Welcome to spring! Let’s refresh ourselves and our teaching practices with some new concepts for instruction! One way to do this is by taking advantage of professional development and searching for novel ideas to engage students. The National Business Education Association conference was held in Las Vegas, NV from March 22-26. During this week there were amazing sessions available offering a plethora of ideas for classroom instruction. Topics included all types of social media for classroom instruction, the use of games for student engagement, using advisory boards and business partnerships to develop coursework and programs, as well as incorporating problem solving for real-world challenges.

Instead of having students create their presentations using PowerPoint, consider using Animoto (animoto.com). If you use videos from sites like YouTube, consider using a tool like Grockit to develop a Question and Answer session (grockit.com/answers). When you need a way to create crosswords and games, try Kubbu (www.kubbu.com). These are just three of the wonderful free tools available online to get students’ minds to blooming!

Our Southern Business Education Association yearly conference will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina from October 19–22, 2016. The conference will be held at the gorgeous Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort. Many sessions are planned for developing engaging activities. At the end of the day, after learning some different techniques for classroom instruction, you could step outside the hotel and walk down to the beach to listen to (and play in) the ocean. The beach is literally that close to the hotel. I hope you will make plans to attend. You can register by utilizing the URL on the invite located on Page 6.

I also wish to share some exciting news about professionals in our state. Our very own Dr. Diane Fisher from Mississippi is the newly elected president-elect for the National Business Education Association. Dr. Fisher has been a member of MBEA for many years, and this is such an exciting opportunity for her to represent Mississippi and business education on a much larger scale. MBEA now has two of its members serving as national officers (Dr. Diane Fisher as president-elect and Margaret Blue as secretary treasurer)! This is so very exciting. Please join me in congratulating these ladies on their hard work and efforts to take business education even higher in the national educational spotlight.

Christy Ferguson, our president elect, is hard at work on planning our annual fall conference. You can register online for it today! Please see more information about it on Page 3.

Have a wonderful spring! Let me know if I can be of help.

-Dr. Michelle Taylor
2015-2016 Mississippi Business Education President

Visit us online at ms-mbea.com!
Technology for New Teachers

Our very own vice-president, twice named our Outstanding University Business Educator of the Year, also has landed two prestigious grants to fund new technology for teacher candidates in the Business Technology Education undergraduate program at Mississippi State university. Dr. Pamela Scott-Bracey, Department of Instructional Systems and Workforce Development assistant professor at MSU, has received $4,000 through Mississippi Educational Computing Association and Schillig grants for instructional projects completed by teacher candidates in courses taught within the College of Education.

Dr. Bracey said her purpose for applying for the grants was to solicit funds for enhancement of a technology-rich distance education laboratory for undergraduate students enrolled in the Technology Teacher Education program at MSU. As the presence of distance education continues to grow in K-12 education, pre-service teachers must be adequately trained in ways to effectively reach online audiences.

Items purchased with the funding are now available for checkout for students enrolled in the online program who do not have their own personal equipment to use to complete the required web-based assignments.

Notable items purchased include headphones with microphones, webcams, digital cameras, memory cards, table tripods, floor tripods, a MacBook Air, a Microsoft Surface Pro, a Google Chromebook, an Apple IPad Mini, iTunes gift cards, and several other equipment accessories.

For more information about how this online undergraduate degree plan works, visit distance.msstate.edu/teched/.

New Policy Statements

The Policies Commission for Business and Economic Education (PCBEE) is a national commission consisting of representatives from National Business Education Association, National Association for Business Teacher Education, Association for Research in Business Education, and the Association of Career & Technical Education-Business Education Division. Its mission is to identify and define both existing and emerging issues in business and economic education, resulting in the publication of "This We Believe About . ." statements or position papers. Through this, the Commission assists business, governmental, and educational communities in understanding such issues and in focusing attention on them. The policy statements (including two new ones) are available at nbea.org/newsite/curriculum/policy.html.

Make Your Voice Heard

The Computer Science Education Coalition and member, Code.org, released an open letter to Congress signed by Governors, CEOs and education leaders that calls for a federal investment in K-12 computer science education this coming fiscal year. Read more about it at www.change.org/computerscience.
Conference Registration Open!

Come join us on September 15-16 for the 2016 MBEA Fall Conference, “Creating Connections” at the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, MS.

The MBEA conference is where teachers, business and industry, and students can participate in workshops to learn about the latest technological and academic advances in the field of business/technology education. Also, we are excited to announce that Cassandra Latimer will be our keynote speaker. Cassandra will present her “Dining to Impress” workshop during the luncheon. CEU credits will also be available. The agenda for each day is as indicated in the sidebar to the left.

Conference Registration—Registration for the conference must be completed online at www.ms-mbea.com. The deadline for online registration is 8/31/2016. The conference registration fee must be sent by mail. Please see details below for mailing payment. In order to be registered for the MBEA Fall Conference, the online conference registration and mailed fee must be received by 9/7/16.

Member Registration/Membership Fee $75
Undergraduate Student Registration/Membership Fee $35

After registering online, please send printed confirmation form and payment to: Lyndie Lyon-Treasurer, 254 Springhill Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

Please make plans today to attend the conference! The first 50 members to register will be placed in a drawing for a $50 gift card, plus the member that recruits the most members to attend the conference will also receive a $50 gift card. Attendees must register by August 31, 2016. Payment must be received by September 7, 2016.
Explore Opportunities for Advanced Degrees

Instructional technology and design is a growing field for professionals. Whether the interest is in education, business, industry, health, or government, instructional technology can help you advance into new careers and possibilities. The University of Southern Mississippi offers two graduate programs relating to instructional technology (IT) that people can pursue to advance their education and knowledge.

The Master of Science in Instructional Technology is a 30-hour online program that assists individuals in acquiring skills related to technology design, development, integration, and evaluation in teaching and learning. For those inclined to remain in academia or become directors or specialists in instructional technology, USM offers a 57-hour hybrid Ph.D. in Instructional Technology and Design program. Both programs do not require a previous instructional technology degree, although two pre-requisite courses are required for the Ph.D. program if the master's degree is not in IT. In each program individuals will acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the field of instructional technology and design. For more information concerning these programs, please contact the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education at 601-266-5247 or ciseitgrad@usm.edu.

Are you a teacher who would like to capitalize on your knowledge of effective learning and expand to a related career in instructional technology? Are you an undergraduate student who wishes to continue your education to the graduate level and become an expert in the field of instructional technology? Are you savvy at technology and wish to help others solve problems with the aid of technology?

There are many reasons why the MSIT degree would be a perfect fit for you. A major reason is that you may continue working in your full-time job while pursuing this degree totally online. Our faculty are highly qualified in the area of instructional technology, are excellent teachers using online delivery, and are accessible to their students via technology. The MSIT curriculum is up to date in the latest theories and practices and provides a broad understanding of instructional technology while providing an in-depth mastery of at least one of the three different concentration areas.

The MSIT curriculum includes a total of 33 hours. Five courses are required with a choice of four courses in a concentration area (instructional design, distance education, or multimedia). You would have the option of either writing a thesis or benefitting from two additional electives that will add skill and experience.

Please allow us to contact you with additional information, just email us at iswd@msstate.edu, and one of our faculty will reply with the answers you need to get you started on a career path in instructional technology. Or you can visit distance.msstate.edu/msit.

Only Need Endorsements?

The Department of Instructional Systems & Workforce Development at Mississippi State University offers required coursework for many supplemental endorsements which can be added to a Mississippi teaching license:


Many classes can be taken online in the fall, spring or summer, either as credit towards a degree, or in a non-degree seeking capacity. For more information about these, visit us at iswd.msstate.edu/current-students/teaching-endorsements/.
National Business Honor Society

On December 10, 2015, the Biloxi High School National Business Honor Society, currently the only one in the state of Mississippi, held its sixth annual induction ceremony.

To be eligible for the NBHS students must have completed three business courses have an overall 3.0 GPA and a 3.5 GPA in their business courses.

Seventeen students were inducted and recognized for their involvement, leadership and scholastic achievement. A reception was held immediately following the ceremony with several special guests--Margaret Blue and Carol Shinn, former Biloxi High Business Teachers, Kenneth Deere, retired Assistant Principal at BHS, and Marcus Boudreaux, Principal, Biloxi High School.

Officers for the 2015-2016 year are:

President: Rachel Ros
Vice President: Callie Douglas
Secretary/Treasurer: Maurice Daggs

Chapter Advisors are Carole Deere and Jeff Campbell. For more information about how your school can start its own chapter in the National Business Honor Society, visit www.nbea.org/newsite/about/nbhs.html.

2015-2016 Members of the National Business Honor Society were inducted on December 10, 2015.

Biloxi National Business Honor Society Incoming President, Emily MacFadden, is shown with advisors Carole Deere (above) and Jeff Campbell (left).
The Southern Business Education Association (our regional organization), invites all the MBEA members to attend the annual conference October in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. You can become a member of this organization and the National Business Education Association for one low fee of $85. For more information, visit www.sbea.us/membership-login/join-today.

Join Your Regional and National Organizations

Don't forget when registering for the MBEA Conference to be held in September to also join your regional and national organizations. For the low price of $85.00 you can be a member of the Southern Business Education Association (SBEA) and the National Business Education Association (NBEA).

There are numerous reasons to join NBEA—here are a few for you:

1. Receive 4 issues of NBEA's journal—Business Education Forum
2. Receive 4 issues of NBEA's newsletter—Keying In
3. Discounts on NBEA publications
4. Professional Liability insurance at no additional cost
5. Opportunities to serve as state, regional, or national officer
6. The latest online teaching resources
7. Start a National Business Honor Society for secondary schools—only have one in Mississippi currently (Biloxi High School)
8. Participation in advancing and improving business education
9. Convention trade show with the latest educational textbooks and software
10. Scholarships for post-bachelor's education
11. $250,000 Professional Liability Insurance

Please share with your colleagues, friends, members of your department or school district if they are not member of MBEA/SBEA/NBEA.

Upcoming Events

June 24-27, 2016 -
PBL National Conf.- Atlanta, GA

June 28-July 2, 2016 -
TSA National Conf.- Nashville, TN

June 29-July 2, 2016 -
FBLA National Conf.- Atlanta, GA

July 27-29, 2016 -
MSACTE Conference- Jackson, MS

September 15-16, 2016 -
MBEA Conference- Columbus, MS

Register at ms-mbea.com!

September 22, 2016 -
DECA HS Advisor Academy- Raymond, MS

October 15-18, 2016 -
DECA HS Fall Leadership Conference- Gulfport, MS

October 19-22, 2016 -
SBEA Conference- Myrtle Beach, SC

October 26, 2016 -
Digital Dawg Byte High School Technology Competition-Mississippi State University

November 18-20, 2016 -
Ultimate DECA Power Trip Conference- Washington, DC

Two Mississippi Schools Chosen for DECA/AT&T Mentor Project

Congratulations to the Jackson Career Development Center and Hinds County Career and Technical Center for being selected for the AT&T/DECA Mentor Project! They were selected as two of twenty schools in the entire US for this year's project. In its inaugural year, the #DECAATTProject has provided more than 31,000 hours of mentoring to 11,500 students in 20 schools across the United States. This project is part of a larger initiative through the AT&T Aspire Mentoring Academy, aimed at connecting students with mentors to help them succeed in school and beyond.

In December, Diane Pruner and others representing National DECA flew to Mississippi where Hinds County Career and Technical Center Business & Marketing student got a chance to meet Mr. Mayo Flynt, President of AT&T Mississippi. AT&T had mini workshops with the students at the AT&T headquarters in downtown Jackson and treated the students to lunch at the Capital Club. They interviewed the superintendent and administrators at Hinds County Schools, students, and teachers. They made a video that was shared nationally. The link for more information can be found at: www.decadirect.org/January-2016/DECA-Releases-DECAATTProject-Results-Showcasing-AT-Ts-Impact-on-Students/.

A poster promoting the project (above) was created by a student in the project. Mr. Mayo Flynt, president of AT&T Mississippi, met with students involved in the project (below).
To Our Readers:

Through this newsletter, we hope to have shared many opportunities for professional development and growth. The goal is to take these new ideas and transform the learning process in your own classroom.

Recently a blog post entitled "Introducing Game Based Elements in Today’s K-12 Classroom", by Shannon Richmond was published. In the writing, Richmond states “Research has shown that game-based learning increases the amount of knowledge and skill retained through active participation and experimentation in learning [that is] fun!” Playing is like eating candy. Once you start, you don’t wish to stop. This article shows how games can help promote 1) collaboration and compromise, 2) competition, and 3) motivation. All of these are skills needed in today's workforce employees.

Our hope is that through the many ideas presented today, your imagination has been sparked with an idea or two of how to begin looking for professional learning opportunities and student activities to be used in your everyday teaching practice. You have so much drive for students to be successful! It is our hope that the information and resources here will add even more to your creativity and hunger for student success.

-MBEA Board Members

Publicize your and your students’ achievements in the Fall 2016 MBEA newsletter by emailing Amie Crawford at the address above.