

## **Fast Forward Mississippi Eases Transition from School-to-Careers**

Fast Forward Mississippi, Mississippi's School-to-Careers initiative, helps Mississippi's students – from kindergarten to college age and beyond – realize the world of career opportunities that await them. With Fast Forward Mississippi, our students can learn about their career options and research facts on different careers, educational choices, technical skills and training options.

This program connects classroom learning to what is happening in the workplace. With Fast Forward Mississippi, workplaces become active learning environments. Employers become joint partners with educators as they train our students for immediate employment or further education.

Fast Forward Mississippi utilizes the Internet and web technology to create a comprehensive, one-stop resource for Mississippi students, parents and teachers. This website ([www.FastForwardMS.com](http://www.FastForwardMS.com)) targets students of all ages – high school students can research the college and career information while grade school students can learn about all the different things they can be.

Fast Forward Mississippi aims to offer the best career choice website on the World Wide Web. Through the website, students will discover:

- Career Links – The web's most informative resource about future careers. Students will be able to find out the average salary, required education or even what personality type best fits individual careers.
- Mississippi Success Stories – Mississippians from various careers will be highlighted along with the career path that led them to their current success.
- Career Chat – Fast Forward Mississippi will offer a chat room where career professionals or mentors can interact with students about careers and the obstacles that must be overcome. Fast Forward will offer a safe, filtered chat room that will be monitored and available only at times when a featured speaker is appearing.
- Calculators – The site offers calculators which help students calculate future costs of college or possible inflation rates in order to better prepare for the costs and responsibilities that lay ahead.
- Fast Forward Mississippi News – Updates will remind students concerning future Fast Forward Mississippi conferences, chat sessions, website updates, etc.

Parents, teachers, students and businesses can benefit from this program.

Parents can use the resources of Fast Forward Mississippi to gather information on colleges and to calculate tuition costs. They can also use it to introduce career options to their student, and to begin talking about education requirements for different career choices.

Teachers can use the web site as a resource for career information for their classrooms, and can bring professionals into the classroom to talk about education and job experiences. Educators can also use Fast Forward Mississippi information to develop career-related class work and lesson plans.

For businesses and industries this is a great opportunity to have a hand in molding their future employees. Businesses can encourage their employees to participate by offering apprenticeships, mentoring and job activities to students. The hands-on experience of on-the-job training gives students “real world” training.

We are providing the tools and opportunities to our students that they will need to be successful when they enter today’s workforce. Fast Forward Mississippi is here to help Mississippi’s students prepare for specific careers through first-hand knowledge, on-site experience and at-their-fingertips information.