



## MID-SOUTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### **MSCC's Dynamic Initiatives, Programs, Partnerships**

#### **Academies of West Memphis**

Mid-South Community College and the West Memphis School District are pooling resources in an effort to give young people more opportunities for education they can put to work. Designed to lead to fundamental, systemic, and even historic changes in secondary education, the employment-relevant approach will help prepare students for a brighter future. The collaboration features the first conversion charter in the State of Arkansas marrying a high school and a community college. Through the new program, the Academies will begin pouring the foundation for a more solid future for its students in the eighth grade. By the 10th grade, the students will be able to start taking classes at MSCC, particularly in the technical areas.

#### **ADTEC Consortium**

For the second time in four years, representatives of the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium traveled to the College Futures Assembly in Florida as a nominee for a nationally-recognized honor. The Bellwether Legacy Award, which acknowledges outstanding Bellwether-winning programs that have demonstrated five+ years of successful implementation, was on the line when the best initiatives met for the competition. In 2010, ADTEC turned back nine other finalists to win the Bellwether Award for Workforce Development in recognition of its strategic alliances to promote community and economic development. The Legacy nomination shows that eastern Arkansas efforts continue to be recognized from coast to coast. The ADTEC consortium includes Mid-South Community College in West Memphis, Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville, Arkansas State University-Newport, East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City, and Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas in Helena-West Helena.

## **FedEx Aviation Maintenance Partnership**

- Mid-South Community College received a \$3,391,053 award by the U.S. Department of Labor in March 2010 to establish an aviation technology program in West Memphis. The grant is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Key partners in the program include Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville, the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium (ADTEC), the Workforce Investment Board of Eastern Arkansas, FedEx Express, and Aviation Repair Technologies.
- Mid-South Community College acquired a signature and iconic piece of training equipment for its Aviation Maintenance Technology program in August 2012 when it accepted a FedEx 727 jet. “I think the plane represents the relationship between FedEx and Mid-South Community College that not only helps to create a unique internship opportunity but certainly bodes well for us in the future in terms of the evolution of our program,” said MSCC President Dr. Glen Fenter. “It’s a fantastic win-win for us and FedEx because it ensures that our students have a chance to see their equipment before they are asked to go to work for FedEx or other companies like them.”

## **Innovative Scholarship Program**

New and innovative ideas are often greeted with everything from benign interest to outright denunciation, and such was the case with the Thomas B. Goldsby Jr. Scholarship program at Mid-South Community College. Established through the tremendous generosity and vision of the Goldsby family, the program is now considered the gold standard for providing students with great higher education opportunities while still in high school. Experts all over the country are saying we need more programs just like it. Since 2001, 3,300 young people have received scholarships, and they have gone on to more than 170 colleges and universities.

## **Renewable Energy**

The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, the Delta Regional Authority, Mid-South Community College, the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium, alt.Consulting, the Arkansas Advanced Energy Association, the Arkansas Green Energy Network, the University of Memphis, Arkansas State University, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, and a myriad of other entities are collaborating on a project designed to establish a new bio-economy that has

great potential to create a new day in the region. The The DRA recently invested \$50,000 in a biodiesel micro-refinery in DeWitt, Ark., in partnership with alt.Consulting, Arkansas Advanced Energy Association, and MSCC. And that is merely the beginning. The plan is to facilitate the deployment of as many as forty such refineries across the Delta over the next two years. In November 2013, Doug O'Brien, Acting Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development, visited the MSCC campus to hear about the groundswell of activity related to renewable energy efforts in the region.

### **Southland Park Partnership**

Southland Park Gaming and Racing, which has teamed up with Mid-South Community College on many occasions to expand higher learning opportunities in the region, stepped to the forefront once again with a \$1 million pledge to support a hospitality/food service training program at MSCC. With funding from Southland, MSCC will also continue and expand its participation in the “Delta Cuisine: A Southern Kitchen Incubator” project.

### **Workforce Development**

While Mid-South Community College doesn't generally function as an employment agency, it is working diligently with area business and industry to develop relevant, focused training designed to put people to work. Thanks to a cooperative partnership with Southwest Tennessee Community College and the creation of the Greater Memphis Workforce Development Institute, MSCC have an enhanced level of resources to meet the needs of our region. On April 17, the College hosted an Employer's Forum to solicit feedback from area businesses and industries about services they would like to see provided.

### **Interstate Collaboration**

With unanimous endorsement from its Board of Trustees, Mid-South Community College has partnered with the University of Memphis to enhance applied research and training activities related to transportation and alternative fuel/chemical processing. MSCC is also working with the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce and Southwest Tennessee Community College to provide industry-relevant training for the region.