



THE CSLC COMMUNITY VOICE

"In relentless pursuit of perfection in education and knowledge"

Volume 15, No. 1 • Winter/Spring 2023 - June 2, 2023 • 333 Yazoo Street • Lexington, MS 39095

Phone: (662) 834-0905 • Fax: (662) 834-0906 • www.communitystudentlearning.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/communitystudentslearningcenter>

From the Executive Director's Desk



Greetings!

As always, I am excited to share CSLC's activities, successes, and updates with you in our *CSLC Community Voice* newsletter.

Please know that you who are our partners/grantors, donors, supporters, friends, volunteers, and well-wishers are the strong links in our chain of success as we serve families, children, and communities.

Special gratitude is extended to U.S. SBA-Mississippi District for recently recognizing our CSLC Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) as a Resource Partner of the Year during its National Small Business Week celebration. We are so humbled. As a grantee of one SBA's CNPPs, we are pleased to report the following data below from our COMNAV system:

Total Amt. in Loans and Grants Submitted:	\$10,474,032.00
Total Amt. in Loans and Grants Approved:	\$1,105,105.00
Unique Clients Assisted:	552
Total Counseling Hours	2,335
Total Trained Clients	2,422

Thanks to the hard work of our CNPP Hub staff and Spokes, and the guidance of SBA Mississippi District, one can see that it is true that teamwork makes the dream work.

We hope you will enjoy reading and browsing the fruit of our team, partners and donors.

Be blessed,

Beulah Greer,

CSLC Co-founder & Exec. Director

10 young CSLC HIPPY scholars headed to 'big school'



Zyrie Chambers



Kyran Coleman



Ma'Kenzie Friar



Quinton Grinston



Kristian Kimbrough



Keenan Mason



Princess Parks



Erick Patton, Jr.



Kenslee Taylor



Michael Wade

On May 2, at 6 p.m., in person and on Zoom, the CSLC MS PIRC Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters (HIPPY) program proudly announced its 2023 HIPPY Graduation of 10 school-ready scholars.

Brandon Hawkins, team director for ALAS, a non-profit organization of New Orleans, was the guest speaker. "He did an awesome job encouraging the graduates," said HIPPY Coordinator Lubertha Banks-Mosley "You Are Special" as the theme, and the children demonstrated it well. More 70 parents and other well-wishers came out to support them.



Hawkins

HIPPY graduates gave their parents live yellow roses donated by LaTannica Friar in memory her mother Lula Friar, the HIPPY coordinator who helped establish the CSLC HIPPY site in Holmes County, Miss. Lula Friar was a strong believer that if a child is given the foundation he or she needs during his or her early childhood years, that child would be very successful going forward in education. "You got to make sure he or she has a good foundation," she always stressed. (See more HIPPY highlights/activities on pages 6-7.)

CSLC CNPP earns the SBA Resource Partner of the Year Award



From left to right: Leslie M. Greer, Spoke; Angela Carson, Spoke; Ashlei N. Donerson, Deputy District Director; Brandi Greer, Spoke; Christopher Weathers, Spoke; Dwayne Perkins, Spoke; Beulah Greer, CSLC Executive Director; Janita R. Stewart, District Director; Jennifer Kim, SBA Associate Administrator; Henry Luckett, Spoke; Leslie Greer, CSLC CEO and Founder; Willie McGriggs, Spoke; and Center: Antwan Clark, CNPP Project Director. Spokes not shown: Sydney Brown, Bolo Works, Ad Astra Consulting, and TIER Institute. (See article on Page 2).

CSLC CNPP reaches out to help storm victims at resource fair



CNPP Project Director Antwan Clark and an image of some of the storm disaster.

CSLC's Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) has been working aggressively to help victims of the March EF-4 tornado disaster in Delta to get back to some normalcy. CNPP reps attended town hall meetings that were held by Congressman Bennie Thompson in Belzoni and Winona, Miss. "We also attended a Storm Victim Resource Fair that was held by Dr. Pam "Boss Lady" Chatman in Greenville, Miss.," said CSLC CNPP Project Director Antwan Clark. Chatman is founder of the non-profit, Boss Lady Economic Planning and Development Workforce Transportation, Inc.

"During all the meetings, we let the victims know that we can help them register for FEMA, MEMA, FHLB of Dallas, USDA, and apply for SBA assistance free of charge," Clark said.

Clark also reported that in February, CNPP held "A Mississippi Delta Lending Fair" in Cleveland, Miss. as an outreach in collaboration with Boss Lady Economic Planning and Development Workforce Transportation, Inc., and the Delta State University Women Minority Development Center, "A Mississippi Delta Lending Fair" offered "free" financial and technical assistance (TA) to underserved businesses and potential startups. *(Below are several highlights.)*



A CNPP Success Story

Business owner Zundria Webb is excited after CSLC SBA CNPP's spoke, Fresh Start Enterprise LLC, helped her to secure her State of Mississippi Certificate of Formation on site.



Attendees packed the general session as they were introduced to the lending fair's lenders and CSLC SBA CNPP spoke partners.



(From left) Founder of Boss Lady Economic Planning and Development Workforce Transportation, Inc., CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer, SBA Marketing and Outreach Specialist Veronique Thomas, and CSLC Founder/Board President Leslie Greer.

CSLC CNPP honored at SBA-Mississippi Small Business Week celebration

On May 18, the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Mississippi District celebrated National Small Business Week via its 2023 Small Business Week (SBW) and Top Lenders, Top CDC Awards Luncheon.

In addition to its various deserving SBW winners, the Community Navigator Hub, the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC), was honored with the Entrepreneurial Development Resource Partner of the Year award. According to the plaque presented by Janita R. Smith, SBA-Mississippi District Director, the award is in recognition for CSLC's "support of small businesses and entrepreneurs within its footprint and beyond as the SBA Community Navigator in Mississippi."

CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer said their organization was truly humbled to receive such an honor. "We did not deserve it alone," she said. "Our team of Spokes are what helps keeps the wheels rolling when it comes to helping small businesses with technical assistance, resources and outreach." Most of the participating Spokes were on hand for the award presentation. Below are more CSLC highlights from the SBA Mississippi SBW luncheon in Jackson:



The Plaque



Standing from left: Lesley Hill, SBA Public Affairs Specialist; Beulah Greer, CSLC Executive Director; Veronique Thomas, SBA Outreach & Marketing/PIO Leslie Greer, CSLC CEO and Founder, and seated: Antwan Clark, CNPP Project Director

Standing from: Dr. Trina N. George, State Director for U.S. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Beulah Greer, CSLC Executive Director, Leslie Greer, CSLC CEO and Founder' and seated: Antwan Clark, CNPP Project Director



Top Left Photo: CSLC CNPP Hub administrator, project director, spoke partners, and CEO and Founder Leslie Greer pause from partaking of a delicious luncheon meal for a photo opportunity.

Bottom Left Photo: U.S. Rep. Bennie G. Thompson of Mississippi's Second Congressional District virtually gives greetings from Washington, D.C.

Together, TIME makes a difference and salutes its graduates!



The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) and the Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) recognize that youth violence is a serious problem that can have a lasting harmful effect on victims and their families, friends, and communities. CSLC and HCCSD's goal is to stop youth violence from happening. Lucretia Holmes, the Project Director and Jacqueline Saffold, Coordinator of the School Violence Prevention Program TIME-Transforming Improving Mississippi Education. Saffold is currently implementing the TIME Program in the HCCSD implementing Positive Action K-5 and Mind Matters K6-12. Both curriculums are evidence school-based programs promoting SEL- Social Emotional Learning.



Top photo: From left, teacher L. Haymon, recent graduates Shkobie Johnson, Katelyn King, Adriana Johnson, Aljonta Baker, Jermeriay Jones, TIME Grant Coordinator Jacqueline Saffold, and teacher B. Johnson.
Above left photo: The 2023 HCCHS Valedictorian Jazmaree Rich (center) joined by TIME Project Director Lucretia Holmes (left) and TIME Coordinator Jacqueline Saffold.
Above right photo: TIME participants of the Class of 2023 displays their Mind Matters curriculum guide as they

In order to prevent youth violence, TIME program manager and staff understand and recognize the risk factors. “This program helps us strengthen communities, parents, teachers, and students,” said Holmes. “Having a third eye will help us make much-needed referrals to Life Help for immediate evaluations and make reports to the proper authority, knowing your trusted adults, and afterschool programs to help prevent and reduce violence. Together, we are making a difference.”

The 2023 HCCHS graduating senior class have learned new violence prevention skills to take with them as they travel through TIME on their new journey in life. Teachers in the HCCSD applaud the TIME program and said they have benefited from it by listening to the implementation in their classrooms and using some of the skills to help manage conflicts. The youths K-5 are super excited about the program and remind their classmates of what they have learned when they feel hurt or sad. They find it easier now to say I'm sorry and feel good about doing good. “A hardy salute and congratulations to all of our TIME graduates!” expressed Holmes.

CSLC presents Merdis Anderson and Lula Friar Memorial Scholarships

In keeping the legacy alive of two of Holmes County’s greatest educators, the Community Students Learning Center recently awarded the CSLC Merdis A. Anderson Memorial Scholarship and the CSLC Lula Mae Friar Memorial Scholarship. Both Anderson and Friar devoted 30-plus years in Mississippi schools and 10-plus after retirement serving children with CSLC.

Each scholarship was in the amount of \$500. The recipient of the CSLC Merdis A. Anderson Memorial Scholarship is **Destyne Landra Hemphill** (first photo to the right). She will be attending Hinds Community College in Raymond, Miss. and majoring in Nursing. The recipient of the CSLC Lula Mae Friar Memorial HIPPIY Scholarship is **Reginal Friar, Jr.** He will be attending Lincoln Technical and majoring in Collision Repair. Hemphill was a student in the CSLC STARS After-School Program. Reginald Friar, Jr. was a HIPPIY Kid. Congratulations to them both.



The scholarship certificates were presented by CSLC Founders Leslie and Beulah Greer.

CNPP spoke helps small business to cater towards success

CSLC SBA Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) spoke, Knowledge Info, LLC, through one of its contractors, Cannon Consulting, assisted business owners Norris and Quentoria Wright to get their catering business formed by registering it with the Secretary of State office and obtaining their EIN.

Cannon Consulting encouraged them to take the Credit Plus class sponsored by Community Bank. After completing the class, they qualified for a loan that they used to start their catering business, The Wright Way Catering, LLC.

According to CSLC SBA CNPP spoke partner, Henry Luckett of Knowledge Info, Community Bank was so impressed with the services of the mother-daughter catering business that it contracted with The Wright Way Catering to provide meals for other Credit Plus classes the bank sponsors, averaging two to three orders per month according to Cannon Consulting recent Spotlight on Clients publication. The spotlight also indicated that the business is off to a good start, and its future is bright.

"This success story is another prime example of how effective the Hub-and-Spokes model of the Community Navigator Pilot Program really is in providing SBA resources, outreach, education and technical assistance to underserved and startup businesses in economically-challenged communities," said Antwan Clark, CSLC SBA CNPP Project Director. We applaud Knowledge Info, LLC and Cannon Consulting for how they are nurturing the Wright's family business."



The Wrights

A CNPP
Success Story

CSLC now has an in-house certified USDA 502 loan packager

The Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) now has an in-house certified USDA 502 loan packager, Kalandria Newman. Newman is excited and ready to assist in meeting the needs of eligible future homeowners.

CSLC participates with the USDA rural development on the USDA 502 Homeowner Loan /504 Direct Repair and/or Grant programs. These loans and grant are available to help low to very low-income individuals in rural areas, purchase, build or repair their homes.

She is also USDA-trained to assist those eligible homeowners who are in much need of standard, up-to-code, and safety repairs to navigate the application process. Newman is a native of West, Miss. in Holmes County. Her education background includes attending Jackson State University, where she received her bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration. Her skills and expertise include, but are not limited to, computer proficiency, communication skills, and organizational and time management skills.

Since joining the CSLC staff, she has also worked closely with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas/BankPlus Affordable Housing program.

"My plan is to stay focus and trust God," said Newman. "It is a pleasure to be here at CSLC working and learning from everyone."

CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer says her organization is fortunate to have Newman aboard. "It is always good to have young, energetic, and goal-oriented minds in any organization; it helps to keep it growing.

For more information about USDA 502/504 Grant/Loan, call Newman at (662)834-0905.



Newman

An anonymous donor puts grateful smiles on 25 citizens' faces

A scripture tells us: "And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you openly" (Matthew 6:4). Therefore, there is apparently a great reward in store for one donor who wishes to remain anonymous for the second year.

It happens around the mid-winter when an anonymous philanthropist entrusts the Community Students Learning Center with a financial donation with expressed instructions that it be divided to help citizens in need, in a like manner, in Holmes County, especially but not limited to, senior citizens.

This year's generous \$5,000 donation helped 25 families with assistance towards or to pay a utility bill up to \$200 this recent winter. They were all so grateful! One lady cried, and an elderly citizen testified on a church prayer line: "I have a praise report. Today, I received an unexpected financial blessing that helped me with my gas bill." And, a 99-year-old citizen said he was just simply grateful. "I am so excited and appreciative," he said.

The kind gesture of the secret donor made the citizens and families joyful. "It was actually a few more than 25 because some citizens did not need the full \$200 but requested that CSLC help someone else with the other," said CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer. On behalf of its Board of Directors and administration, management, and staff, the CSLC is humbled to have been chosen to be an instrument of such an act of goodwill.



L. Brown



M. Ross

FHLB of Dallas/BankPlus Affordable Housing Program is going well!



Roosevelt Woodley, a satisfied client, enjoys a bright sunny day on his front porch after a new roof and other needed repairs have been made to his home through the CSLC Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas/BankPlus Affordable Housing Rehabilitation Program.



Roof Before



The New Roof



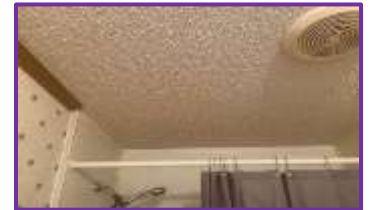
Before



After



Before



After

Year after year, the CSLC receive testimony to how appreciative citizens are for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas/BankPlus Affordable Housing Rehabilitation grant program. To date, through FHLB/BankPlus, the CSLC has facilitated needed housing repairs to a total of 215, with a total funding of \$1,764,132. Homeowners like Woodley indicated that they do not know how they could have rehabbed their homes had it not been for the program. For more information about the FHLB of Dallas/BankPlus Affordable Housing Rehab Program for low-income homeowners, call CSLC at (662) 834-0905.



Knowledge Info & Cannon Consulting help Chef Brown increase visibility

CSLC SBA Community Navigator Pilot Program’s (CNPP) spokes, Knowledge Info, LLC and one of its contractors, Cannon Consulting are responsible for another food business success story. Just ask Chef Phillip Brown, owner of Chef Phillip’s Creative Foods, LLC. Based on a recent Cannon Consulting’s Spotlight on Client, Chef Brown’s business had a remarkably tasty business, but it lacked visibility.

According to the article, “through the SBA Community Navigator Pilot Program, Cannon Consulting and Knowledge Info, LLC recommended adding a Google Business Profile Page to boost visibility. Executing such a TA recommendation has proven to be very successful for Chef Phillip’s Creative Foods, LLC. As reported by Cannon, Brown has “secured an added \$20,000 in revenue since November 2022 through an additional 30 event bookings. This type collaboration in helping small businesses is exactly what the CNPP is all about,” said Henry Luckett of Knowledge Info. “We are proud of our Contractor Cannon Consulting in how they are helping us to utilize the principles, counseling, and technical training of the CNPP to help small businesses grow.”



A CNPP Success Story

Fresh Start, LLC's technical consultant helps nutritionist secure a MDPH grant



Contave

Marven Contave is dietitian and public health nutritionist who is passionate about improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities through nutrition. That passion, in addition to some technical assistance via one of the Community Students Learning Center's Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) spokes, Fresh Start Enterprise, LLC, is helping him to do that in Holmes County. Lucretia Holmes, who consults with Fresh Start, is known for constantly searching for grant opportunities to make people aware of them. One of her technical assistance and outreach efforts proved successful for Contave. He is the recipient of a \$15,000 grant to implement the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) in Holmes County, Miss. "This grant, according to Contave, provides a remarkable opportunity to make a positive impact on the health and well-being of our community. I would like to express my gratitude to the Mississippi Department of Public Health for their

A CNPP Success Story

support and confidence in our ability to carry out this important initiative. He said he is grateful to Holmes for the referral. "Her passion for community health and wellness inspired me to pursue this funding," Contave said.

"I am truly honored to have been selected as a recipient of the grant... Starting in June of 2023, we are excited to commence the NDPP in Holmes County, and I want to emphasize that enrollment is still open for those who are interested in participating. Together, we can work towards preventing and managing diabetes, improving the lives of our residents, and fostering a healthier future for our community," he said in a message last month.

HIPPY Coordinator and Home Educator attend the HIPPY U.S. National Conference

During April 16-19, 2023 – CSLC HIPPY Coordinator Lubertha Banks-Mosley and Home Educator Audrey Anderson experienced "Destination Success!" They attended HIPPY United States National Conference in Mobile, Ala. Both indicated that it was a great professional development training. More than 300 people attended the conference. "Destination Success" was its theme.

"We had a wonderful time via the difference professional development trainings and educational sites," said Banks. "We attended such workshops and seminars as: "Reset, Refuel, Recharge," "HIPPY 3.0," "Strategies for Home Visitor Safety," "The Brain Game," "Family Strengthening," "Make Visit Tracker work for You," etc.

The attendees toured a museum and attended a Mardi Gras. Banks-Mosley expressed that "the conference was very educational and fun."

Anderson shared that the HIPPY Conference was very beneficial to her. "This was my first time attending. I came back with new ideas about HIPPY and met new friends. It is definitely something I would look forward to attending in the future."

Conference Committee Co-Chairs were Jani Johnson, Alabama HIPPY Lead and Lidia Clark, HIPPY Florida Associate State Director. Conference Committee: Diana Adams, Adrienne Jackson, Donna Johnson, Simone Diggins, and Janie Rojas.



(L-R) L. Banks-Mosley, A. Anderson and L. Clark



The HIPPY Easter Activities

On March 21, 2023, HIPPY parents held a pre-Easter program. The children recited their Easter poem. "We had 10 out of 20 children to participate," said Lubertha Banks-Mosley, CSLC HIPPY Coordinator.

To the left Faith Moore is shown displaying one of the pictures from the program.

The children and their parents had great fun working together in coordinating the program.

The HIPPY Black History

On January 17, 2023, the HIPPY staff conducted a Dr. Martin Luther King Program with the children on zoom. The children recited some of Dr. King life history. It was very successful. We had 10 parents and 10 children on the program. Picture included.

On February 21, 2023, HIPPY conducted a Black History Program. The children picked out their favor person, and they did a report on that black person. There were eight children participating and eight parents on the zoom call.

That program was very productive. Black history makers included with Dr. Martin Luther King's wife Coretta King and Oprah Winfrey.

The participating HIPPY participants were (bottom, right) Jazilya Walden and Deshenia and Kyran Coleman (top, right).

The children were so excited about participating in the black history activities. They learned a great deal about their heritage.



Deshenia and Kyran



Walden

CSLC MS PIRC HIPPY 2023 Graduation Highlights



Bikers and others ‘show’ support of early childhood education



In 2022, CSLC Housing staff member Vera Harmon (right) checks bikers in as they arrive.

On Saturday, June 3, at high Noon, Mississippi bikers and motorists will ride into Lexington, Miss. for the fourth Community Students Learning Center’s (CSLC) HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) Fund Fest and Motorcycle/Car Show. The event is a fundraiser (in memory of Lula Mae Friar) to help support the HIPPY program. Friar, a veteran public educator in Mississippi County for more than 33 years, was passionately devoted to the HIPPY program. She succumbed to COVID-19 in July 2020.

HIPPY is a developmentally appropriate, early literacy curriculum designed to promote children’s cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. The bikers began supporting the HIPPY in 2019. The event did not occur in 2020 due to the pandemic. “We are extremely grateful to all of the clubs for supporting early childhood education,” said Beulah Greer, CSLC Executive Director. “There help is essential to keeping HIPPY alive.” The bikers have help to raise more than \$20,000 to date.

“Saturday’s event also a family fun day,” said HIPPY Coordinator Lubertha Banks-Mosley.



Community Students Learning Center

333 Yazoo Street
Lexington, MS 39095

**Place
Stamp
Here**