



2011

Vision: To inform, inspire, ensure, and develop minority educational leadership to promote academic excellence for all leaders.

Goal: The Leadership Conference for Minority Administrators has served as the nucleus for maintaining and inspiring a cadre of administrators and aspiring administrators who are committed to assisting with the education of all students from birth to eternity. Formulation of this conference originated in the Mississippi Department of Education and expanded to include 12 additional states. Service and excellence is the overall goal. We must recruit, educate, and train minority administrators to guarantee that there will be a sufficient number of minority administrators participating in the educational arena.

Excellence for All

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The awards committee would like to extend special appreciation to the staff of the Intercultural Development Research Association and the staff of Career and Technical Education, Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges for their hard work and commitment to the development, editorial assistance and creation of this publication.



Annual Awards Luncheon

Imperial Palace Resort and Spa Hotel
Biloxi, Mississippi
June 2, 2011



Unselfish dedication to all children benefits society as a whole.

History & Purpose

The Southern Minority Leadership Council (SMLC) serves as the executive design team for the Annual Southern Minority Leadership conference for minority administrators and the southern Regional Minority Leadership conference. The council embraces the vision of the conference, which is to inform, inspire, ensure, and develop educational leadership to promote academic excellence for all learners. The annual leadership awards have become an essential part of the conference.

The purpose of the annual leadership awards is to recognize those individuals who performed above and beyond the call of duty without expectations of rewards or acknowledgements. The awards honor individuals who are often overlooked and under-appreciated but who are essential to the advancement of education. The awards honor individuals who perform vital functions in the societal design, creating ground-breaking transformation and augmentation in the education arena. The awardees exemplify the philosophy that “unselfish dedication to all children benefits society as a whole.” In order to continue to uplift and support these soldiers who unselfishly fought and continue to fight for the rights of all to have access to a quality education, the council has identified individuals for receipt of the 2011 SMLC Leadership Awards.

Awards Luncheon Keynote Address

*“Keeping Your Eyes on
the Prize:
The Challenge of
Courage and Caring”*

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Cynthia Butler-Blucher
Director of Human Resources
Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

SMLC Awards Nomination Process Timeline

Applications for potential awardees will be accepted by members of the Southern Minority Leadership Council.

February - March 2012

Nominations for potential awardees will be accepted by members of the Southern Minority Leadership Council.

April 1, 2012

Council members will submit all received applications to the chairperson of the Leadership Award Selection Committee.

April 20, 2012

Applications will be presented to the full council by the chair of the Leadership Award Selection Committee.

Award recipients will be determined by vote of the full council. The council will select five awardees annually to receive this prestigious award.

Applications should consist of the following information:

- Name of nominee
- Brief biographical sketch of nominee
- Accomplishments of nominee
- State where nominee resides
- Name of council member responsible for nomination

Leadership Award Committee Members

Bradley Scott, Chair

Ethel Cain Carson

Shawn Mackey

Pearl Strickland Pennington

Evelyn Webb

Dr. Lynn J. House

Deputy Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education

Dr. Lynn J. House assumed the role of Deputy Superintendent for Instructional Enhancement and Internal Operations at the Mississippi Department of Education on February 1, 2010. She previously served the MDE as the director of federal programs.

Prior to returning to Mississippi, Dr. House was the Louisiana Board of Regents' Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs. Her previous experience in Mississippi included service as the assistant commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs for Mississippi's

Public University System and work as a teacher, principal, and program director in the P-12 environment.

Dr. House has 35 years of experience as an educator and, in addition to her K-12 work, has been a college professor, program director, chair, and dean in both private and public university settings.

Dr. House has degrees from the University of New Orleans, Furman University, and the University of Mississippi. She is originally from DeSoto County, Mississippi, and has resided in California, Florida,

Louisiana, Tennessee, and South Carolina as well as in several locations in Mississippi.

She and her husband of 32 years, Stan, have two married sons and three granddaughters, and reside in Madison, Mississippi.



Dr. Vivian M. Presley

President, Coahoma Community College

Dr. Vivian Presley has championed education for more than 35 years of her adult life. For 19 years, Dr. Presley has served as the president of Coahoma Community College and superintendent of Coahoma Agricultural High School. She is not only the first female president in the history of public two-year colleges in Mississippi, but also the only African American president of the 15-college system.

As a leader in the Mississippi Delta, she aggressively promotes education as a powerful tool to improve economic conditions. In support of her mission to educate, she is extremely active on numerous boards, community organizations, and in her church home. Dr. Presley is a mentor to many future leaders and she liberally

shares her knowledge, experience, and integrity to guide individuals on a sound leadership path.

Dr. Presley's longevity and success are indeed rare and exceptional. This is evident by the fact that the college's board of directors saw fit to name the new administrative building in her honor; the Vivian M. Presley Administrative Complex, set to open May 2011. The job responsibilities she carries and the number of students, faculty, and administrators whose lives she has positively impacted are too great to count. Daily, she has the distinct duty and as she would say, privilege of assisting students develop and learn as they matriculate from secondary education to postsecondary.

Beyond Dr. Presley's credentials and numerous accomplishments, you will find a humble lady with a kind heart and kindred spirit.

Focused vision, innovative leadership and service to all are what describe Dr. Vivian Presley.



Ovation Award

This award is presented annually to a corporate sponsor that provides continuous support of the Southern Minority Leadership Conference, the council and conference attendees.

2011 Ovation Award Recipient

CISCO
Corporation

2011 The DIAMOND Award

Mr. Sam Beibers



The DIAMOND Award was created as a way to recognize an exceptional individual or partner in the Southern Minority Leadership Council (SMLC) region. The diamond was selected because it is the hardest known natural material. The solidity of a diamond contributes to its sustainability. The DIAMOND Award will be presented annually to an exemplary individual or partner. This award was selected to represent the multifaceted contributions and steadfast support the individual or partner made for the overall good of the SMLC conference. It recognizes the individual or partner who went "above and beyond" during the year.

From watercolorist to musician to YMCA cook, Sam Beibers is truly a Renaissance man. Beibers has worked at JBHM Education Group since January 2005. As creative director, he gives creative input on marketing, school services, corporate image, conceptual thinking and design, and problem-solving. He also creates many of the hand-rendered illustrations for the Southern Minority Leadership Council.

Beibers earned his BFA from Delta State University and his MA from Mississippi College but said the world has been his best learning environment. "I'm a big believer in experiential learning and have probably learned as much from individual mentors and friends as from formal education." Originally from Memphis, Beibers moved to Walls, Mis-

issippi, with his parents and sister when he was 7. "I lived there until I went off to work at the YMCA of the Rockies in Colorado in the late 1970s as a breakfast cook. I moved to Jackson and then Clinton in the early 1980s and have been here ever since."

Beibers and his wife, Barbara, celebrated their seven-year anniversary this past New Year's Eve. Sam and Barbara each have two grown daughters. "Barb and I are empty nesters and are enjoying our simpler lifestyle," Beibers said. When not at work, Beibers enjoys bird watching, gardening, baseball, traveling, fishing, crossword puzzles, reading, writing poetry, listening to music like jazz or bluegrass, old hymns and new age, quiet music. He also plays mandolin and guitar and was in a

church band for several years.

And, of course, he paints. "Whenever I'm in the mood, I like to sketch and paint watercolors. The Attic Gallery in Vicksburg shows my paintings, and there are some on the walls at the Ed Group office in Jackson, Mississippi. I fill about one to two sketchbooks a year with drawings and poems." His work appears in Mississippi Magazine, on Mississippi's wildlife license plate series, and at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, and some of his most recent work is currently on display at Fischer Galleries in Jackson.

Dr. Shelley Stewart Chairman, The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation



Dr. Shelley Stewart was born in Birmingham, Alabama, in the 1930s. His background can be understood in two words: "obstacles overcome." Today a successful businessman, as a child his future was anything but bright. Dr. Stewart's rise to prominence began as a radio personality in the 1950s and '60s. His radio broadcasts were a conduit for protest organizations during Birmingham's civil rights struggles. His expansion into marketing also began in the 1960s, culminating in his position as the president and CEO of ozideas, one of the country's longest-running and largest privately held corporate communication companies. With all that he has accomplished, Dr. Stewart's path out of poverty and abuse only emerged once he had taught himself

to read - the lesson that's at the very heart of the foundation he created.

Dr. Stewart's career in marketing and the media provide The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation with a unique set of skills for reaching our youth. It's a basic marketing principle that when you understand your target audience better, you are more likely to affect change in their lives. When applied to the issue of illiteracy, this approach results in solutions like a fleet of former school buses that transport students through a life-like experience to a place where many dropouts ultimately end up

- in prison. Innovations like The Choice Bus are typical of the unconventional approach Dr. Stewart and the foundation take to solving the dropout problem.

The foundation is a national non-profit organization created in 2007 in honor of Dr. Stewart's late mother, Mattie C. Stewart. By putting into action her son Samuel's idea that we can all make a difference, the foundation is dedicated to reducing the national dropout rate. In creating tools and resources for educators, community leaders and parents, The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation has developed innovative strategies to more effectively address this issue.

Southern Minority Leadership Council Members

Reginald P. Barnes, MS

Ethel Cain Carson, MS

Roger Cleveland, KY

Beverly Divers-White, AR

Donna Elam, FL

Francie Gilmore-Dunn, MS

Jerry Graniero, FL

Alfred L. Hall II, TN

Bennie Jones, MS

Toni Kersh, MS

Ronald Love, MS

Shawn Mackey, MS

Pearl Strickland Pennington, MS

Mary Alice Ridley, TN

James Sardin, MS

Bradley Scott, TX

John Smith, LA

Dorothea Walker, AL

Mike Walters, MS

Evelyn Webb, MS

Sammie Welton, MS

Ernest White, SC

2011 Unsung Hero Award

Representative Frances Fredericks has been blessed with an extraordinary life. She is the eldest of eight children and the daughter of the late Percy and Alice Manning. She grew up in Picayune, Mississippi, where she graduated from George Washington Carver High School. She later fulfilled her dream of becoming a nurse when she graduated from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Kansas City. She was married to the late Isiah Fredericks, Sr., and is the mother of four children: Don, Yolonda, Isiah Jr., and Alvin. She also prides herself on having six grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Frances has had to rely heavily on her faith as she persevered after the deaths of

her husband and each of her three sons.

Many people were surprised to learn that Mrs. Fredericks was seeking election to the seat left vacant after the death of her husband. But on June 5, 1990, in her first attempt to seek election to a public office, she won the House of Representative's seat for District #119 with 59 percent of the vote against three male candidates in a special election. Representative Fredericks, in a 1992 special election held pursuant to redistricting, was re-elected with 81 percent of the vote. Since that time, she has been unopposed in her four bids for re-election.



*The Honorable Frances Fredericks
State Representative*

During her tenure as a legislator she has served on the following committees: Ways and Means, Judiciary B, Corrections, and Public Health. For the 2008 legislative session, she served as chairperson for Marine Resources as well as a member of several other committees: Local and Private, Ways and Means, Public Health, Medicaid, Corrections, Poverty and Judiciary.

Mrs. Fredericks was familiar with public service long before her election. She was appointed to the court-ordered Harrison County School System Biracial Committee. She has previously served as



president of the Harrison County Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women and is presently a life member of the council. She is also a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. From 1986 to 1990 she was the president of the American Federation of Government Employees and has served as the president of the North Gulfport Civic Club, a member of the Harrison County Community Action Agency Board, a member of the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District Board, a member of the Harrison/Hancock Foster Care Review Board, and a member of the Harrison County Federation of



As Representative Fredericks ends her 20-plus year legislative career, friends and fellow lawmakers said she's likely to be most remembered for advocating causes benefitting children, the elderly and the underserved.

Democratic Women, and served as the state director for Women in Government.

Representative Fredericks has always been active in her community and dedicated to improving the quality of life for all citizens. She is a passionate advocate for children, the elderly, the underserved and the overlooked people in her community. She is most admired for her unselfishness and her willingness to serve. With all

of this, she still has time for her favorite pastime, watching football, baseball, basketball, golf, tennis and any other sport you can think of. Representative Fredericks is a member of the St. John Baptist Church where she enjoys teaching Sunday School. She often quotes one of her favorite scriptures, "In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the word was God" (John: 1:1). It is the foundation on which she has lived her life.

