

Instructions for Preparing for Careers

Part Four
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In making plans for a future career, students will find that higher education and/or training is usually required for most of the higher paying jobs. Obtaining the finances for this additional education and training can sometimes be challenging.

For federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study, and loans, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will need to be completed. FAFSA gives access to the largest source of financial aid to pay for college or career schools. (This procedure will be discussed in next month's article.)

Mississippi has grants available specifically for residents living in the State for at least one year. GSD students should check the website: www.ihl.state.ms.us/financialaid or contact the Mississippi Office of Financial Aid (MOSFA) at 1-800-327-2980) for additional information concerning scholarships for our State.

MOSFA provides aid to Mississippi students in the form of scholarships, grants, and loans. Students should especially be aware of the Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG), the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG), and the Nissan Grant. These three most viable Mississippi options are briefly described below.

Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG)

MTAG, supported by the State of Mississippi, is available to students who are Mississippi residents for at least the past year.

Eligibility requirements for high school students:

- 15 or higher on the ACT
- 2.5 or higher GPA

- Enrolled as a full-time student
- Not receiving the maximum Federal Pell Grant Award

Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG)

MESG, supported by the State of Mississippi, is available to students with exceptional ACT scores and high school GPA and who are Mississippi residents for at least the past year.

Eligibility requirements for first semester college students after graduating from high school:

- 29 or higher on the ACT
- 3.5 or higher GPA
- First-time freshman out of high school
- Enrolled as a full-time student

Nissan Grant

Nissan North America, Inc., provides funds for legal residents of Mississippi student that will attend a Mississippi public two or four year college.

Eligibility requirements for high schools students:

- Graduated from a Mississippi high school in the current year
- 2.5 or higher GPA
- 20 or higher on ACT
- Is enrolled full-time at a Mississippi public community college or university
- Demonstrates leadership abilities through participation in extracurricular activities
- Write a 200 word essay on the topic: How do my plans for the future and my college major support the automotive industry in Mississippi?

AmeriCorps Recognizes Member of Excellence



By Gwen Woodson
AmeriCorps Director

Since the beginning her service in September 2014 as a full-time AmeriCorps member, Myra Aleece Hill has demonstrated that she knows how to "get things done!" The Grenada School District AmeriCorps program focuses on tutoring Grenada School District k-8 students in math and reading. Placed at the Grenada Elementary School, Myra is committed to helping her students excel.

The Grenada School District has hosted AmeriCorps members since 2008 in the role of tutors. Hill is principally responsible for tutoring 26 students during the school year. There are 1,015 students involved in the tutoring program.

Hill was well poised to succeed in this position. As a youth leader, she has been immersed in service projects for years. She is a very active member on a praise team and as youth leader at River Of Life

Children's Church. She graduated from Grenada High School and has been working at Grenada Crisis Stabilization Unit/Life Help. "I wanted to join AmeriCorps because I wanted to make a difference in children's lives and my community."

As an AmeriCorps member, Hill has also participated in Christmas in April, Grenada Food Pantry, MLK Day, Chamber Banquet, Grenada's annual Thunder on Water Boating Festival, Downtown Jubilee, and many more projects.

"Being an AmeriCorps member has impacted my life in many ways," said Hill. "Tutoring children and giving back to the community has given me a desire to further my education in elementary education. I will use my education award to further my education and pay off some student loans."

According to the GSDAP Program Director Gwen Woodson, Hill, a 2nd year member, has shown exemplary leadership skills in her role as Team Leader. "Myra is very soft spoken, but she knows how to step up and take care of business. When we selected her as team leader, we had to convince her that she could do it! I see great things in Myra's future and am thankful for her service as a member and team leader."

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program services, or how you can help, including becoming an AmeriCorps member, contact Program Director Gwen Woodson at 662-226-1606 or email gwoodson@grenadak12.com. For more information about AmeriCorps, visit www.americorps.gov.

GSD Board Participates in Legislative Survey

By Galen Holley
Staff Reporter

The Grenada School Board joined its voice with those of other boards around the state last month by answering a survey about important issues facing education.

The Mississippi School Board Association conducted the survey, and each of the five GSD board members received an email copy in advance of their October meeting. The board briefly discussed each item and came to a consensus.

According to Grenada Superintendent Dr. David Daigneault, most of the items that the board opposed had something in common. "We oppose anything that takes money away from public education," said Daigneault.

Siphoning resources

One survey item dealt with the use of money from the Mississippi Adequate Education Program to help pay for student vouchers. Passed by the Mississippi Legislature in 1997, MAEP provides a formula designed to ensure an adequate education for every child.

School vouchers are government-funded certificates. Families can use vouchers to help pay for tuition at a school other than a public school.

According to Daigneault, the voucher system siphons off much-needed dol-

lars from public education and depletes economic and human resources.

The board voiced a unanimous "no" to the proposed survey item. On a similar note, the board also opposed an item suggesting that, "money be diverted from public schools to non-public schools, home schools, or virtual schools by means of vouchers, tuition tax credits or scholarships."

According to Daigneault, the survey item and others like it didn't harmonize with the GSD Board's commitment to building robust and equitable public schools. That commitment, Daigneault said, often means being bearish with money.

"We have a tremendous investment in the children of Mississippi and, most specifically, in Grenada County," said Daigneault. "That investment is measured in several ways, including time, human resources, and dollars. As a Board, we would be remiss if, either actively or passively, we condoned any legislation that depleted those resources." "The information gathered through the survey will help the Mississippi School Board Association shape its legislative agenda and lobbying efforts for the 2016 session," Daigneault said.

Thank you Plaza Cinema for loaning the crowd dividers for our "Red Carpet" Movie Premiere!

