



mississippi association of  
partners in education

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

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**15th Annual Governor's Awards on March 1 to Honor Top School-Community Partnerships during Mississippi Education Partnership Conference**

The Mississippi Association of Partners in Education will recognize Mississippi's top school-community partnerships during the 15th annual Governor's Awards luncheon on Wednesday, March 1 at the Jackson Hilton. 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) and Mississippi Association of Middle Level Education (MAMLE). Conference details and registration instructions are available at [www.mapie.org](http://www.mapie.org), including reservations for the Governor's Awards luncheon.

MAPE will award 18 school-community partnership programs that have produced outstanding results for students in Mississippi's K-12 public schools. Award-winning schools, districts and organizations are located in Jackson, Hattiesburg, McComb, Pass Christian, Puckett, Tupelo, Franklin County, Kemper County, Madison County and Rankin County.

"The Governor's Awards program is an opportunity to recognize outstanding partnerships and celebrate the positive impact they're making in public schools across Mississippi," said Phil Hardwick, MAPE president. "Since introducing the Governor's Awards 15 years ago, MAPE has collected a wealth of partnership success stories from all over the state that clearly demonstrate the connection between increased community involvement and improved student achievement."

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.

**2017 Governor's Award Recipients**

**Governor's Awards of Distinction:**

Tupelo Public School District with Growing Healthy Waves and FoodCorps - Nutrition and health program for grades K-6

Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex (Jackson Public Schools) with APAC A3, Power APAC PTA, Barksdale Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Jackson, McRae Foundation, Junior League of Jackson, Regions Bank and Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi - "Kids in Motion - Minds in Motion" sustainable playground project for grades 4-12

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## **ELEMENTARY Governor's Award**

Highland Elementary (Madison County School District) with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, City of Ridgeland, Ridgeland Police Department, Ridgeland Fire Department, Indian Cycle and Fitness, CYCLE Kids, Highland Elementary PTO, Barnett's Body Shop and Automotive Color - Fitness, nutrition and wellness programs

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL Governor's Awards**

N.R. Burger Middle School (Hattiesburg Public School District) with multiple community partners - "Power Partners" program to improve academic proficiency and social responsibility

CREATE Foundation and 72 Northeast Mississippi middle schools with Toyota Motor Manufacturing Wellspring Education Enhancement Fund Advisory Committee, Community Development Foundation, Three Rivers Planning and Development District and numerous additional partners - Imagine the Possibilities Career Expo

## **HIGH SCHOOL Governor's Award**

Puckett High School (Rankin County School District) with TempStaff, People's Bank, Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Keep the Rez Beautiful, the Town of Puckett and numerous additional partners - "Gardens of Puckett" school and community beautification initiative

## **DISTRICT & COMMUNITY Governor's Award**

Jackson Public Schools and University of Mississippi School of Nursing - Expansion of school-based health and wellness clinics

## **2017 Partnership Excellence Award Recipients**

### **ELEMENTARY Partnership Excellence Awards**

Clausell Elementary School (Jackson Public Schools) with Saks, Inc. and Hudson Bay Company - Student and staff recognition programs, academic and behavior incentives, and 5th grade class-day activities

DeLisle Elementary School (Pass Christian Public Schools) with The Chemours Company - Supporting curriculum materials and teacher training, providing volunteers and mentors, recognizing future leaders, and organizing special events

Franklin County School District with Southwest Mississippi Chess Foundation - Chess program to build foundational skills and improve students' educational success

Spann Elementary School (Jackson Public Schools) with Mississippi Children's Museum, Raising Cane's, Bellwether Church and Northminster Church - Programs and activities to build knowledge, literacy and self-confidence

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL Partnership Excellence Award**

Lillie Burney 6th grade S.T.E.A.M. Academy (Hattiesburg Public School District) with McDonald's - Positive Behavior Intervention and Support System

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**HIGH SCHOOL Partnership Excellence Awards**

PACES Project and Kemper County High School with numerous community partners - Parents and Community Equals Educational Success (PACES) to encourage high-school graduates to pursue higher education and career training opportunities

Richland High School (Rankin County School District) with Richland Fire Department - Program to promote career opportunities within the fire service

**MULTI-LEVEL Partnership Excellence Awards**

Mississippi Community Symphonic Band / Mississippi Swing! Big Band with Christ United Methodist Church, Mississippi Music and MAPE - Instrument drive for band students in Jackson Public and Madison County middle schools

Hattiesburg High School with Southeast Mississippi Rural Health Initiative - Programs to enhance student achievement, health and fitness, and overall student performance

Jackson Public Schools with University of Mississippi Medical Center - Programs and activities to address health through prevention and education

**DISTRICT and COMMUNITY-WIDE Partnership Excellence Award**

McComb School District with Trustmark National Bank, First Bank, Graphics Etc., Farm Bureau of Pike County, McComb Coca-Cola Bottling Company and numerous additional partners - Educational and enrichment opportunities to improve student achievement, self-esteem, and career readiness

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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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