FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Mississippi Association of Partners in Education Governor's Awards Announcement

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17th Annual Governor's Awards on Feb. 26 to Honor Top School-Community Partnerships during Mississippi Education Partnership Conference

Corinth School Superintendent Dr. Lee Childress to Receive Education Heroes Award

The Mississippi Association of Partners in Education will recognize Mississippi’s top school-community partnerships during the 17th annual Governor’s Awards luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg. The luncheon is part of activities planned for the Mississippi Education Partnership Conference featuring keynote speakers, exclusive workshops and partnership training.

MAPE will present the conference in partnership with Program of Research and Evaluation for Public Schools, Inc. (PREPS) at William Carey University. Conference details and registration instructions are available at www.mapie.org, including reservations for the Governor’s Awards luncheon.

MAPE will award 12 school-community partnership programs that have produced outstanding results for students in K-12 public schools throughout Mississippi. Also during the awards luncheon, Dr. Lee Childress, superintendent of Corinth School District, will receive the Education Heroes Award for his lifelong contributions to public education.

“When we talk about improving school performance in Mississippi, partnerships should always be an important part of the conversation — and the Governor’s Awards program proves this point,” said Dr. Leslie Griffin, MAPE president. “Year after year, we learn about the many creative ways that schools and communities across Mississippi are working together to improve student outcomes. Their success stories are truly making a difference.

“We congratulate our award winners as well as Dr. Lee Childress, whose service to public education in Mississippi and his record of effective leadership make him a deserving recipient of the Education Heroes Award,” Griffin said.

The Governor’s Award selection committee, comprising representatives from business, industry, nonprofits and education, judged each entry using a uniform set of criteria to measure overall effectiveness of partnership activities.

2019 Governor's Award Recipients

ELEMENTARY Governor’s Awards

Rankin Elementary School (Tupelo) with West Jackson Street Baptist Church - Teacher and student support to enhance overall school performance

Spann Elementary School (Jackson) with 99 JAMS radio, Jackson Federation of Teachers, Junior League of Jackson, Bellwether Church, Jackson Rotary Club, Northminster Baptist
Church and Raising Cane’s #30 – “Keys to Success” program to address language, math and technical challenges and improve student achievement

**MIDDLE SCHOOL Governor’s Award**

Blackburn, Hardy and Powell middle schools (Jackson) with Juanita Sims Doty Foundation and Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute - Ambassadors of the Evers Academy for African-American Males (A-TEAAM) character and leadership development mentoring program

**HIGH SCHOOL Governor’s Award**

Pelahatchie High School (Rankin County School District) with Multicraft International – Multicraft Academy job-training certification and internship program

**DISTRICT & COMMUNITY-WIDE Governor’s Awards**

Lauderdale County School District with Meridian Community College - “C3 Ready: College, Career, Community” collaborative workforce development project

Pascagoula-Gautier School District with multiple community partners – K-12 workforce development initiatives

**2019 Partnership Excellence Award Recipients**

**ELEMENTARY Partnership Excellence Award**

Thames Elementary School (Hattiesburg) with University Baptist Church – Instruction and support to improve students’ writing skills

**HIGH SCHOOL Partnership Excellence Awards**

Brandon High School with multiple community partners - Teacher Academy that inspires students to pursue teaching careers

Brandon High School with multiple community partners – Health Science Academy that offers a four-year curriculum for students interested healthcare careers

Hattiesburg High School with Parkway Heights United Methodist Church – Teacher and student support to enhance overall school performance

**DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY-WIDE Partnership Excellence Awards**

South Delta School District (Rolling Fork) with UMMC School of Nursing - Mercy Delta Express school-based health centers

Vicksburg Warren School District with Ford Next Generation Learning and Vicksburg Warren County Chamber of Commerce - Vicksburg Warren College and Career Academies

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MAPE has served as a statewide network of educators and community partners since 1984 and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is committed solely to providing training and materials to help build local support for the success of all students.

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