

# **PARTICIPANTS**

**July 15, 2003 – Building Skills Taskforce**

*These have been invited to attend the July 15, 2003 Building Skills Taskforce #2 Meeting:*

## **Business/Industry**

**Steve Hale, Mississippi Development Authority**  
**Liz Barnett, Career Resource Network, Mississippi Development Authority**  
**Kelly Riley, Policy Liaison, Governor Musgrove's Office**  
**David Rumbarger, President/CEO, Community Development Foundation, Tupelo**  
**Gary Beadles, Community Development Foundation, Tupelo**  
**Jay Moon, Mississippi Manufacturers Association, Jackson**  
**John Baas, Mississippi Manufacturers Association, Jackson**  
**Marty Perkins, GCSP, Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, Pascagoula**  
**Dr. Larry Crane, Director of Training, Northrop Grumman, Pascagoula**  
**James Ivy, Training Manager, Northrop Grumman, Pascagoula**  
**Becky V. Furlow, Trustmark Bank, Jackson**  
**Wendy Tucker**  
**Peggy Howard, Miss Economic Council (CEO & Sr. VP, M. B. Swayze Ed Foundation)**

## **Education**

**A. M. Zeidman, Vice Chair, State Board of Education, Brandon**  
**Kim Chrestman, Secondary Vocational Director, Okolona**  
**Hilton Dyar, Post Secondary Vocational Director, Hinds CC, Vicksburg**  
**Jimmy Crane, Vocational Center Director, NECC, Booneville**  
**Dr. David Shephard, MASS, Executive Director, Laurel**  
**Dale Sullivan, MASS, Wesson**  
**Dr. Sam Bounds, Superintendent of Education, Brookhaven**  
**Druanne Morgan, Capps Technical Center, Ms Delta CC, Indianola**  
**Petrecia Williams, Work Based Learning Coordinator, NWCC, Senatobia**  
**Martha Traxler, Administrative Assistant (former counselor), Copiah County Schools**  
**Dr. Jim Chambless, Dean of Education, University of Mississippi**  
**Dr. Roy Ruby, Interim Dean of Education, Mississippi State University**  
**Dr. Patti Abraham, Interim Director, RCU, Mississippi State University**  
**Dr. Bruce Stirewalt, VIP Program, RCU, Mississippi State University**

## **MDE**

**Dr. Johnson, Superintendent, MDE**  
**Dr. Jordan, Deputy Superintendent, MDE**  
**James Sardin, Associate State Superintendent, Vocational Technical Education**  
**Dixon Mills, Bureau Director, Vocational Instructional Development**  
**Martha Garrett, Coordinator of Counseling Services**  
**Dr. Susan Rucker, Associate State Superintendent, Innovation/School Improvement**  
**Dr. Bonita Potter, Associate State Superintendent, Academic Education**  
**Judy Couey, Bureau Director, Curriculum & Instruction**  
**Chris Wall, Division Director, Tech Prep Office**  
**Dr. Kristopher Kasse, Bureau Director, Student Assessment**  
**Valarie Troiani, Assistant Director, Student Assessment**  
**Liz Williamson, Director, School to Work**

## **KEY AREAS/TOPICS**

### **Discussion/Plans/Decisions Needed**

#### **May 20<sup>th</sup> Minutes Summary:**

- Basic facts were stated...Mississippi has a large number of low achieving students who actually graduate from high school (ACT scores indicate that more than half of the 23,395 Mississippi graduates who took the test in 2002 scored 1-15 and 16-19. These score levels represent skills that are too low for most business/industry groups and also indicate low performance for college.)
- Industry says that high school diplomas do not accurately indicate performance levels.
- MDE is working to improve teaching strategies and No Child Left Behind Legislation (NCLB) is requiring more specific course content knowledge for teachers K-8. This should help to improve skill building at the lower grade levels.
- More Teacher Internships suggested at all levels (IHL Teacher Educators and K-12 Teachers). More new teachers are arriving at schools without the ability to make content relevant to real work settings. Teaching strategies/methods would improve if teachers saw firsthand how their subjects fit in real work settings.
- Ideas...longer class periods give time for “applied teaching techniques”...closer look at job descriptions with Work Keys skill levels (in Choices software @ all high schools) to understand what employers expect...business/industry personnel visits to schools
- Incentives to promote internships were discussed...costs for this could be provided by education and industry...Need to look at confidentiality issues for some businesses and which could be used for internships...What about CEU credit for days @ industry setting...Start with educators at the
- Business/Industry representatives emphasized the need for the development of “soft skills” (decision making, responsibility, teamwork, critical thinking, etc.) as well as basic academic skills (math, reading, etc.). Because of greater economic demands, today’s industry must have employees with all these skills.
- Partnerships between local business/industries and schools...how to do this statewide?
- Greater expectations must occur if students improve skill levels. What about entrance requirements to community college and IHL? What about “don’t pass” on to the next grade level if the skills are not developed?
- MDE sets minimum requirements but any local district can set higher req. ...these districts could then model for rest of state.
- Need to look at both short-term and long-term goals. Need to set specific plans for meeting short-term goals on July 15.

#### **JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> FOCUS:**

1. Are we happy with things as they are? What do we want to change? What are priority items? Mississippi’s top education & business/industry leaders must determine goals and lead the state if changes are to happen.
2. How can educators produce more students who possess both basic skills and soft skills?
3. How can IHL produce more teachers who fully understand “school-to-work” issues and who know how to use “applied teaching strategies”?
4. How can business/industry groups across Mississippi partner with all schools and IHL to facilitate relevance in content taught in the classroom?
5. How will this planning impact recruitment of NEW business to Mississippi?
6. Can we set “short-term” goals on July 15<sup>th</sup> to be carried out this fall (Aug – Dec)?

