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- 46th Annual State Training Conference
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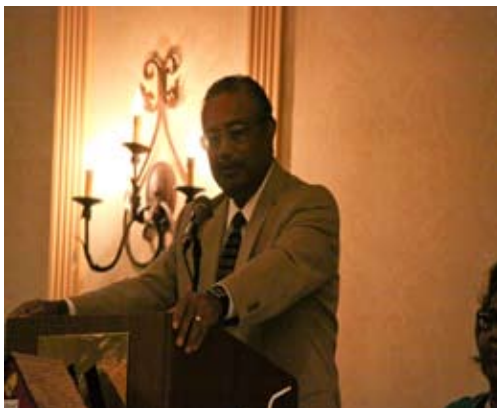
**Mississippi Action for Progress, Inc.** celebrated its 46th Annual State Training Conference October 10-12, 2012. It was held at the Marriott Downtown Hotel in the heart of Jackson, Mississippi. This year's theme was "Empowering Families for School Readiness through Community Engagement." **Dr. Dorothy S. Foster, Chief Operation Officer** and **Dr. Demond L. Spann, Human Resources Director** chaired the conference.

Conference participants and guests are looking forward to gathering information on their jobs and in their everyday session was presided over by Dr. Foster. the innovative approach of video conferencing "live" for the opening ceremony the opening session/luncheon **Cedars Vicksburg, MS** provided a live broadcast children of Unit 6 showcased various activities at the luncheon where able to look at the as if they were there. Later that day the **beate Head Start Center** in Walnut, MS. provided musical entertainment with his

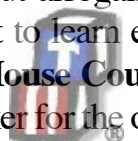


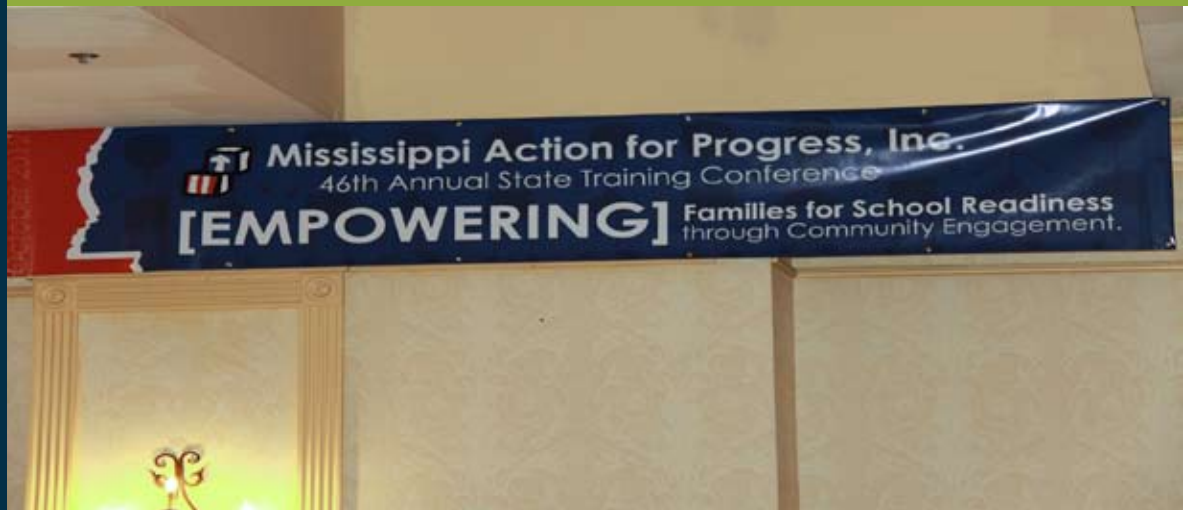
rived at the conference that would help lives. The opening This year MAP used encing to interact with entertainment. During **Head Start Center** in from the center. The tivities. The attendees children in the centers Head Cook at **Chaly-Mr. Charles Carter** voice and instrumenta-

tion. It was quite enjoyable.



**Mr. Jeffrey Fredericks** gave the Regional Welcome and Update. Fredericks is the **Regional Program Manager – Region IV in Atlanta, GA.** Mr. Fredericks gave a brief update of the state of the region and told everyone in attendance that this gathering is about learning. "He also said "all of is smarter than any of us." He cautioned us about arrogance and that we should recognize that there's a lot to learn everyday. **Attorney E. Charlene Priester, In-House Counsel** for MAP, Inc., introduced the keynote speaker for the oc-





casation **Attorney Fred L. Banks, Jr.** Attorney Banks spoke about the history of Head Start in the state and how “Head Start is a bridge” that children and their families use to become successful.

The end of the first day of the conference concluded with a talent competition. Contestants competed in this extravaganza displaying a varied array of talent from vocal to oratorical to pantomime. The evening ended with some interactive entertainment from representatives of **Optimum 1 Dance Studios.**

The second day of the conference could have been called the “Day of Information.” It was filled with seminars of all sorts. A sampling of the workshops presented included the following: *“Let’s Go to School”*, presented by **Ms. Yolanda Martin**, *“Stakeholders’ Initiative: The Pro-*



*cess of Transforming Families from Poverty to Prosperity”* by **Mr. Willie Simmons**, and *“Phonemic Awareness for School Readiness and Student Success”* by **Ms. Sylvia L. Brown.**

The night concluded with the **Awards and Recognition Banquet.** The festivities were presided over by Dr. Dorothy S. Foster and Mr. Joel Swan. As always, the night was filled with glitz and glamour as MAP recognized the accomplishments of it’s parents, volunteers and staff. Mr. Charles Carter again provided live entertainment.

The last day of the conference began with breakfast in the grand meeting room.



The closing session was presided over by Dr. Spann. The speaker for the closing session was **Mrs. Sarah Greene, Vice-President of Business Initiatives-Applications Links, Inc.** Mrs. Greene began her talk by commending MAP on talking a night to honor ourselves. She was speaking of the Awards and Recognition Banquet from the previous night. She spoke about the current national impact studies that are being and have been conducted. She states she, “can feel what [we] do everyday. It does make a difference.”



The 46th Annual State Training Conference was a success. We all hope it continues to be so for many years to come!



On December 12 and 13, 2012, Dr. Foster, conducted a **Management In-Service Training**. It was attended by Regional Managers and Center Administrators from all ten regions as well as some staff from Central Office.



These meetings are held periodically so the numerous sites and Central Office can get together to engage and interact to forge relationships. These relationships are important to the agency because of the in-person personal exchange of information.

The training covered several topics relating to center operations, community relationships, school readiness, accountability/expectations, and the upcoming federal review.

These types of meetings are held periodically so the numerous sites and Central Of-



The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Legacy for Children project has partnered with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Early



Head Start Program to initiate the Legacy for Children project in Mississippi. This project is collaboration between Friends of Children of Mississippi, Inc.'s (FCM, Inc.) and Mississippi Action For Progress, Inc.'s (MAP, Inc.) Early Head Start programs.

According to the CDC's web site "Legacy for Children™ is an evidence-based program whose aim is to improve child outcomes by promoting positive parenting among low-income mothers of infants and young children. The name

Legacy for Children™ was chosen to reflect the importance of the legacy that parents can pass on to their children." (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/legacy.html>).

Since the program's inception, the CDC has been on site at MAP's Gilliam Early Head Start for two visits. They were there to monitor the state of the program and were pleasantly pleased. The children and parents that participate are pleased with the program as well. **Alicia Johnson** says, "the program has taught me how to manage as a single mother and it has shown me many different ways to become actively involved in my child's life. **Clarissa Clayton**, mother of two children in the program at Gilliam EHS, states that "based on the sessions I've taken, I will not hesitate to recommend Legacy and it's message to other mothers at Gilliam because it can be very beneficial and helpful in so many ways."



## Executive Management Team

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**Dr Dorothy S. Foster**

Chief Operation Officer

**Dr. Linda B. Brandon**

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Program Services Director

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Early Head Start Director

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Research & Development Director

**Dr. Demond L. Spann**

Human Resources Director

**Attorney Charlene Priester**

In-House Counsel

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