



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

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### Area Hospitals Continue Commitment to MEBA

Thank you to both **Palmetto Health** and **Lexington Medical Center** for their recent donations to MEBA in support of our programs and mission. Palmetto Health’s gift of \$50,000 was the third installment of a three-year commitment totaling \$150,000.

Lexington Medical Center’s generous gift of \$25,000 was also the third installment of a three-year commitment totaling \$75,000.

“Without the remarkable support of Palmetto Health and Lexington Medical Center, MEBA would not be able to establish connections as effectively nor provide programs of such high quality,” says **Lisa Call**, MEBA’s chief operating officer. “We are truly grateful for our partnership with Palmetto Health and Lexington Medical Center and applaud them for their commitment and leadership in the Midlands community.” ■

## Donate Today!

During this tough economic time, we realize you must be thoughtful and diligent with your donations and financial commitments. MEBA would like to thank you for your support and involvement and encourage you to make an investment in us today. Every dollar donated to MEBA goes to support connections and programs that will improve the achievements of our schools, the quality of our workforce and ultimately, the vitality and strength of our economy and community. Help guide the future, invest in MEBA today. All donations to MEBA are tax-deductible. Please contact MEBA’s Samantha Turner at (803) 732-5359 or by e-mail at [sturner@mebasc.com](mailto:sturner@mebasc.com). Donations can also be mailed directly to MEBA, Attn: Samantha Turner, PO Box 2408, Columbia, SC 29202.

## UPCOMING MEBA EVENTS

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Educator Field Study  
March 31, 2009

Business Management & Information Systems Alliance  
April 1, 2009, 9:00 – 10:30 am  
Lexington Technology Center

Public Service Alliance  
April 1, 2009, 1:00 – 2:00 pm  
MTC Airport Campus, AC 115

The MEBA office will be closed the week of April 5, 2009, for spring break. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable spring holiday.

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

National Hydrogen Conference  
March 30 – April 1, 2009  
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center  
[www.hydrogenconference.com](http://www.hydrogenconference.com)

Midlands Technical College  
Spring Open House  
April 4, 2009, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
MTC Beltline Campus

Come see the campus, attend the information fair and speak to representatives from various career clusters.

You’ll also be able to complete a free admissions application and a free application for Federal Student Aid. Please call 738-8324 for more information.

See **Other Upcoming Events** Page 10



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

# Pastides and White Discuss New Careers and Emerging Technologies

## Presidents Address Joint Board Meeting of MEBA, Midlands REC and Midlands Workforce Development Board

Board members representing the **Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA)**, **Midlands Regional Education Center** and **Midlands Workforce Development Board** came together on February 4, 2009, to learn about current workforce needs, emerging technologies and new careers. The meeting was held at the northeast campus of **Midlands Technical College** and featured presentations by **Dr. Harris Pastides**, president of the **University of South Carolina**, and **Dr. Marshall (Sonny) White**, president of Midlands Technical College.

Pastides and White were introduced by **Reggie Murphy**, chair of the Midlands REC and Midlands

Workforce Development Board, and both discussed the importance of education being in accord with the trends and demands of the current and future workforce. One example is in the area of



*Dr. Sonny White*

nuclear technology, where, according to Dr. White, five nuclear reactors will be built within a 100-mile radius of the Midlands by 2015 and will dramatically increase the demand for nuclear engineers, technicians and welders. White and Pastides spoke about the programs offered at their respective institutions to meet this and other workforce needs and encouraged educators and

business leaders to work together to ensure our students are well prepared to enter the work force.

A panel of business representatives echoed this message and discussed

current needs and career opportunities at their companies. The panel was moderated **Neil McLean**, executive director of **Engenuity SC**, and included **Charles Ambos** with **SCANA**, **Davis Bourne** with **Palmetto Health**, **Laurie Bruce** with **First Community Bank**, **Kat Colburn** with **Shaw Maintenance**, **Lonnie Emard** with **BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina** and **Carlton King** with **Michelin**.



*Dr. Harris Pastides and Mr. Tom Ledbetter*



*A panel of business representatives discussed workforce trends and opportunities.*

The meeting concluded with a tour of the **Trulite** facility located on Midlands Technical College's Business Accelerator. The tour was led by **Tom Ledbetter**, executive director of the Enterprise Campus.

For more photos from the board meeting, please visit MEBA's online photo gallery at

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

*Best wishes* to **Holly Cummings** as she leaves the MEBA staff to join **The Healing Species**, an award-winning character education/violence prevention program based in Orangeburg, SC. As MEBA's philanthropic and community development director for the past four years, Cummings was a tremendous asset to MEBA. We are grateful to Cummings for her dedication, hard work and commitment to MEBA's mission and wish her well in this new endeavor.





Personal Pathways to success™  
**MIDLANDS  
REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTER**

## UPDATE

# Become a Part of the Connect 2 Business Solution: Enroll Today!

During the past several months, the **Midlands Regional Education Center** has been serving as a pilot site for **Connect 2 Business**, a Web-based tool that provides an effective solution for better connecting education and business. We all know this connection is vital to the success of our schools and our workforce and economy. Connect 2 Business (C2B) provides educational and career planning resources to students, parents, educators



*Attendees listen to a presentation on C2B at a recent Midlands REC C2B rollout event.*

and adult job seekers. A true win- win, C2B gives employers the opportunity to promote extended learning opportunities, post job openings, generate awareness about the company and give back to the community. Most importantly, it's FREE.

Shouldn't you be a part of the Connect 2 Business solution? Employers, if you haven't already, enroll in the Connect 2 Business solution today. The enrollment process is easy and takes no more than 10 minutes. Just follow these simple steps:

- Go to [www.scpayways.org](http://www.scpayways.org)
- Click on the "Businesses" tab at the top
- Click the "New Users" link on the right side of the page
- Answer a few simple questions and create your company profile

If you have trouble registering, have questions or need more information, please contact Bill Barlow with Connect 2 Business South Carolina at [barlowb@kuder.org](mailto:barlowb@kuder.org) or Dirk Sanders at [sandersd@kuder.com](mailto:sandersd@kuder.com). ■

**For the latest Midlands REC news and information, d'YUgYvisit our Web site at [www.scpayways.org](http://www.scpayways.org).**

*You're Invited*

**Connect 2 Business Rollout**

**April 16, 2009, 8:30 - 10:30 am**

**Midlands Technical College Northeast Campus**

**RSVP to Dr. Kaye Shaw at [kshaw@scpayways.org](mailto:kshaw@scpayways.org) or (803) 822-3306**

**Please join us to learn more about the C2B Solution!**

# MEBA Shows Why Business Matters

On February 13, 2009, more than 80 educators and business leaders came together for MEBA's annual **Business Matters** seminar. The seminar provides elementary, middle and high school educators the opportunity to see firsthand why business matters and offers information to enhance classroom learning.

This year's seminar was kicked off with a keynote presentation by **Karin Hill** on "The Power of Four." Hill has extensive experience in the areas of human resources and organizational development, working with human resources staffs as a strategic business partner as well as assessing, developing and facilitating customized training programs. Hill discussed a current challenge in the workplace—the juxtaposition of four different generations now working side-by-side. Hill offered tips on how we can make the most of these generational differences and gain results.

Other Business Matters sessions focused on interviewing skills, soft skills and diverse pathways in teacher preparation. Participants were introduced to



*Rochelle Tindal, director of educational outreach for Career Training Concepts, Inc., ready to distribute information about the South Carolina Army National Guard as part of Business Matters' exhibits.*

**Connect 2 Business**, an integral part of South Carolina's Personal Pathways to Success initiative and a way to better link businesses with adults and students through educational and career planning resources to facilitate employment and a skilled and educated workforce.



*Dr. Kaye Shaw shares information about the Midlands REC and Connect 2 Business with Business Matters seminar attendees.*

For more photos from MEBA's Business Matters seminar, check out the photo gallery on our Web site at [www.mebasc.com/photos](http://www.mebasc.com/photos) ■



*Dr. Karen Hill*

## Upcoming Midlands Career Fairs

- **Rehoboth Baptist Church Youth Ministry College and Career Fair**

March 28, 2009, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

For more information or to participate, please contact Melissa Price at 404-8636 or [mt8374@yahoo.com](mailto:mt8374@yahoo.com).

- **Brookland-Cayce High School Career Quest**

April 22, 2009, 9:00 – 11:15 am

For more information or to participate, please contact Debbie Manos at 739-4132 or [dmanos@lex2.org](mailto:dmanos@lex2.org). ■

# Your Child Is Job #1: Get Healthy, Get Focused, Get Started

February was a busy month for **Kay Barlow**, MEBA's community and parent education director, as she shared the message of **Your Child Is Job #1** with more than 7,000 people across the Midlands. Always full of humor, good sense and important information and resources, below are a few excerpts from Barlow's February presentations on how we can get healthy, get focused and get started!

- **Healthy Homes, Healthy Child, Healthy Student and Healthy Workers:**

A direct connection exists between a healthy lifestyle and success in school and at work. Parents should model good eating and exercise. They should make sure they and their children get plenty of good sleep and have regular medical checkups.

- **Childhood Obesity: An American Epidemic** Childhood obesity is a serious issue facing parents today. Type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea and arthritis are just a few of the many medical issues on the rise due to obesity.

Overweight or obese children may also suffer from poor self-esteem and depression. Parents should educate themselves on the dangers of childhood obesity and work with their children to make healthy lifestyle choices.

- **Start Now to Finish Strong:** As parents, we should celebrate the first 100 days of school. We should take time to check in with our child's teachers to make sure he or she is on track for success and to look for opportunities for improvement. With the start of spring, this is a perfect

time to evaluate goals and performance and to help our students ready themselves for a strong finish.

- **Parents and Possibilities:** Choices have to be made to stay healthy mentally and physically. Parents must teach good decision making skills so our children will say "yes" to the right opportunities and "no" to destructive behaviors. It is important for parents to model positive behavior and offer encouragement to their students. Parenting offers many challenges, but also many rewards. Parents should embrace both! ■

## Your Child Is Job #1 in Numbers

5000	Richland One Parents
65	Ben Arnold Employees
22	Richland Two Guidance Professionals
221	Tyson Foods Employees
2000	Fairfield County Parents
10	City of Columbia employees
2000	Richland One parents
<hr/>	
7308	people reached!

**MEBA would like to offer a special thank you to both Fairfield County and Richland School District One for airing monthly Your Child Is Job #1 presentations via television broadcast. This partnership allows MEBA to reach thousands of parents each month with the important tips and message of Your Child Is Job #1!**

# FACES OF MEBA

## JIM REYNOLDS

When MEBA's Lisa Call stopped by the offices of Total Comfort Service Center, Inc., more than 10 years ago, her goal was to introduce MEBA to the company's president, and enlist him as a business partner. Looking back, it's clear MEBA got much more—Jim Reynolds, a true face of MEBA.

“Lisa's timing was perfect,” says Reynolds as he recalls the day he first learned about MEBA. “We wanted to grow but were struggling to find qualified technicians. Lisa explained how MEBA's mission to connect business and education could help. It made perfect sense, and I was sold.” Reynolds began attending MEBA meetings and became one of the first members and the first chair of the newly formed Engineering & Construction business alliance. Total Comfort technicians began visiting classrooms and job shadowing and internship opportunities were made available to interested students.

Reynolds believes it's no small coincidence that within three years of Total Comfort's involvement with MEBA, enrollment in Midlands Technical College's HVAC program doubled. “MEBA helped us connect with students, provide hands-experience, pay tuition costs and offer employment upon graduation,” explains Reynolds. “Many of those students are now our senior technicians and several are now managers.”

From 2001 to 2003, Reynolds served as chair of MEBA's board of directors which he says led to a more active role in the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce where he also served as board chair.

Presently, Reynolds serves as a member of the Education and Economic Development coordinating council and chair of the Regional Education Center committee. He also serves as co-chair of the New Carolina Education & Workforce Development Task Force.

“We saw Jim's commitment, dedication and thoughtful insight from day one and we've benefited from it ever since,” says Dr. Kaye Shaw, MEBA's executive director. “Jim's current leadership with the

Personal Pathways to Success initiative is helping to strengthen the education business connection and expand the rewards of such collaboration.”

Reynolds love for South Carolina is evident. His desire to see the state prosper and offer economic stability and opportunity to all citizens is at the core of who he is. His belief that collaboration between education and business is fundamental to this prosperity is at the center of his involvement. Perhaps most telling, though, is what drives him—

“helping students make a connection, find something they love and get the education and experience they need to make it happen.” ■



**Jim Reynolds**  
President,  
Total Comfort  
Service Center

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*Reynolds is president of Total Comfort Service Center, Inc. He grew up in Columbia and graduated from Dreher High School. Reynolds earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Davidson College and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Virginia. He and his wife, Judy, live in Columbia. They have one daughter, Kathryn, who lives in Atlanta, and a dog named Charlie.*

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

# WHAT'S COOKING: Richland Two Students Lunch and Learn

For students of **Richland Two's Center for Accelerated Preparation (CAP)**, a recent field trip to **Blythewood High School's** award-winning Culinary Arts Program gave new meaning to hands-on learning. Guided by **Chef William Turner**, these 7th grade students were able to work hand-in-hand with culinary students at Blythewood High to prepare a delicious meal of chicken saltimbocca, sour cream whipped potatoes with a mushroom velante sauce and chocolate chip cookies. The reward of their hard work was not only a firsthand look at one of the finest specialty programs our high schools have to offer, but students also were able to dine on the fruits of their labor.

CAP is a two-year program designed for 7th graders. The program offers an intense course of study to provide students the opportunity to enter high school as sophomores on schedule for graduation. ■



*Tom Arnett, a culinary arts student at Blythewood High School, culinary helps CAP students Taylor Canzater and Marcus Pope slice meat and cheese for chicken saltimbocca.*

*Special thanks to **Robin Keyes**, Career Specialist and NFTE, Certified Entrepreneur Teacher at the Center for Accelerated Preparation, Richland Two, for contributing to this article.*

## AT&T Helps Midlands Middle College Students Go High-Tech

AT&T recently awarded MEBA's Midlands Middle College with a \$25,000 grant to purchase a classroom set of 20 laptop computers. The grant award was presented on March 17, 2009, at a **Lexington County School District One** board meeting. According to **Carole Fearington**, lead teacher and program director of the Midlands Middle College, the laptops will support classroom instructional activities such as collaborative writing, research, evaluation, presentations, electronic portfolios, peer editing, team quizzes and much more. "We are so grateful for the generous support of AT&T," says Fearington. "The gift is much more than the physical computers; it is an opportunity for our students to learn through hands-on application and to be better prepared for their futures." ■



*Pictured from l to r: Henri Etta Baskins, AT & T; Dr. Kaye Shaw, MEBA and Midlands REC; Pamela Lackey, AT & T; Senator Jackie Knotts; Carole Fearington, Midlands Middle College; Dr. John Hudgens, Midlands Middle College; Dr. Karen Woodward, Superintendent, Lexington, School District One; Trish James, Lexington School District One; Dr. Linda Hawkins, Superintendent, Lexington School District Four.*

**Check out the Midlands Middle College Web site at [www.midlandsmiddlecollege.com](http://www.midlandsmiddlecollege.com).**

# MEBA Educator Field Studies

MEBA's recent educator field studies have given educators an up-close look at several key industries in the Midlands from automotive to accounting. Equipped with great information and connections for a host of industries and careers, MEBA's field studies are sure to help teachers to spark an interest for every student.



*Automotive Field Study participants Dena Feagin, Miranda Blocker and Karen Ruff at Jim Hudson Automotive.*

MEBA's **Automotive Educator Field Study** got off to a racing start on November 5<sup>th</sup> with an introduction to **Midlands Technical College's Automotive Lab** provided by **Carson Conner**, program coordinator for automotive technology. **Dena Feagin**, representing the **South Carolina Automobile Dealers Association (SCADA)** and **Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES)**, discussed industry careers before the group traveled to and toured three local dealerships including **Galeana Chrysler Jeep Kia**,

**Columbiana Chevrolet Hummer and Jim Hudson Buick Pontiac GMC Saab**. All three stops offered participants a behind the scenes look at the automotive dealership, maintenance and service industry. The group was also treated to lunch, hosted by SCADA and AYES, and a presentation by the **New Car Dealers Association of Columbia and Lexington**.

**MEBA's Uptown Businesses Educator Field Study** took place on December 10<sup>th</sup> and included presentations by **William C. West, III**, and **John Price, Jr.**, both with the accounting firm of **Scott McElveen, LLP**; **Heather Bowers** of **Recruiting Solutions**; **Ryan Coleman** with the **City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities**; and **Mike Fox** with the **SC Student Loan Corporation**. Participants toured the offices of the law firm of **Nelson, Mullins, Riley and Scarborough, LLP**, and met with associate attorney **Holly Gillespie**. The field study concluded with a walking tour of the **Columbia Marriott** led by **Steven Ryan** and a presentation by **Marie Joyner** and **David Foust** of **SCANA**.

For more photos from these field studies and others, please visit MEBA's online photo gallery at [www.mebasc.com/photos](http://www.mebasc.com/photos). Look for highlights from more field studies including **Hospitality & Tourism, Manufacturing and Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics** in the next issue of *eConnections*.

## SOUTH CAROLINA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM OFFERS 2009 SUMMER ACADEMIES

- The **Teach the Teacher Academy** is an instructional program for middle and high school educators to promote health career advocacy. The curriculum provides instructional tools, activities and information educators can utilize to motivate students interested in healthcare careers. Application deadline is April 3, 2009.
- The **SC AHEC Health Careers Academy** is a health career exploration experience for high school students. The curriculum includes activities that demonstrate the use of communications, math and science among practicing professionals and is designed for future health professions students. One-on-one mentoring and parental involvement are major components. Application deadline is May 1, 2009.
- The **Nursing, Dental & Medical Careers Academy** is a one-week program to help minority and disadvantaged students prepare for entry into health training programs. It works to increase the retention and graduation rates by increasing students' knowledge of admission requirements; financial assistance resources; academic success skills; disciplines and techniques of nursing, dentistry and medicine; and educational and professional opportunities. Academy Fellows will take part in clinical and didactic sessions from May 31 to June 5, 2009, at the Medical University of South Carolina. Application deadline is April 3, 2009.

For more information or to download an application for any of these academies, please visit the South Carolina AHEC Web site at [www.scahec.nec](http://www.scahec.nec) and click on the "Health Careers Program" link.

## MEBA Graduate Courses: Sign Up Today!

- **Educators Exploring Career Clusters—Manufacturing** is a brand new course designed to support the Personal Pathways to Success initiative of South Carolina's Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA) by offering in-depth exploration of one of the sixteen career clusters. The current course will focus on the manufacturing career cluster. Through site visits and shadow experiences, educators will gain insight into the required technology and workplace skills needed in the manufacturing industry and develop methods to prepare their students to transition successfully to this career path. This course provides 45 class/industry hours, 3 hours of graduate credit.
- **Teachers in the Workplace** is a three-hour summer graduate course that requires educators to take a practical approach to understanding the world of work. Each participant spends 40 hours in a challenging business and industry to obtain hands-on experience and skills needed to be successful in the particular field. Educators participate in sessions with classmates, develop lesson plans and give presentations to successfully complete the course.
- **The Business and Industry Analysis** course allows educators to examine the 16 Career Clusters and explore in-depth, real places of work. Participants learn current business technology and interpersonal skills, spending at least 40 hours working onsite at two local industries (20/20) under a qualified onsite supervisor. This course provides 45 class/industry hours, 3 hours of graduate credit. Prerequisite: Teachers in the Workplace (with at least one year between courses to begin implementing lessons learned from Teachers in the Workplace course.)

For specific course dates and to register, please visit MEBA's Web site at [www.mebasc.com](http://www.mebasc.com). Click "Educators" from the left menu and then "Professional Development."

## Career Corner

- A **Global Career Development Facilitator** (GCDF) professional development workshop will be held on Monday, April 27, 2009, from 9:00 until 11:00 am at Midlands Technical College Airport Campus. Speakers will include Dr. Robert Abene with the Columbia Academy of Cosmetology and Sherry Williams with the South Carolina Department of Education. For more information, please contact MEBA's Stacey Westberry at (803) 739-8833.
- The **2009 Guidance Counselor Conference** will be held on November 20, 2009, from 8:30 am until 2:30 p.m. at Midlands Technical College Airport Campus, Mary Robertson Conference Room. For more information, please contact Rosie Hampton-Quiller at [hamptonquillerr@midlandstech.edu](mailto:hamptonquillerr@midlandstech.edu).
- Check it out! The **ASVAB Career Exploration Program** has been re-designed to be helpful to virtually all students, whether they are planning on immediate employment after high school in civilian or military occupations, or further education at a university, community college, or vocational institution. The program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple aptitude test battery, an interest inventory and various career planning tools to help students explore the world of work. Learn more at [www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com).

## Quick Bytes

- ▶ MEBA's **Lisa Call** attended the **SC Health Occupations Students of American (HOSA) State Leadership Conference** on March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Charleston, SC, and served as a judge for several of the student events. Call is a member of the organization's board of directors.
- ▶ MEBA has teamed up with **Myra Washington** and **Dr. Marcia Brevard-Wynn** of **PenWrite, LLC**, to advance MEBA's development efforts and bolster financial support. A professional grant writing company, PenWrite works with businesses, associations and nonprofit organizations to identify potential grant funding sources through local, state, federal and private donors. **Samantha Turner**, MEBA's workforce development coordinator, will work closely with PenWrite and expand her role to include community development as well.
- ▶ On January 30, 2009, 37 students and teachers from **Swansea High School** in **Lexington School District Four** toured **Lexington Medical Center**, learning about healthcare careers in areas such as public safety, emergency care, cardiac rehabilitation and more. The students are members of **Jobs for America's Graduates**, or **JAG**, a national, school-to-career program working to keep young people in school through graduation and to provide work-based learning experiences that will lead to career advancement opportunities or enrollment in postsecondary institutions and rewarding careers. MEBA's **Lisa Call** and **Kelli Bennett** with Lexington Medical Center, organized the event. Many thanks to Lexington Medical Center for treating the students to a special pizza lunch.
- ▶ MEBA's "**Career Detective**" recently paid a visit to two Midlands elementary schools, **Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary** in **Richland Two** and **Hyatt Park Elementary** in **Richland One**, to introduce students to career possibilities as well as necessary skills and character traits to be successful in school, work and life. The Career Detective, played by MEBA's **Kay Barlow**, uses a variety of career hats and props including a fireman's hat, construction hard hat, chef's hat with Jello Jiggles and measuring spoons, and CBS ball cap to paint a picture of what the future may hold for the students. It's an important message and way to get even the youngest students engaged in education and excited about the future.
- ▶ The **Department of Computer Science and Engineering** at the **University of South Carolina** will sponsor an **AP Summer Institute in Computer Science** July 13 – 17, 2009. For more information, please visit [www.cse.sc.edu](http://www.cse.sc.edu) or call Dr. Duncan A. Buell at 777.2880. ■

### From **Other Upcoming Events** Page 1

Midlands REC Connect 2 Business Rollout  
April 16, 2009, 8:30 - 10:30 am  
MTC Northeast Campus

Architectural & Civil Engineering Technology Student  
EXPO Drop-In  
April 30, 2009, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
MTC Beltline Campus, LET Building

National Career Pathways Network Conference  
"Thriving in Challenging Times: Advancing Economic  
Development Through Career Pathways"  
September 30 – October 3, 2009  
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia  
For more information, please visit [www.cord.org](http://www.cord.org)



[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).