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*Thank you for supporting the Commission on the Future of Alcorn County by sponsoring today's program and for providing books to attendees.*

**2018**



## Community Forum



Sponsored by **C.A.R.E.** a Community Foundation Affiliate of CREATE

## Forum Agenda May 22nd, 2018

- 11:30 Check in and buffet lunch  
*Pizza Grocery*
- 11:40 Welcome & Pledge  
*Jeff Eldridge, Kiwanis President*
- 11:45 Prayer & Introduction  
*Greg Williams, Commission Chairman*
- 11:50 Commission Update  
*Amy Craven, Commission Executive Director*  
*Greg Williams, Commission Chairman*
- 12:05 Introduction of Keynote Speaker  
*Amy Craven, Commission Executive Director*
- 12:10 Keynote Speaker  
*Jeff McManus, Author, "Growing Weeders into Leaders"*  
*Director of Landscape Services at the University of Mississippi*



## Projects include:

- Establish Corinth Connection Park downtown between Pizza Grocery and Woodman of the World. The goal is to make a nicely landscaped downtown pocket park that is centered around a community-wide bulletin board. This will be available for anyone in the community to post upcoming events in the Corinth/Alcorn County area for the public to see.
- The "selfie" wall has recently been completely on the wall of Pizza Grocery and has attracted a huge buzz of excitement. The opening week, it attracted over 4,000 views on Facebook videos!
- Downtown Run Around is off to a great start! Each Thursday night at 5:15 several people meet at the Hydration Station by the Coca-Cola plant to walk, run or bike downtown together. This is followed by engaging in other downtown activities such as Trivia Night at Smith, Southern Nights in SOCO, Picking on the Square, Rooftop drinks at V Taco or dinner at Pizza Grocery.



- High School Seniors are being involved to discover what activities or involvement would encourage them to return to Corinth after college.
- Youth representation on civic and community boards is the goal of one group. They would also like to design a QR code sticker to be distributed throughout the community that would link straight to a comprehensive events calendar on the tourism website.
- Crossroads Career Connection** is the first interactive, "hands-on" college and career fair for all high school juniors and seniors in Alcorn County. This will take place at the Crossroads Arena on Thursday morning, September 13th in conjunction with the Alcorn County Fair. If you would like to participate, please contact Amy Craven at [alcorncommission@comcast.net](mailto:alcorncommission@comcast.net).



## Workforce Development

Ronnie Sleeper, Chair

Danny Turner & Chris Porterfield, Co-chairs

### Primary Goals:

- Promote the programs of Northeast Mississippi Community College and their testing skills, develop programs, screening activities and education programs aimed at producing work-ready employees for area employers and prospective future job creators.
- Work with local industries to assess their needs and help find them programs to help meet current needs within their operations.
- Expose educators to the real inner workings of local manufacturers. We introduced every teacher in Alcorn County and Corinth to the actual manufacturing facilities to show them how what they teach impacts the workers in those plants.
- Our most recent initiative is a partnership with the Stennis Institute on Government at Mississippi State University and the University of North Alabama on a program called "Strategic Doing", an innovative process by which community leaders can make an immediate difference in their communities.

### Strategic Doing Activities:

On Wednesday, February 28th, a group of concerned citizen leaders met to discuss ways in which we could immediately improve our city and its quality of life. We planned and executed a meeting with about 50 diverse, interested citizens and leaders from around Alcorn County. At the end of that day, six small groups had chosen pathfinder projects that address an immediate need in our community under the umbrella question, *"What would it look like if Corinth/Alcorn County was an exciting community that attracted 21st century talent and industry?"* These projects will be accomplished by the participants at each table and others they may choose to include for help. The goal is to complete each project in about three to six months.



**Jeff McManus**

Author and Director of Landscape Services  
at The University of Mississippi

Jeff McManus grows things. As the Director of Landscape Service at the University of Mississippi, he grows plants...he grows people...he grows ideas. Jeff is a problem-solver, understanding that doing more with less is a 21st century mandate.

Jeff holds a Bachelor of Science in Landscape and Ornamental Horticulture from Auburn University and is a PGMS Certified Grounds man-

ager, and Certified Arborist. His message rings true for any industry leader or manager looking to GROW a high-performance and dedicated workforce.

Jeff has spoken at Caterpillar Inc, the Biltmore Estates, Leadercast, SRAPPA, Trent Lott Leadership Institute as well as the SEC Ole Miss Athletics. He has also worked with Memphis University, the University of Tennessee, the University of Georgia and private firms in developing their own training programs.

*Growing Weeders into Leaders* takes you through the practical applications of empowering people to experience not only what it means to grow outstanding landscapes, but also to grow greatness in themselves and encourage it in others.

## Mission Statement

To enhance the quality of life for all Alcorn County citizens by assessing and addressing the current and future needs and opportunities through: - Collaboratively developing high-impact strategies and solutions; and - Continually measuring the success of the efforts.

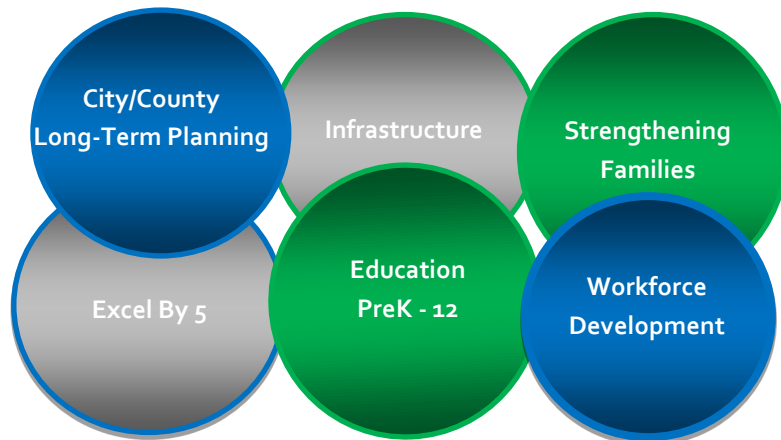
## Primary Goal

To create a community culture that promotes infrastructure development, educational enhancements and strong community values in an ongoing effort to increase the quality of life for all Alcorn County citizens.

## Steering Committee

Ben Albarracin	Steve Glidewell	Brandon Quinn
Bobby Capps	Mona Lisa Grady	Michelle Samples
Lee Childress	Jason Grisham	Ronnie Sleeper
Amy Craven	Allison Hall	Orma Smith
Johnny Crotts	John James	Clayton Stanley
Yvonne Fair	John D. Mercier	Danny Turner
Ricky Ford	Chris Porterfield	Greg Williams
Brett Garrett		Sandy Williams

## Task Forces



CFAC • PO Box 239 • Corinth, MS 38835  
Amy Craven, Executive Director  
alcorncommission@comcast.net  
www.CAREforCorinth.com

## Education

Brandon Quinn, Alcorn County School District

### Mission:

To achieve our vision, we will encourage and empower our students to become independent learners with the skills and abilities necessary for lifelong learning. It is our desire for each student to maximize his/her potential and become a responsible citizen. This will require creating a learning environment which is centered around students, directed by teachers, and supported by home and community.

### Activities and Strategies:

- Two new Pre-Kindergarten classes have been added at Kossuth Elementary. We currently have 7 programs with plans to add another class at Alcorn Central Elementary next year due to increased enrollment.
- The ASD is participating in a pilot of Computer Science 4 Mississippi (CS4MS) which teaches computer programming skills.
- Keystone is being taught in our high schools. This course educates students about the 13 Career Modules recognized by the state of Mississippi.
- We were awarded the 21st Century CCLC grant which provided after-school, during-school and summer tutorial programs for our students throughout the district.
- The ASD has added 1070 electronic devices during the 2017-2018 school year. This includes iPads, laptops, desktops and interactive boards.
- 148 students participated in Dual Enrollment or Dual Credit courses through Northeast this year. Several students completed more than one class. Students have the opportunity to graduate with up to 15 hours toward a college degree while still in high school.
- We are offering more Advanced Placement courses than in recent history.
- The ASD was approved for a Literacy Grant which provided a Literacy Coach for our K-3 teachers.
- 80% of our Pre-K students scored at/above level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. 70% of our Kindergarten students scored at/above level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.
- Structural improvements continue throughout the district. Buildings are being refurbished and schools are being updated.
- Two new buses were purchased this year which brings the total under Mr. Michell's leadership to eight with plans to add 2-3 more next year.





## Education

Lee Childress, Ed.D., Corinth School District Superintendent

### **Mission:**

To create a world class, 21<sup>st</sup> century educational experience for all students to achieve academic success, develop personal and civic responsibility, and achieve career and college readiness for the future.

### **Activities, Strategies and Results:**

- Continued implementing innovative activities in the 2nd year as a District of Innovation.
- Implemented a modified school calendar providing students with real-time interventions, remediation, and enrichment. Over 600 students were provided these activities at the October and March intersessions. Students in Kindergarten who had fifteen more days of intensive intervention during the intersessions outperformed the entire Kindergarten class.
- Reduced the summer slide by half for Kindergarten and first grade students due to the shortened summer.



- Achieved the third highest Kindergarten readiness score in Mississippi.
- Scheduled a June remediation session for those students who are in the bottom 25% in an effort to further reduce the summer slide.
- Received a STEM grant from the Mississippi Department to continue to enhance mobile STEM robotic lab equipment for K-8 classrooms.

- Received continued funding to support the Corinth Alcorn Prentiss Early Learning Collaborative.
- Enrolled 86 students in dual enrollment classes who will complete credit for 235 college level classes.
- Administered the ACT WorkKeys Assessment to all high school seniors with 85% scoring silver or gold.
- Continued implementation of the Cambridge International Assessment program with 17 students earning an Advanced Certificate of International (AICE) Diploma, 18 Advanced Level Cambridge Scholars, and 13 Cambridge International Outstanding Learners.
- Renovated the Corinth Middle School Auditorium and created five additional classrooms.

## City-County Long-Term Planning

John D. Mercier, Ben Albarracin and John James, Co-Chairs

### **Primary Goal (s):**

- Enhance city and county collaboration through strategic planning.
- Address common services that can be consolidated for resource and efficiency gains.



### **Strategies:**

- Give support to help follow through with short-term planning with the Stennis Institute and long-term planning with the Orion Group.
- Finalize long-term planning meeting with Stennis Institute facilitation

### **Activities:**

- Initial familiarization meeting with Alcorn County elected officials took place (**November 2017**) facilitated by Joe Fratesi of Mississippi State University's Stennis Institute for Government
- Orion Group continued their work on the comprehensive plan, Envision Corinth 2040, on behalf of the City of Corinth (*please refer to City of Corinth website for Envision Corinth presentation*)
- The goal remains for both the city and county leaders to develop a long-term vision and plan for the future of our area that can serve as a guiding vision for the concrete actions taken on a daily basis

## Infrastructure

Jason Grisham, Chair; Johnny Crotts, Co-Chair

**Primary Goal:** Our elected officials and public utilities are the catalysts for creating action plans that position our community to succeed in the years to come. Improving infrastructure is without a doubt a complete team effort. This committee of the Commission will report the steps taking place to ensure the improvement of our infrastructure. We will also assist to help as needed.

### **Activities to Date:**

- \$2,000,000 worth of street paving this year
  - Tate Street bridge replacement \$200,000
  - Meigg Street Sidewalk & Lighting (completed): Replaced non ADA compliance sidewalk with ADA compliance sidewalk and street crossings along Meigg Street Decorative pedestrian lighting was installed.
- 
- EDA Drainage (under construction): Drainage improvements along Shiloh Road, Tree Street area, Tishomingo Street area and Fulton Drive area. Project will help with the flooding issues through these areas.
  - Ward 3 Drainage Improvements Phase 2 (completed): Improve roadside ditches and culverts to help get the standing water out and alleviate erosion and flooding issues.
  - Corinth EFLAP (under design): Replace the bridge over the railroad on Polk Street and additional street work along Shiloh, Fulton and Linden Streets to the Interpretive Center.

3. Early Care and Education centers and other caregivers outside the home can be the strongest resource for helping to grow healthy children who are ready for school success. This team works closely with these centers and caregivers to provide multiple opportunities for quality early childhood training and continuing education units. This team has provided books that have been distributed to each child at all events this year, including the School Readiness Event that is held in conjunction with the communitywide Easter Egg Hunt. The goal of this event is to make parents aware of what is expected of their children when they transition to PreK and kindergarten and provide them contact information with local schools, head starts, and day cares.
4. Health and Safety team has a focus of identifying and addressing children's health issues in the community and assists in providing intervention services such as well-baby care and health screenings. Their fourth annual Health Fair in September drew nearly 100 families with the majority of the children being in our target age range of 0-5.

The main purpose of Excel by 5 is to engage our community in helping provide every child a chance to live up to his or her potential . This not only makes a positive difference in children's lives, it will also make a positive difference in the future of Corinth and Alcorn County.



## Excel By 5

Allison Hall & Yvonne Shumpert-Fair, Certification Managers

### **Primary Goal:**

Excel by 5 is an early childhood community certification process that places a focus on our community's youngest citizens. Corinth-Alcorn County became a certified Excel by 5 Community in 2014 and is one of 22 communities in Mississippi to achieve certification status. We emphasize the important roles parents and early childhood educators play in the lives of children during their most formative years—birth to age five.



### **Strategies:**

1. Community Involvement is a vital asset in the life of a child in his community. This team plays a key role in assuring that community leaders, educators, businesses, health care providers, and other concerned citizens work together to meet the needs of families in our area. They have created a community resource guide that is distributed to families that gives them contact information to resources that are available to them and their children. They also recruit and train volunteers that are utilized at all Excel by 5 events.
2. Family and Parent Support provides parenting resources and workshops to equip families with the knowledge they need to begin teaching their child from birth. Newborn bags are distributed to every mom who delivers a baby at MRHC with parent materials that emphasize the importance of healthy brain development and also includes a book and toy for parents to begin engaging with their child at birth. They continue to provide education opportunities and materials at community events such as Winter Wonderland where they provide elves to read to children and visit with parents as they wait to see Santa at this huge community event.

- Alliance RailHub Industrial Access Road (completed): Construction of a road from the Kimberly-Clark Road into the Alliance's Rail Hub Industrial Site. The project also included the sign at the entrance to the site off of the KC Road.
- Alliance RailHub Industrial Site (under design): Project consists of grading and drainage of the site future building pad.
- Corinth Gas & Water/ARC Water (complete): Magnolia Regional Medical Center water improvements
- Corinth Gas & Water/ARC (completed): Hotel water improvements
- Constructed a new bridge on County Road 510 a half mile east of Kossuth (completed May of 2017)
- Resurfaced and re-stripped six miles of roadway on County Road 100 (Kendrick Road) and County Road 156.
- Alcorn County Electric Power has upgraded power lines from single phase to three on CR 259, CR 306 and CR 541. These upgrades allow for voltage improvements and better reliability in these areas.
- Alcorn County Electric installed a new outage management system which allows for outages to be handled in a more efficient way. Members are able to communicate outages to ACE by text message which allows ACE to receive information much quicker than in the past.
- Corinth Park LCIF Walking Trail (just took bids): Widening and repaving the existing walking trail at the park. Money was given from Lion's Club International, Local Lion's Club, City of Corinth and the Magnolia Foundation.



## **Strengthening Families**

Bobby Capps, Co-Chair, Crosswind Ministries

Mona Lisa Grady, Co-Chair, C.A.R.E. Community Foundation

### **Primary Goal:**

To collaboratively work with existing programs to strengthen, support and empower each unique family.

### **Strategies:**

To report current opportunities in various segments of the community for strengthening families with the goal of increasing the number of active volunteers.

### **Activities:**

- This year our task force is continuing to partner with the Corinth Rotary Club to implement in Corinth a local version of the Regional Initiative called Rotary 50/5. The goal of this task force is to reduce Juvenile crime by 50% in 5 years and to come up with local intervention strategies to keep our at risk youth out of trouble. The Rotary 50/5 Partnership will work to: 1. Identify youth at risk for committing crime. 2. Link these youth to community members in already existing organizations for mentoring. 3. Track the data.
- Crosswinds will be providing a five-week "Life Skills Junior Class" this summer beginning June 18th. They will meet with identified 5th-9th grade at risk youth. Students will learn "why we do the things we do", helping them to focus on healing wounds and changing behaviors...using techniques developed to combat the effects of ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences).  
*Volunteer mentors are needed to help support these children during the classes.* Please email [brett@crosswind.ms](mailto:brett@crosswind.ms) if you can serve in this capacity.
- Oasis is teaching an excellent course in the schools, "I Am Enough".
- Crosswind Ministries has met with school administrators and discussed strategies for educating teachers about ACE's and learning to use soft buffering skills for students. They are also developing a few short presentations that can be duplicated to talk about practical tools to care for students who live in toxic stress environments. They will also be training the Lighthouse staff in the near future.
- Living Free Ministries leaders have been to a six-month course on the chronic effects of toxic stress. They have weekly visits at the alternative school and have access to and visit with children in the Juvenile Detention Center.

## **Partner Agencies:**

### **Boys & Girls Club**

• 511 Clark Street • Director "D" Jenkins • 286-6662

### **Crosswind Ministries**

• 703 Tate Street • Director  
Bobby Capps • 287-5600

### **Easom Foundation**

• 700 Crater St • Chairman  
Sam Crayton • 404-386-3359



### **Lighthouse Foundation**

• 1103 John St • Director Gary Caveness • 286-0091

### **Living Free Ministries**

• 2024 Hwy 72 • Director Tommy Wilson • 287-2733

### **Living Healthy Clinic**

• 2601 Getwell Rd • Dr Tommy Sweat • 662-872-3025

### **Oasis Medical Center**

• 2421 Proper St • Director Matt Mitchell • 287-8001

### **Pine Vale Children's Home**

• 1872 CR 700 • Randy Collum • 286-6555

### **Project Attention**

• 1101A John St • Director Shirley Rolland • 287-5200

### **S.A.F.E.**

• National Hotline Women's Abuse Center • 800-527-7233

### **WIN Job Center**

• 2759 S Harper Rd • Director Ben Shappley • 286-3308

