

Celebration of Distinction

Presented By Toyota Mississippi

*A Century
of Excellence*

OUR FUTURE IS GOLDEN



Tuesday, September 29, 2026 | Tupelo High School Performing Arts Center

TupeloSchools.com | [#TPSD](https://twitter.com/TPSD)

Celebration of Distinction

Student Greeters: Henry Jones, Diya Karthik, Kate Lewis, CeCe McCullough, Brentley McGaha, Alaylah McKinnon, Henry McMillan, Jed Mills, Reece Molpus, Thea Nolan and Davis White

Welcome & Opening Remarks	Judd Wilson, Emcee
Student Welcome	Ann Paslay Jeffares
Invocation	Ace Johnson
Pledge	Camp Hunter
Entertainment	Lawhon Lyrics

2026 Celebrations

Each School Will Be Recognized Individually For AEE Grants, Teacher, Assistant Teacher and Champion of Distinction Awards.

● ECEC	● Lawhon	● Tupelo Middle School
● Carver	● Lawndale	● Tupelo Career & Technical Center
● Joyner	● Pierce Street	● Tupelo High School
● Parkway	● Rankin	● Structured Day
● Thomas Street	● Milam	● TPSD Departments

2026 Named Grants Presentation

Toyota Mississippi	Tiffannie Hedin, Kevin Burgess
United Way of Northeast Mississippi	Patti Parker, Sheila Brown
Reed's Department Store	Bennett Mize
Brevard Family Foundation	David & Shawn Brevard, Victor McMillan
Community Bank	Jon Paul Rhea, Baxter Bray, Aaron Friloux
Regions Bank	Ashley McLellan, Derick Young
Renasant Bank	Louis Marascalco, Richard Kent
Tennessee Valley Authority	Derek McGill
North Mississippi Health Services	Claire Hughes
TPSD Foundation — A Fund For Innovation	Travis Beard
BNA Bank	Mike Staten, Carter Naugher, Carolyn Brownson
Founders Grant Announcement	Judd Wilson
Key Bishop Innovation Award Honorees	Teresa Gregory

Advocate for Education Awards

Jack Reed, Sr. Award	Stewart McMillan
J.C. Whitehead Award	Stewart McMillan

Closing

Gratitude	Judd Wilson
Principal Remarks	Wesley McCullough, Lawhon Principal

Celebration of Distinction

2026-27 AEE Board Information

Mary Morgan Burks	Managing Director
Ashley Quimby	Grants Awards Director
Bill Dickerson.....	Grant Awards Director
Kim Britton	Grants Awards Director
Tiffannie Hedin.....	Grants Awards Director
Chase McPherson	Grants In Action Director
Kenneth Wheeler	Grants In Action Director
Sara Ekiss	Grants In Action Director
Carolyn Brownson.....	Fundraising Director
Stewart McMillan	Records Director
Leslie Ward	Records Director
Kathy Wallace	Luncheon Director
Kim Dill	Luncheon Director
Clayton Jarvis	Luncheon Director
Reed Jones	Luncheon Director
Stephanie Adams	Social Media Director
Molly Nolan	Attended Event Director
Ben Burrell	Attended Event Director
Cooper Ogg	Presentation Director
Jennifer Lindsey	Presentation Director

AEE Founding Members

Dan Brasfield	Bill Hill	Barbara Ramsey
Frances Brasfield	Nan Hill	Bill Ramsey
Martie Bush	Harold Hudson	Tom Robinson
Mike Bush	Sandra Hudson	Fredda Robinson
Billy Crews	Max Hutchinson	Hank West
Catherine Crews	Rosalyn Hutchinson	Georgia West
Bill Deas	Buddy McCarty	Charlotte Westbrook
Doyce Deas	Lou Ann McCarty	Jim Westbrook
Henry Dodge	Claudia Neelly	Jane Whitfield
Martha Tate Dodge	Ed Neelly	Lewis Whitfield

Celebration of Distinction

2026-27 AEE Board Members



A Thank You To Our Sponsors



United Way
of Northeast Mississippi



Tupelo Public School
District Foundation — A
Fund For Innovation

Celebration of Distinction

In Memoriam



Kay McKee Bishop was heavily invested in the Tupelo Public School District and served on staff for 23 ½ years. A native of Tupelo, she thrived on making others' work shine, and she said she enjoyed being behind the scenes to tell the heart-felt and impactful stories of the TPSD. She often smiled and nodded behind the news anchor or reporter to help the teacher, student, administrator or parent feel comfortable knowing she would interrupt if they said something she didn't like. Her laugh was contagious, and if she told you that you were "the best," you were in her circle. Her beloved husband, Randy, and daughter Lyndie (Eric), were the loves of her life. AEE continues her legacy with the Kay Bishop Innovation Awards to 10 educators who go above and beyond in a manner similar to Kay.



Judy Beard was a beloved educator with more than 35 years in public schools with Lee County and the Tupelo Public School District. She was an avid supporter of Tupelo High School athletics as a sponsor for Cheerleading, Soccer Kick Girls and Baseball Bat girls, and you would often see her with a camera documenting memories for her family and friends. She was a loving wife to Travis, mother to sons Tyler and Peyton (Claire), and grandmother (Hudson, Ella Hastings, Jackson and Lawson). The TPSD Foundation – A Fund for Innovation Named Grant is in her memory and funds grants at THS.



John Paul Frerer, a young leader in Tupelo and a proud TPSD student, was an Eagle Scout, president of the Student Council, a Wave Connection member, accomplished triathlete, and active participant at St. James Catholic Church. Close friend Ross Waycaster said of his friend, "John Paul was an adventurous learner, talented individual, and great friend. His drive to learn and experience new things has been an inspiration to me and others. He would be proud to know his passion for learning is remembered by affording new opportunities to students of Tupelo." He loved his parents, Jim Frerer and Liria Peshkepia, brother, Chad Frerer (Kelly), and sister, Danielle Ratliff (Ray). His family and friends remember him as a passionate young man of depth and integrity.

Celebration of Distinction

\$10,000 PRESENTING SPONSOR

- Toyota Mississippi

\$5,000-\$9,999

- Brevard Family Foundation*
- Community Bank*
- Reed's Department Store*
- Regions Bank*
- Renasant Bank*
- BNA Bank
- North Mississippi Health Services
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- United Way of Northeast Mississippi
- TPSD Foundation — A Fund For Innovation

**-Sponsors both to AEE Grants and TAC Awards.*

\$1,000-\$4,999

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- FNB Tupelo
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- Guarantee Bank
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- Huntington Bank
- Imbler Foundation
- LEAD
- Kristy Luse
- Chad and Nicky McMahan Endowment
- Mississippi Surf
- Mize Foundation
- Monroe Endowment Fund
- Rob and Jodi Picou
- Pritchard Engineering
- R & D Marketing, LLC
- Jack and Lisa Reed
- Scott and Annette Reed
- Room To Room Furniture
- Ross & Yerger
- Rotary Club of Tupelo
- Dr. Jim and Beth Stone
- Tupelo Kiwanis Club
- TPSD Learning Foundation Endowment
- Williams Family Fund
- Young Law Group



Last year's
AEE Luncheon
was hosted by
Joyner.

Celebration of Distinction

\$500-\$999

- Roger and Martha Bland
- Marcus and Jenea Britton
- David and Shawn Brevard
- Jake Chandler Family
- Clayton Business Management Co.
- CORE Cycle + Outdoor
- Arland and Grace Dirlam Endowment
- Jarvis and Raven Traylor Fields
- G & G Enterprises
- Terry and Angel Harbin
- Home Stretch
- Independent Furniture Supply
- Charles Laney
- McCarty Architects
- Bentley and Molly Nolan
- Dr. Garrett and Cooper Ogg
- Rock N Roll Sushi
- Shane and Parker Spees
- Chris and Martha Kate Stratton
- Tupelo ACE Hardware

\$250-\$499

- Zeb and Stephanie Atkinson
- Ben and Kayce Burrell
- Bill and Lora Claire Dickerson
- Chauncey and Ann Godwin
- Trentice Imbler
- Jesco, Inc.
- MAX Home, LLC
- Victor and Stewart McMillan
- Laura Miller
- Lynne Mize
- Tom and Fredda Robinson
- Dr. Wayne and Yvette Slocum
- Robert Spencer
- Dr. Max Taylor
- Tupelo Small Animal Hospital, P.A.
- Sarah Young

\$100-\$249

- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Joe and Lauren Babb
- Dr. Barry and Paula Bertolet
- Partrick and Kenzie Boand
- Peggy Boles
- Chad and Mika Brown
- Elizabeth Ann Brown
- Dr. Joseph and Beverly Chappell
- Circadence Corp.
- Mike and Julie Clayborne
- Angela Collins
- Sherry Davis
- Dr. Danny Dickey
- David and Rosemary Dillard
- Dossett Big 4
- Dr. Henry and Pamela Ewing
- Michael and Cathy Fitzpatrick
- Dr. David and Peggy Gilliland
- Tiffannie Hedin
- Brian and Leah Herndon
- Lynn and Tina Holland
- Dr. and Mrs. Edward Ivancic
- Bryan and Kim Jarvis
- Clayton and Margaret Jarvis
- Ernest and Jamie Joyner
- Maribeth Kirkpatrick
- Duke and Donna Loden
- LMB Properties
- Magnolia Therapy Services, LLC
- Josephine Mark
- Dr. Dustin and Mary Markle

Celebration of Distinction

\$100-\$249, continued

- Warren and Ann Clark Masterson
- Chase and Jordan McPherson
- Kimmel and Julia Monts
- Lucy Nash
- Josh Riley
- Merrell Rogers
- Dan and Becky Rollins
- David and Donna Rumbarger
- Jason Shelton
- Dr. Mark and Jennifer Shepard
- Crofton and Camille Sloan
- John and Delores Smith
- Luke and Brandy Stanford
- Brian and Sue Steger
- Daintry Thomas
- Trustmark National Bank
- Mitch and Christy Waycaster
- Lewis Whitfield
- James Edward Wright

BELOW \$99

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Blake and Stephanie Adams
Les and Carol B. Alvis
Dwayne and Amy Blackmon
Helen Boerner
Thomas and Dale Bonds
Taylor and Mary Morgan Burks
John and Mary Beth Cantrell, III
Gordon and Lorraine Carr
Adam and Maggie Clark
Dinah Coleman
Tatum and Sally Kate Collins
Larry and Shelly Coggin
Kathy Corban
Dr. West and Gwen Cordell
Colby and Brittany Cuevas
Dr. William and Lori Dickerson
Kim Dill
Carole Elliott
Chris and Sara Ekiss
Mark Garrett
John and Claire Gatlin
Jessica Haygood
Drew and Hillary Headings

Harold Hinchey, Jr.
Dr. Kevin and Jennifer Holman
Maddin and Hank Hutto
Dr. Stephen and Mary King
Dorie Kisner
Dr. J. Martin and Reeann Lee
Rick and Chris Maynard
Jack and Amy McFerrin
Rosalind McGaha
Katie Michael
Rich & Mary Catherine Molpus
Carol Ann Padgett
Norma Pardin
Charles and Cheryl Penson
Ashley and Robert Quimby
Jane Riley
Chris and Holly Rogers
Todd and Lisa Sandroni
Tanisha Smith
Larry and Terri Stewart
Brenda Swords
Sheryl Sykes
Bruce Toppin and
Mary Ann Plasencia
W.E. Pegues Funeral Home
Trey and Leslie Ward

Charlie and Madeline White
Roger and Gayle Wicker
Judy Williams
Dr. Suzy and Wayne Williams

NOTE: All 2026 donations were between Jan. 1-Sept. 11. Included are participants from the



To donate to the TPSD Foundation — A Fund for Innovation, please scan the QR Code above.

Celebration of Distinction

2025-26 AEE GRANT RECIPIENTS

ECEC

Josh Alexander
Holly Allgood*
Ashley Dallas*
Katie Dancy
Christine Allred
Jessica Hall*
Bridgette Letson*
Amy Reed
Anna Taylor
Kayla Tutor
Amy White
Kelly Vaughn

Carver

Sandy Corkern
Carole Elliott*
Erica Keltz*
Kayla Todd*

Joyner

Elizabeth Lair*
Maggie Montgomery*
Summer Riles*^
Brittany Womack^

Parkway

Irish Meadors
Dedra Wray

Thomas Street

Rachel Davis
Chrissy Ferrell
Ashley Hicks
Cynthia Huddleston
Amy Johnson
Kaylee Kennedy
Angela McFarland
Katie Wood
Cynthia Wright^

Lawhon

Shannon Carlisle*^
Lauren George
April Gray
Anna Beth Williams

Lawndale

Madison Carson
Denise Carter
Brandi Dains
Amy Hughes
Selish Ivy
Carrie Sheffield
Madison West

Pierce Street

Amy Johnson
Katharine Riley
Amy Welborn*^
Jamie Wilburn^

Milam

Madison Hendrix^
Amorita Shells
Kai-Sonju Witherspoon

Tupelo Middle

Gavin Atkinson
Teresa Bernauer^+
Meghan McMillian
Amanda Parker
Zane Sawyer^
Justin Vowell^+

Tupelo High

Beth Blanton
Scott Bridges
Kelli Duford
Merrie Kyle Heatherly
Katrina Berry-Ivy
Nikki Reed

Structured Day

Jaclyn Arnett^
Kara Ratliff
**-Multiple Grants*
^-Kay Bishop Awards
+ -Founder's Grant

Celebration of Distinction

ALL-TIME J.C. WHITEHEAD ADVOCATE FOR EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

1996.....	Action Industries	2010.....	Lane Furniture
1997.....	Thomas Industries	2012.....	Philips Day-Brite
1998.....	Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal	2013.....	Franklin Collection Services
1999.....	North Mississippi Health Services	2014.....	United Way of Northeast Mississippi
2000.....	FMC	2015.....	JBHM Architects
2001.....	BancorpSouth	2016.....	Mabus Agency
2002.....	E.R. Carpenter	2017.....	Sanders Clinic for Women
2003.....	Outback Steakhouse	2018.....	Chad McMahan
2004.....	Peoples Bank & Trust Company	2019.....	Tupelo Kiwanis Club
2005.....	Leggett and Platt, Inc.	2021.....	Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
2006.....	Jochum-Moll Foundation	2022.....	Tupelo Junior Auxiliary
2007.....	B & B Concrete Company, Inc.	2023.....	Regions Bank
2008.....	United Way of Northeast Mississippi	2024.....	Eat With Us Group + Park Heights
2009.....	McDonald's	2025.....	Savings Oil Company/Dodge's Stores

ALL-TIME JACK REED SR. ADVOCATE FOR EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

1996.....	Henry Dodge	2010.....	Mary Ann Plasencia
1997.....	Lewis Whitfield	2013.....	Dr. Mark and Diane Craig
1998.....	Charlotte McElroy	2014.....	Debra and Hal McPherson
1999.....	Billy Crews	2015.....	Dr. Glen and Mary Thomas
2000.....	Jack Reed Jr.	2016.....	Mike Clayborne
2001.....	Charlie Langford	2017.....	Brevard Family
2002.....	Polly Bailey	2018.....	Kim and Frank Hodges
2003.....	Jim Ingram	2019.....	Beth Stone
2004.....	Shawn and David Brevard	2021.....	Deepika Dey
2005.....	Ann Blair Huffman	2022.....	Zell Long
2006.....	Buzzy and Catherine Mize	2023.....	Kenneth Wheeler and Eddie Prather
2007.....	David Henson	2024.....	Charles Penson
2008.....	Jonny Davis	2025.....	Donna Loden
2009.....	Chuck and Trentice Imbler		



Donna Loden was the recipient of the 2025 Jack Reed Sr. Award, and Henry Dodge of Savings Oil Company/ Dodges Stores received the J.C. Whitehead Award.

