

**Calendar
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Developments:
*The Newsletter of
The Simpson County
Development Foundation*

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Donnie Caughman
Executive Director

From the Executive Director

There is no question that there are two overriding issues that influence the growth and prosperity of a county or city. One is jobs, the higher paying, the better. The other is "quality of life" which consists of, but is not limited to, public safety, housing, healthcare, recreational opportunities, shopping, environment, and education.

It would be difficult to rate the most regarded quality of life issue, but certainly the education of our children has to be number one.

One of the most important tools to enhance, support, and inspire high school students is the *Mississippi Scholars – Simpson County Scholarship Program*. Their mission statement is, "To encourage and motivate all high school students to complete a defined, rigorous academic course of study that prepares them for successful transition to college or university coursework or vocational and technical training necessary to enter today's competitive job market."

Since 2009 the Simpson County Scholars Program has awarded scholarships of up to \$600 each to participating students from Mendenhall High, Magee High, and Simpson Academy. In 2009, the program gave two \$400 scholarships for each participating school. Since then the funding has dwindled and the program has had to reduce the amounts to one \$500 scholarship for each school.

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen". – Michael Jordan

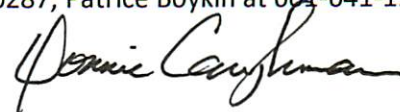
Currently, five schools are taking part in the program. They are Magee High, Mendenhall High, New Life Christian Academy, Simpson Academy, and Simpson Technical Center. But there is a problem. According to the officers and directors, the scholarship program is in jeopardy. They are funded solely by contributions and currently, after solicitations, have less than \$150 in the account.

"It is only the participation of interested businesses, organizations, and individuals in Simpson County that makes these scholarships possible and that will allow us to financially assist even greater numbers of deserving Simpson County students. We cannot make a more important investment in the future of our community than to invest in the development of our future community citizens and leaders," said a spokesperson for the program.

The participating students must not only complete the rigorous academic program, but must meet disciplinary requirements and participate in community support projects. Upon completion the students receive a special designation on their transcript and diploma, a designation taken notice of by potential colleges and employers.

The *Mississippi Scholars-Simpson County* needs our help. You may donate by mailing your check of support to: Mississippi Scholars-Simpson County, Attn: Richard Rankin, Treasurer, P. O. Box 127, Mendenhall, MS 39114. You may also go the website at: <http://fundly.com/simpson-county-scholars>. All contributions are tax deductible as the Scholars Program is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

For additional information, or to arrange for a presentation, please call one of the officers: Fountaine McNair at 601-517-0287; Patrice Boykin at 601-641-1192; or Richard Rankin at 601-847-5866.



News Briefs



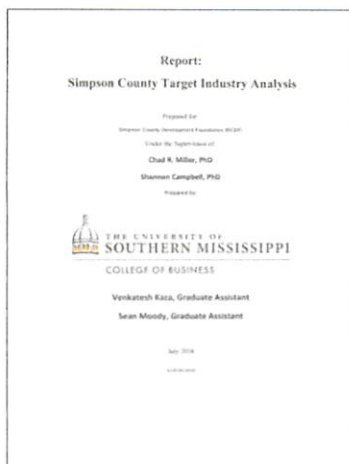
Crazy Day is scheduled for October 22, 2016. This year all Chamber Business Members who sell Retail Merchandise will be offered a

Crazy Day Booth at NO CHARGE. Call Doris Adcox, Executive Director, for details: 601.849.2517.

Simpson County Target Industry Analysis Report received by SCDF.

University of Southern Mississippi graduate assistants Venkatesh Kaza and Sean Moody have recently completed a target industry analysis for Simpson County, and their report has been provided to SCDF.

Executive Director Donnie Caughman is arranging with Dr. Shannon Campbell, Director of the Trent Lott National Center for Economic Development and Entrepreneurship at USM, to make a presentation of the report to the officers and directors of the Foundation and trustees of the Simpson County Economic Development District. In the meantime, electronic or hardcopy copies of the report are available upon request by calling or emailing the office.



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Executive Director receives inquiries. Donnie Caughman has recently received inquiries from two industrial businesses about locating in Simpson County. These are preliminary inquiries, and he is pursuing further conversations with them. We will report further developments as they occur.

Excerpt from *Mississippi's Business: Monitoring the State's Economy*, [University Research Center, Volume 74, Number 9 (September 2016), "Educational Attainment and Job Growth, page 11]. A recent report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce uncovered a number of striking facts about job growth in the U.S. during and since the end of the Great Recession. The report, entitled *America's Divided Recovery: College Haves and Have Nots*, finds important differences in the number of jobs created by educational attainment. Perhaps the report's most notable finding is that of the 11.6 million jobs created in the U.S. since the end of 2009, 95 percent were filled by individuals who hold a college degree. Moreover, 99 percent of the 11.6 million jobs went to individuals with at least some education beyond high school.

Calendar



The Council of Governments will meet on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at 7:30 a.m., in the Mendenhall Civic Center. This is the last meeting planned for calendar year 2016 of the Council of Governments for all elected officials. **Lt. Governor Tate Reeves is the special guest for this meeting.** The meeting will be held at the Mendenhall Civic Center, adjoining the Mendenhall Public Library, 1630 Simpson Hwy 149. Breakfast will be served.



SIMPSON CO. ECONOMIC DEV. DISTRICT Trustees are scheduled to meet on Tuesday, October 11, at 11:30 a.m., at Berry's Restaurant, Magee.

Simpson County Development Foundation Officers and Directors will meet on Thursday, September 15, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at Peoples Bank, Magee.