

Empowered Leadership: Crafting Your Legacy Through Growth, Resilience, and Purpose Across Industries



Speaker

Kourtney Galloway

Postsecondary Student Organizations

2025 Fall Leadership Conference

Oxford Conference Center | 103 Ed Perry Blvd., Oxford, MS 38655
Thursday & Friday, October 16-17, 2025

Mississippi Postsecondary Student Organizations



Thursday, October 16

7:30 am - 8:15 am	Registration
8:20 am - 8:55 am	Opening Session
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Group A-Team Building
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Group B-Session 1
10:05 am - 11:05 am	Group B-Session 2
11:10 am - 12:10 pm	Group B-Break/Vendor Visits
12:10 pm - 1:25 pm	Keynote Address/Lunch
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Group B-Team Building Session
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Group A-Session 1
2:35 pm - 3:35 pm	Group A-Session 2
3:35 pm	Break
3:40 pm - 4:40 pm	Group A-Break/Vendor Visits
4:30 pm - 4:50 pm	Group B-Break/Vendor Visits
4:50 pm - 5:00 pm	Wrap-up

Friday, October 17

8:00 am - 8:15 am	Registration
8:00 am - 8:25 am	Icebreaker/Goosechase
8:30 am - 10:00 am	Group A-Session 3
	Group B-Session 4
8:30 am - 11:30 am	Advisors Only Team Building Session
10:00 am - 10:10 am	Break
10:10 am - 11:40 am	Group B-Session 3
	Group A-Session 4
11:40 am - 12:00 pm	Closing Session
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Depart for Tours/Lunch on your Own
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Tours

WELCOME



MISSISSIPPI

COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

3825 Ridgewood Road • Jackson, MS 39211 • Phone: (601) 432-6518 • Fax: (601) 432-6363

October 16, 2025

Dear conference attendees,

On behalf of the members and staff of the Mississippi Community Board (MCCB), it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Fourth Annual Mississippi Postsecondary Career and Technical Student Organizations' Fall Leadership Conference! I know how valuable your time is, and I appreciate you for making this event a priority.

I want to thank Dr. Kimberly Jones, Ms. Candace Johnson, Mrs. Heidi Jenkins, Ms. Danielle Clay, Mr. Mark Jenkins and other MCCB staff for planning this conference. This event is the culmination of many, many hours of planning, and I am greatly appreciative of the MCCB team for its commitment to the event's success. I also extend thanks to the team at the Oxford Conference Center. Your hospitality is greatly appreciated.

My hope for you at this conference is two-fold. First, I hope that you can take the valuable information shared in the next two days and implement it within your local chapters. Our team has worked on planning an agenda that covers topics I know will be helpful to you. Secondly, please take time to network with other attendees and develop relationships. Whether you are a student or advisor, I know these networking opportunities will be beneficial to you and your chapter during this upcoming year.

Postsecondary Student Organizations play an important role by providing members access to leadership opportunities, experience in career fields, and exposure to potential employers. As such, the MCCB is committed to the continued success of all these organizations. Our team strives to provide students with the best experience possible.

Once again, thank you for attending the conference, and I wish you the best in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kell Smith".

Kell Smith
Executive Director

The mission of the Mississippi Community College Board is to advance the community college system through coordination, support, leadership, and advocacy.



ANGELA MARTINEZ
DECA PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 2025 Fall Leadership Conference!

It is an honor to have you all here representing the Mississippi Postsecondary Career and Technical Student Organizations. FLC is all about bringing our student leaders together to participate in workshops, sessions, and learning opportunities that will have a lasting impact on us as we go on into our respective careers!

Take the time to network with students from other chapters and organizations! Making connections is so valuable to us as future leaders and FLC is the place to make those connections.

I encourage you to immerse yourself in these professional development workshops and really take in all the advice you can get from our industry partners over these two days. Their real-world experiences are extremely valuable to us as they give us first-hand insights into the careers we are all working towards.

Create and enjoy lifetime memories, connections, and learning experiences here! I hope you all make the most out of your time at the FLC. Enjoy the conference!



FROM THE PRESIDENTS

JOSHUA DUFFIN
FBLA VICE PRESIDENT



Hello everyone!

I am Joshua Duffin, the FBLA President for Mississippi Delta Community College and State Vice President. It is an honor to welcome you to this year's Fall Leadership Conference—a gathering designed to inspire, connect, and prepare us for the exciting journeys ahead.

This conference is more than just a meeting; it's a unique opportunity to network with fellow students from other Career Technical Student Organizations. Building these connections now can open doors in your chosen career path and create lasting professional relationships.

I encourage each of you to dive into the professional development workshops and engage with our industry partners. These sessions are designed to give you real-world insights that are invaluable for your career growth and leadership development.

Make the most of every moment here, ask questions, share your ideas, and challenge yourself to step outside your comfort zone. This is your chance to learn, grow, and set the foundation for your future as a leader in your industry.

Welcome again, and let's make this conference a transformative experience!



SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 16

Schedule	Lobby	Oak Room	Magnolia A	Magnolia B
7:30-8:15	Registration			
8:20-8:55		Opening Session		
9:00-10:00		Group B-Session 1: Active Leadership		
9:00-12:00				Group A Team Building
10:05-11:05			Group B-Session 2: Using AI to Drive Day-to-Day Work	
11:10-12:10	Group B Vendor Visits			
12:10-1:25		Keynote Address/ Lunch		
1:30-2:30		Group A-Session 1: Active Leadership		
1:30-4:30				Group B Team Building
2:35-3:35			Group A-Session 2: Using AI to Drive Day-to-Day Work	
3:35	Break			
3:40-4:50	All Groups Exhibitor Visits			
4:50-5:00		Wrap-up		

Group assignments are printed on participant's name tag.



SCHEDULE

Friday, October 17

Schedule	Lobby	Oak Room	Magnolia A	Magnolia B
8:00-8:15	Registration			
8:00-8:25		Icebreaker		
8:30-10:00		Group A-Session 3: Financial Literacy	Group B-Session 4: "Say it Out Loud"	
8:30-11:30				Advisors' Team Building
10:00 - 10:10	Break			
10:10 - 11:40		Group B-Session 3: Financial Literacy	Group A-Session 4: "Say it Out Loud"	
11:40-12:00		Closing Session		
12:00-1:00	Lunch on your Own			
1:00-4:00	Tours			

ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE

- Shirt
- Blouse
- Khaki Pants
- Casual Slacks
- Casual Shoes
- Polo-Style Shirt
- Business Casual

UNACCEPTABLE ATTIRE

- Blue Jeans
- Flip Flops
- Shorts and/or mini-skirts
- Skin-Tight Clothing
- Revealing Clothing
- Midriff Baring Clothing
- Sleeveless Clothing
- See-Through Clothing
- Low Cut Shirts
- Shirts with Ripped or Cut Sides
- Loose Fitting or Baggy Pants
- Sleepwear
- Clothing with Suggestive or Obscene Printing
- Clothing Promoting Illegal Substances

Professional attire is a major component of Student Organizations. We ask that you adhere to the Dress Code as established by the National Student Organization offices and your State Office. Individuals in inappropriate attire will not be permitted to attend professional development sessions or the tour.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



KEYNOTE

MS. KOURTNEY GALLOWAY



Kourtney Galloway is a multi-hyphenate creative, entrepreneur, and visionary strategist committed to reshaping culture through faith-rooted storytelling, intentional leadership, and legacy-driven work. She is the Founder and CEO of Revamped Creative, a full-service agency specializing in brand strategy, public speaking management, creative direction, and talent representation. Through Revamped, Kourtney leads a team devoted to empowering Black voices, building sustainable platforms, and telling stories that matter.

She also serves as the founder of Belle Candle Co., a luxury home fragrance brand inspired by her great-grandmother and designed to bring peace, memory, and soul into every space. A passionate public speaker and writer, Kourtney curates spaces that honor faith, womanhood, purpose, and healing. She is currently pursuing a degree in Business Administration at Belhaven University, where she also holds an Alternative Teaching License.

Named for her ability to blend softness with strategy and creativity with clarity, Kourtney is a modern Southern voice with a mission: to build platforms that last, amplify stories that heal, and make room for the next generation of visionaries.

PRESENTERS



PRESENTERS



MELISSA LYNN JONES M.B.A., J.D., Ed.D.

The University of Mississippi – Active Leadership

Dr. Melissa Jones is the Associate Director for the Lott Leadership Institute and the Director of Leadership Endorsement programming. She received her MBA with a specialization in Human Resources from the New York Institute of Technology, her Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law, and her EdD in Higher Education from the University of Mississippi. Melissa is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association. Throughout her career, Melissa has worked in the insurance and healthcare arenas as well as representing clients in private practice and in the corporate arena as in-house counsel. She joined the Trent Lott Leadership Institute in 2017 and teaches multiple courses in leadership, legal studies, criminal justice, and hospitality law. As a non-traditional, first-generation student, Melissa is passionate about increasing access and success for first-generation students. Her research to date has focused on leadership perspectives and barriers to success for first-generation students as well as the character of leaders. Away from campus, Melissa enjoys spending time with her family and their 6 dogs as well as serving pro bono clients.



DON THANARS

Financial Literacy-How Money Works

Don Thanars is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Marine Corps whose distinguished career reflects a commitment to leadership, service, and professional excellence. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), a Master of Business Administration (MBA), and a Master of Arts (MA), and has earned the Certified in Resource Management (CIRM) designation. A graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy, Don has also completed advanced leadership programs at both The Ohio State University and the Thunderbird School of Global Management, enhancing his expertise in organizational leadership and strategic decision-making. In addition to his military and academic accomplishments, he is a licensed insurance representative in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, continuing to apply his skills in service to others.

PRESENTERS



PRESENTERS



ASHLEY MANGUM & HALEY REEVES

"Say It Out Loud"

Open Up Mississippi is a statewide leadership advisory council dedicated to empowering youth and young adults to overcome barriers to mental wellness. The council encourages individuals to embrace their strengths and speak out against the stigma surrounding mental health. In collaboration with NAMI Mississippi and community partners, Open Up Mississippi is focused on raising awareness, facilitating conversations, and sharing resources that promote mental wellness. Together, they aspire to inspire all Mississippians to "open up" to a brighter future.



DANIEL VASSEL

Consulting Group - Teambuilding

An inspirational and motivational presenter, Daniel Vassel helps maximize leadership performance in both personal and professional environments!

Daniel Vassel's highly effective programs on leadership, teambuilding, communication and motivation have received rave reviews from leaders and aspiring leaders in many walks of life.

As a certified and accomplished facilitator, Daniel shares proven techniques from his many successful years in government, economic development, and public service. His down-to-earth, practical approach to real, everyday issues is brought to life by practical applications and real-life examples.

Using captivating stories, practical applications, entertaining audience interaction, and nonstop energy Daniel will ENCOURAGE YOU, ENGAGE YOU, ACTIVATE YOU, and INSPIRE YOU!!!

PRESENTERS



PRESENTERS



NAKISHA WATTS, Ph.D.

SheUplifts, LLC-Using AI to Drive Day-to-Day Work

Dr. Nakisha Watts is a transformational leader, nonprofit executive, and business strategist dedicated to empowering individuals and strengthening communities. With over 15 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, higher education, and community development, she has built a reputation for turning vision into sustainable impact.

She is the founder and CEO of She Uplifts, LLC, a professional development and coaching firm that equips women with the tools to thrive in life, leadership, and business. She also serves as CEO of Pushing Underestimated Students Higher, Inc. (PUSH INC.), a nonprofit organization committed to empowering youth ages 7-23 through education, mentorship, leadership training, and life skills development.

A first-generation college graduate, Dr. Watts holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education, along with Master's degrees in Business Administration, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management and Leadership. Her journey from overcoming limited resources to creating opportunities for others inspires her mission to uplift women, families, and youth.

She is also a devoted wife, mother, and community servant, balancing her personal calling with her professional purpose: to empower others to rise, lead, and leave a legacy.

WORKSHOPS



WORKSHOPS



ACTIVE LEADERSHIP

Melissa Lynn Jones, M.B.A, J.D., Ed.D –Associate Director, Trent Lott Leadership

This presentation will examine an accessible strategy for leaders, both new and experienced, to lead their team through issue identification, analysis, and developing solutions to produce preferred outcomes. The hands-on activity provides leaders with a valuable tool for their leadership toolbox.



FINANCIAL LITERACY-HOW MONEY WORKS

Don Thanars-Retired Marine Corps Officer & Business Leader

This presentation will explore essential financial literacy topics designed to help individuals build and protect their wealth. Participants will gain practical insights into the Rule of 72, the power of compound interest, effective budgeting techniques, strategies for emergency planning, the fundamentals of estate planning, the importance of wills, and proven approaches to long-term wealth-building.



“SAY IT OUT LOUD”

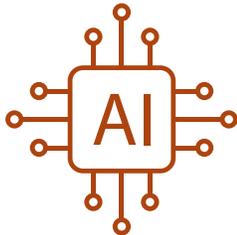
Ashley Mangum & Haley Reeves

"Say It Out Loud" is a presentation aimed at raising awareness about mental health by sharing important information and encouraging young people to engage in discussions about it. The presentation includes statistics on mental health, the 10 most common warning signs of a mental health condition, information on the 988 helpline, and other resources available for support.

WORKSHOPS



WORKSHOPS



USING AI TO DRIVE DAY-TO-DAY WORK

Dr. Nakisha Watts-Founder, Leadership Coach, Certified Maxwell Leadership Trainer

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is changing how people study, work, and live. For college students, it can be a powerful tool to make daily tasks easier and more efficient.

One of the biggest benefits of AI is in organization and time management. Apps can create study schedules, send reminders, and help manage homework deadlines, which allows students to stay on top of their responsibilities. AI also provides learning support by explaining math, science, or language concepts in simpler ways, offering practice quizzes, or even translating text when needed.

AI can also serve as a creativity boost by suggesting ideas for essays, projects, art, or presentations. In addition, it improves communication skills by checking spelling and grammar, polishing writing, and suggesting clearer word choices. Beyond school, AI also plays an important role in career readiness, since many future jobs will rely on it for tasks like scheduling, research, and problem-solving. Learning how to use AI responsibly now gives students a head start on workplace skills.

AI is a helper, not a replacement. Students should use it wisely—to save time, learn more, and bring out their best work, while still thinking and creating for themselves. This workshop will show students how to use the tool to make their day to day tasks manageable and effective.



TEAMBUILDING

Daniel Vassel - Inspirational and Motivational Presenter

In this training, you will assess your personal and team leadership style, learn strategies for guiding high-performance teams, and explore the stages of team development. You'll gain hands-on experience in solving problems and making effective decisions as a group. Through interactive tools, assessments, practical exercises, and real-world examples, you'll discover how to lead any team—whether it's an executive board, project group, task force, or work team—toward smarter, faster, and more impactful results. This is not about team-building clichés; it's about mastering proven techniques to harness the strengths of diverse individuals to achieve exceptional outcomes.

TOURS



TOURS



HALEY BARBOUR CENTER FOR MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

1784 University Circle | University, MS 38677

Located within the CME facility are study spaces, a Maker Space and a 12,000-square-foot manufacturing floor, where students gain hands-on experience as they learn the basics of wood, metal, plastic and carbon fiber composite processing and finishing. Students also learn the importance of safety in the industrial environment, problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and the value of collaboration and teamwork in the manufacturing process.

CME students learn accountancy, business, and engineering principles through the lens of manufacturing. The instruction team possesses more than 300 years of combined manufacturing experience and are committed to preparing students for successful careers in modern manufacturing.



THE JIM AND THOMAS DUFF CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

801 All American Drive University, MS 38677

The Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology Innovation is located at the University of Mississippi. It is a state-of-the-art STEM education center. In addition to traditional classrooms and numerous student study spaces, the building features active learning classrooms and modern laboratory spaces which lend themselves to increased collaboration as part of the learning process. The Center is among the largest in the nation that is entirely devoted to undergraduate teaching and learning and is helping to develop the next generation of problem solvers as STEM fields continue to grow.

2025 CTSO Fall Leadership Goosechase Challenge

Are you ready to put your networking skills to the test? Join our exciting 2025 MS CTSO Fall Leadership Conference networking challenge on Goosechase and connect with fellow student leaders, industry professionals, and conference speakers for a chance to win amazing prizes. To compete, follow the instructions below!

1. Download the Goosechase iOS or Android app using the QR code below.
2. Log in. If you are new to Goosechase, you will need to sign up for an account (It's free!).
3. Search for the networking challenge using the join code **WP95J9** or search for **2025 MS CTSO Fall Leadership Conference**. Once you find the Experience, click "Let's Go!"
4. Create your player profile including your name and photo and click "Save." You'll need the password to continue to the experience: **MSFLC25**
5. The experience will close at 10:10 am on October 17, 2025 and no points can be earned after this. We suggest you read through the missions available so that you do not miss any points throughout the conference!

As you complete missions, you will expand your professional network, gain valuable insights, and earn points for a chance to walk away with prizes. Step out of your comfort zone and discover the power of networking. Goosechase answers will be verified for validity. Irrelevant responses will disqualify you from placing. Top scorers will be announced at the 2025 FLC Closing session. Don't miss this chance to boost your leadership journey!



GOOSECHASE WEBSITE
DOWNLOAD



GOOGLE PLAY DOWNLOAD



APPLE APP STORE

THANK YOU

The Mississippi Collegiate/Postsecondary Student Organizations Division thanks everyone who contributed to the success of the 2025 Fall Leadership Conference.

EXHIBITORS

Atmos Energy
Cooper's Creation
Delta State University
Elegance on a Pedestal
I Came 2 Bling
Mississippi Power
Mississippi State University
She Uplifts LLC
The University of Southern Mississippi
US Army
Volunteer Mississippi

TOURS

Haley Barbour Center for Manufacturing Excellence
The Jim and Thomas Duff Center for Science and Technology

DECA STATE OFFICERS

Angela Martinez - President
Kefarious Ducksworth - Vice President of Leadership

FBLA STATE OFFICERS

Joshua Duffin- Vice President

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK!

Thank you for attending the 2025 Fall Leadership Conference! Please share your feedback by scanning the QR code. Your input will help us improve future conferences.

PRESENTERS

Ashley Mangum & Haley Reeves
Daniel Vassel
Don Thanars
Dr. Melissa Lynn Jones
Dr. Nakisha Watts
Kourtney Galloway



2026 FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 8-9, 2026

CADENCE CONFERENCE CENTER

TUPELO, MS