



Leadership Mississippi Opening Session

April 7-8

Host Hotel

Hampton Inn
2675 McIngvale Rd, Hernando, MS 38632
(662) 367-6072

Thursday, April 7, 2016

10:00 – Load Bus at Hampton Inn

10:30-11:00 – Tour of DeSoto County Career Technology Center West

The DeSoto County Career Technology Center West serves Desoto Central, Southaven, Horn Lake, Hernando, and Lake Cormorant High Schools through nine career and technical programs offered to students. Successful completion of all 1st year requirements allows the students to finish the two year program. The basic philosophy of the Career-Tech Center is to provide students with entry level skills for a job in the field they have studied and also to prepare the student to further their education by entering a technical school, community college, or four-year university. The Leadership Mississippi Class will have the exciting opportunity to tour this great facility and learn about career and technology-prep programs in the area.

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – Tour of University of Mississippi – DeSoto Campus and Northwest MS Community College

Dr. Rick Gregory – Executive Director, Associate Professor of Education & Assistant Provost for Regional Education - University of Mississippi DeSoto Campus

Jeremy Isome – Dean, Northwest MS Community College DeSoto Center

The educational needs of hundreds of north Mississippi residents are met each year through The University of Mississippi- DeSoto campus in Southaven. Since the DeSoto Center building opened in 1996, the enrollment in The University of Mississippi- DeSoto Center has grown to nearly 1,000 students enrolled each semester.

The unique affiliation of The University of Mississippi with Northwest Mississippi Community College at the DeSoto Center provides the ideal mix of academic and technical training for the development of DeSoto County. Northwest, owner of the DeSoto Center, built the campus to provide educational opportunities for traditional day students as well as non-traditional evening students--those who want to earn college credit while working or meeting family commitments.

Noon – Bus Departs University of Mississippi – DeSoto Campus

12:30-1:30 – Lunch at Catfish Blues

Newly-opened Catfish Blues restaurant strives to give patrons a “real southern experience” through great food and hospitality. Mississippi has much to be proud of, and topping that list includes, according to Josh Tucker, the owner of Catfish Blues restaurant set to open soon in Hernando, “hospitality, food and also music...and in that order.” The Leadership Mississippi Class will be treated to a delicious southern meal full of local flavor – and Mississippi farm-raised catfish!

2:00 - Return to Hotel for Check-in

4:15 – Load Bus at Hampton Inn

4:30 – 6:00 – Windshield Tour of DeSoto County

6:00 – Load Bus at Hampton Inn

6:15 – 7:30 – Alumni Reception – Brussel’s Bonsai – Featuring Memphis Barbecue Company

Brussel's Bonsai is the largest importer and grower of bonsai trees in the United States. Housed in a state-of-the-art facility in Olive Branch, the facility caters to gardeners, Asian culture enthusiasts and those interested in growing a piece of history. Brussel's Bonsai has been a destination for serious bonsai hobbyists for more than 30 years. The Leadership Class of 2016 will have the opportunity to network with Leadership Mississippi alumni from the DeSoto County area in this unique location during the reception – all while enjoying incredible food from the Memphis Barbecue Company!

Friday, April 8, 2016

Breakfast on your own – Take Personal Transportation to Venue

Venue –

DeSoto County Schools
5 E. South Street, Hernando, MS 38632

9:45 – 10:30 – Ice Breaker – Getting to Know Your Classmates

You might THINK you know your Leadership Mississippi classmates – but do you REALLY? The Class will participate in a fun Ice Breaker activity to get to know more about one another!

10:45 – 11:15 – DeSoto County School Overview

Cory Usselton, Superintendent of Education

DeSoto County boasts some of the best schools in the entire state, and the district is continually refining practices and curriculum in order to improve. Join Superintendent Cory Usselton and learn how they got to the top level and found success in education.

11:30 - 1:30 – Lunch

Class Adjourned