster.com** opened the event with motivational remarks about the importance of a strong educational foundation and planning for your future.



Students participate in a Construction "Hammer" Contest as part of MEBA's Engineering & Industrial Technologies Career Day.

Sessions offered a look at careers in HVAC, commercial graphics, construction, nuclear energy, civil engineering, and chemical and fuel cell technology.

"The hands-on learning we have experienced here is so important for our students," explains **Trina Newborn**, a Career Development Facilitator at **Longleaf Middle School in Richland Two**. "It stimulates them and reiterates the lessons they are learning in school, and fits right in to our motto, 'If you can see it, you can be it.'"

**MEBA's Healthcare Student Career Day**, "Your Prescription for the Future," was held on October 14, 2008, and hosted by MEBA and its **Health & Human Services Alliance**.

Sessions offered a look at careers in nursing, surgical technology, physical therapy, sports medicine, combat lifesaving and medical lab technology, as well

as the opportunity to create a dental mold and try out realistic procedures using "Sim Mim," a portable and advanced patient simulator with realistic anatomy and clinical functionality used for education and training.

"The career day has been a tremendous experience for my students," said **Shauna Bell**, a career specialist at **Spring Valley High School in Richland Two**. "I only wish there had been something like this when I was in high school. What a great way for students to wet their appetites, to want to learn more and to be inspired about their futures." ■



Students learn about surgical technology.

*Thank you to our participating industry and educational representatives for helping to make MEBA's Student Career Days a great success!*

A-therm Remolders, Inc.  
Holopack

Lexington Medical Center  
Michelin Tire

Midlands Technical College  
Newberry College

Palmetto Health  
Reliant Hospice

SC Army National Guard  
SC HOSA

SCANA  
Shaw Group

Sisters of Charity Providence  
Hospitals

Spartanburg Regional  
Total Comfort, Inc.

Tyson Foods  
University of South Carolina

# FACES OF MEBA

## DR. MARSHALL (SONNY) WHITE, JR.

Even before coming to Midlands Technical College in 2006, Dr. Marshall (Sonny) White, Jr., was already familiar with MEBA and its work.

Just prior, White served as Executive Vice President of Guilford Technical Community College in North Carolina where he was highly regarded as a trailblazer and enthusiastic supporter of seamless education. At Guilford, Dr. White led the establishment of three Middle College High Schools, which attracted a visit from Dr. Kaye Shaw and other MEBA representatives in 2002 as they explored the possibility of bringing a middle college to the Midlands of South Carolina. This coincidental introduction preceded not only the successful opening of MEBA's Midlands Middle College, but also the naming of Dr. White as the fifth president of MTC.

"I remember well my meeting with Dr. Kaye Shaw and how impressed I was with MEBA's mission and work," says White. "I learned then what I still believe today—MEBA provides an excellent expanded opportunity for preparing the Midlands' workforce."

For Dr. White, MEBA's role as a facilitator between education and business is critical and unique, and as the newly appointed chair of its board of directors, Dr. White points to several key strategies that will ensure MEBA continues to make a difference.

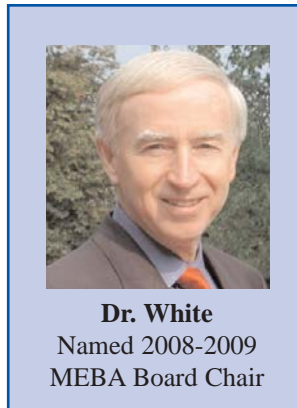
- Increase awareness of workforce needs and career opportunities in K-12 education. By facilitating more interaction between educators and industry professionals, MEBA can help make curriculum more relevant and students more aware of job requirements and available careers.
- Continue to involve the business community in education. With more than 150 business partners already involved, MEBA will continue to engage Midlands' business leaders in the education process, connecting students to better futures and businesses to qualified employees.
- Expand MEBA's Middle College program by enrolling more students. With a successful three years

under its belt, Dr. White wants more students to be able to take advantage of the Midlands Middle College. "Students who, for whatever reason, are at-risk for dropping out deserve hope," says Dr. White. "MEBA's Midlands Middle College gives them that, and produces bright, qualified members of society in the process."

- Make the education process easier to navigate for students and adult learners. Whether through the middle college or the virtual resources of the Midlands Regional Education Center, Dr. White stresses the importance of helping students as well as adults who are unemployed or underemployed better understand the opportunities available to them. He also emphasizes MEBA's role in better connecting secondary and postsecondary education. "The process has to be more seamless," says Dr. White. "Trying to understand certification requirements, college applications or even financial aid is very overwhelming. We have to make the process more seamless and user-friendly."

- Embrace the goals of the EEDA and MEBA's partnership with the Midlands Regional Education Center. "By supporting the goals of the EEDA and strengthening our partnership with the Midlands Regional Education Center, MEBA can expand its reach and increase its benefit to the Midlands community," says Dr. White.

Even during these tough economic times, Dr. White believes tremendous job opportunities exist in the Midlands, especially with emerging technologies such as nuclear and hydrogen. The key, and the importance of MEBA's role, is in connecting current and future workforce needs to what is taught in the classroom. "Ninety percent of today's population need education or training beyond high school," explains Dr. White. "As a great facilitator, MEBA promotes this message, prepares the future workforce and closes the gap." ■



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*Dr. White earned his B.S. and Ph.D. in Chemistry from Clemson University, and participated in the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard University Business School.*

**Faces of MEBA is a monthly feature designed to highlight those individuals who exemplify MEBA's mission. If you know of someone who should be profiled, please e-mail Ashley Thomas at [ashleythomas@mebasc.com](mailto:ashleythomas@mebasc.com)**

## Career Corner

### Westberry Certified as Master Trainer

Congratulations to MEBA's **Stacey Westberry** for being certified as a **National Career Development Association Master Trainer** for Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) training. With Westberry's certification, MEBA will now be able to offer GCDF Instructor training. "This training will continue to keep MEBA and the Midlands at the forefront of career planning and workforce initiatives," says **Lisa Call**, MEBA's COO. "As one of only five Master Trainers in South Carolina, Stacey is an asset to the state."

The value of Westberry's work is clearly seen in the positive response and success of her course participants. Recently, one group of participants put together a "Thank You" presentation to show Westberry just how much they gained from the course and from her. "I found in this class an innately caring and witty professor who always had me going home with a smile on my face," said **Lynette Kinard** of Swansea. "I appreciate so much Stacey's input, suggestions and encouragement."

### GCDF Course Participants Visit Michelin

This summer and fall, MEBA's GCDF course participants have been treated to a firsthand look behind the scenes at **Michelin's** earth-moving facility. Westberry and students toured Michelin to learn more about careers in manufacturing, engineering and mechanics as well as the skills and experience required for related careers.

According to participants, the opportunity to visit Michelin and speak with many of its employees provided a better understanding of these careers and valuable



*GCDF Course Participants Visit Michelin. Front row l to r: Cindy Bartolec, Dee Faust. Back row l to r: Gladys Myers, Tiffney Stanley, FiFi Means, Trina Newborn and Mary Hugee.*

information to share with their students. Participants were impressed with the work environment and Michelin's dedication to its employees as well as the future workforce. "Michelin invests in future employees starting in high school through work-study opportunities," explained participant **Paula M. Flake**. "This commitment to employees continues throughout their careers." ■

## MEBA's Annual Fund Campaign *Please Donate Today!*

MEBA's Annual Fund Campaign is in full swing. To those of you who have already made your donation or pledge, Thank You! Your gift is critical for MEBA to continue the work we do to connect education and business, and you can be certain that we will be good stewards of your generosity.

During these challenging economic times, we know you must be thoughtful and diligent about how your dollars are spent and donated. Contributing to MEBA is a wise investment because the return is a better qualified workforce, a stronger economy and a vibrant Midlands community. If you have not already, please consider donating to MEBA today! To donate or for more information, please contact Holly D. Cummings, MEBA's Director of Development & Philanthropic Relations by phone at 803-290-4212 or by Email at [hcummings@mebasc.com](mailto:hcummings@mebasc.com). You may also mail your donation to Cummings' attention to PO Box 2408, Columbia, SC 29202.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

From Upcoming Events Page 1

### Manufacturing Alliance

November 18, 2008, 10:00 – 11:30 am  
Tyson Foods, 1970 Bluff Road, Columbia

### Healthcare Alliance

November 19, 2008, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
MTC Airport Campus, AC 115

### South Carolina Dropout Prevention Leadership Summit

December 2, 2008  
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center  
9:30 am – 4:00 pm

For more information or to register, please visit  
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/apps/regs/graduation/>

# Your Child Is Job #1: Conflict Resolution

MEBA's **Kay Barlow** spent time this month talking with parents about the important issue of conflict resolution as part of the Your Child Is Job #1 program. According to Barlow, the first thing we must understand about conflict is that it is normal. We will all experience conflict in our lives. The key to resolving conflict is communication, both in how we express ourselves and in how we are able to listen to others. When we are able to clearly explain why we are upset and carefully listen to and try to understand why someone else is upset, we are one step closer to finding an appropriate solution.

If students are not able to resolve conflict on their own, Barlow recommends that students ask an adult to mediate and offer suggestions. Once a resolution is presented, it is important that children accept the outcome with a positive attitude and the ability to move on. Barlow cautions parents to pay close attention to a child's body language during a



*MEBA's Kay Barlow brings Your Child Is Job # 1 program to Tyson Foods.*

conflict, as clinched fists and crossed arms points to a lack of acceptance and an inability to move forward.

Most importantly, Barlow emphasizes that as parents, we must teach our children that violence is never the answer. ■

## Coming to a TV Near You!

**MEBA's Kay Barlow is now bringing the Your Child Is Job #1 to your home. This fall, Barlow, MEBA's Community and Parent Education Director, has begun providing important information to parents in Richland School Districts One and Two via the districts' television channels. Barlow already provides televised sessions to parents in Fairfield County. With the addition of Richland One and Richland Two, Barlow and MEBA's Your Child Is Job #1 program is able to reach 6000 Midlands parents!**

## Your Child Is Job #1 in Numbers

30	Ben Arnold employees
60	Richland One Middle College students and parents
60	State Childhood Initiative practitioners and parents
2000	Fairfield County parents
25	Isola Plant employees
2000	Richland Two parents
10	City of Columbia employees
2000	Richland One parents
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6185	people reached in September and October!

## Quick Bytes

- ▶ **Attention Educators!** MEBA has several new speakers signed up on our speakers guide and available to speak to students, parents and teachers. Please visit the MEBA website at <http://www.mebasc.com/educators/speakers.php> for a complete listing.
  - ▶ Two new resources are now available from MEBA. Check out our **Engineering Activities Resources** guide and the new **Engineering & Emerging Technologies: Be A Part of** brochure at [www.mebasc.com](http://www.mebasc.com).
  - ▶ On September 10, 2008, MEBA's Stacey Westberry conducted a career development training for 20 national guard recruiters. The training offered additional career information recruiters can pass along to future recruits.
  - ▶ Announcing the 8th Annual **Discover Manufacturing and Design Challenge!** Sponsored by **The Silver Crescent Foundation**, the Discovering Manufacturing and Design Challenge is now accepting submissions. Educators and students are encouraged to discover the opportunities of a career in manufacturing by participating in the following three categories:
    - T-Shirt Design: Open to High School Students
    - Tote Bag Design: Open to Middle School Students
    - Calendar Design: Open to Elementary School Students
- Scholarships will be awarded for the top designs in each category. Deadline for submission is **February 11, 2009**. For more information and to download an entry form, please visit [www.SilverCrescentSC.org](http://www.SilverCrescentSC.org). The Silver Crescent Foundation is committed to promoting manufacturing vitality and career opportunities in South Carolina.
- ▶ With the release of **Feed the Pig for Tweens**, a math-based curriculum for fourth through sixth-graders, the Feed the Pig campaign is extending its saving message to a younger audience. The free curriculum reinforces math skills with real-life applications, such as tracking expenses and balancing a checkbook. The curriculum includes The Great Piglet Challenge online interactive game and a take-home activity, Feed the Pig Family Goal, to extend important financial literacy messages to the entire family. For more information, please visit [www.feedthepig.org/tweens](http://www.feedthepig.org/tweens)
  - ▶ The Technology Support and Training Management program at USC is offering the **Create IT Computer Camp** again this February. At the camp, participants will build their own laptop, which they get to keep! Area high school sophomores and juniors are encouraged to apply by the application deadline of December 1, 2008. For more information or an application, please visit [www.hrsmsc.edu](http://www.hrsmsc.edu) or call **Collin Crick** at 777-6608.
  - ▶ Interested in continuing your education? Check out **Midlands Technical College's Continuing Education Spring 2009** course catalogue online at <http://www.mtctraining.com/Spring2009catalog.pdf>
  - ▶ Did you know you can provide your students with career guidance at no charge to your school? Sponsored by the South Carolina **National Guard, Career Direction** is a no-cost, comprehensive career guidance program that has helped more than 69,800 South Carolina students prepare for their future. For more information or to request Career Direction, please visit [www.careertrain.com/cdEducator.cfm](http://www.careertrain.com/cdEducator.cfm) or call **Rochelle S. Tindall** at 803-806-4373 or 803-465-1284. ■

*The staff of MEBA wish you a Happy Thanksgiving.*

## Upcoming Field Studies

MEBA's Educators' Field Studies continue to be a great way for educators to get a firsthand look into the ever-changing world of business. At each field study, participants hear from professionals in many different career fields on the skills students need today for tomorrow's workforce. If you are interested in attending one of MEBA's upcoming field studies, please visit our website at <http://www.mebasc.com/educators/development.php> for more information and to download a registration form. All events begin between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. and end between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. Lunch is provided. There is no charge for participants from Richland, Lexington and Fairfield County schools.

Upcoming field studies include:

- Automotive Industry  
November 12, 2008
- Uptown Businesses  
December 10, 2008
- Healthcare  
January 20, 2009
- Hospitality & Tourism  
February 25, 2009
- Manufacturing  
March 5, 2009
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics  
March 31, 2009

## Midlands Career Fairs

Take a look at the some upcoming career fairs being held at local Midlands schools.

- **Dutch Fork Middle School Career Fair**, Lexington Richland Five  
Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 8:10 – 11:05 am  
For more information, please contact Kama Staton at 732-8167 or [Kstaton@lex5.k12.sc.us](mailto:Kstaton@lex5.k12.sc.us)
- **Dent Middle School**, Richland District Two, Annual Career Fair  
Thursday, November 20, 2008, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm, Dent Gym  
To participate or for more information, please contact Sylvie Golod or Joyce Simons at 699-2750 ext 72167  
[sgolod@dm.richland2.org](mailto:sgolod@dm.richland2.org) or [jsimons@dm.richland2.org](mailto:jsimons@dm.richland2.org)
- **Lexington District Two 7th Grade Career Fair**  
Friday, November 21, 2008, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Granby Education Center, 1407 Dunbar Road, Cayce  
For more information, please contact Kade Chapman at 955-3752 or [kchapman@lex2.org](mailto:kchapman@lex2.org)
- **Southeast Middle School Career Day**  
November 21, 2008, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm  
For more information, please contact Rebecca Mizell at 695-5700 or [rmizell@richlandone.org](mailto:rmizell@richlandone.org)
- **Eau Clair High School Career/College Expo**  
February 26, 2009, 8:30 am – 1:00 pm  
For more information, please contact Stefanie Harrison at 735-7600 ext 2518 or [sharrison@richlandone.org](mailto:sharrison@richlandone.org)

For more information on how to hold a successful career fair, check out MEBA's Career Fair "How To" Guide online by visiting our website at [www.mebasc.com/resources](http://www.mebasc.com/resources). If you would like to have your career fair information included in *eConnections*, please send relevant information to Ashley Thomas at [ashleythomas@mebasc.com](mailto:ashleythomas@mebasc.com). ■

## Midlands Regional Education Center Update

### Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

**Get News about the Midlands REC Here!** After its first successful year, the Midlands Regional Education Center is well on its way to better connecting students, educators, adult learners, parents, employers and community members to the education and workforce resources they need. Much of our success can be credited to the strong partnership between the Midlands REC and MEBA. To keep you informed of Midlands REC happenings, we will feature a regular column titled "MREC Update" in each issue of MEBA's electronic newsletter, *eConnections*. It's one more example of how the two organizations are partnering together to better serve you!

### Midlands REC Introduces Informational Video

The Midlands Regional Education Center is proud to announce the completion of an informative video about the Center and the Personal Pathways to Success initiative. The video outlines the Center's purpose, strategies and includes personal testimonies about the impact of the Center and its local partners. The video also highlights ways you can get involved and how the Center can help you! "We are excited about the launch of this new resource to help us spread the word about the Midlands REC," says Dr. Kaye Shaw, the Center's coordinator. "We want to make sure students, educators, adult learners, parents, employers and community members know we are here to help connect them to the education and workforce tools they need."

Check out the Midlands REC video at <http://personalpathways.sc.gov/midlands/>



[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).