



THE CSLC COMMUNITY VOICE

"In relentless pursuit of perfection in education and knowledge"

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From the Executive Director's Desk



Greetings!

Once again, I am delighted to share with you the blessings and accomplishments of the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC). We are truly grateful that while we are living in some uncertain times, God keeps making a way out of what seems to be no way.

We were deeply saddened in September by the earthly departure of one of our most willing, sweet spirits, Ms. Patricia "P-Pat" Porter. She dedicated most of her retirement years to serving and greeting our clients. She is sorely missed. Our prayers remain with her family.

Inside this newsletter, you will read about some of the achievements since our Winter/Spring edition. Many of which you helped to make possible, including the figures from our CNPP Closeout report below:

Total Amt. in Loans and Grants Submitted:	\$27,779,072.00
Total Amt. in Loans and Grants Approved:	\$2,168,005.00
Unique Clients Assisted:	822
Total Counseling Hours	3,575
Total Trained Clients	2,759

As always, we are forever grateful to all funding agencies, donors, supporters, and friends who have helped us to serve.

Beulah Greer, CSLC Co-founder & Executive Director

CSLC-CNPP earns U.S. SBA 'Recognition of Excellence' Award



The CSLC Board of Directors, administration, management, CNPP Spokes, and staff are extremely grateful and humbled to have received the above "Recognition of Excellence" certificate from the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) for successfully completing the SBA Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP). The CSLC was one of 51 nationwide organizations funded in 2021 to "work with hundreds of local community groups to improve access to SBA and government resources for America's entrepreneurs." (<https://www.sba.aov/local-assistance/community-naviaators>)

CSLC Executive: Minority Small Business Champion of the Year



CSLC Executive Director Beulah Greer (left) was chosen and recognized as the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year during the Mississippi District's SBA 2024 Small Business Week Awards celebration. Pictured above with Executive Director Greer and her granddaughter Aaliyah Greer, SBA Region IV Administrator Allen Thomas, SBA Mississippi District Director Janita Stewart, and CSLC Founder and Board President Leslie Greer. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SBA MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT OFFICE

CSLC HIPPY kids and family experience an educational fun day at MS Children Museum



Above are highlights from the CSLC HIPPY fun and educational outing at the Mississippi Children’s Museum. PHOTOS COURTESY OF HIPPY COORDINATOR LUBERTHA MOSLEY

On Saturday, Oct. 26, families from the Community Students Learning Center's Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Program enjoyed a fun-filled educational trip to the Mississippi Children’s Museum in Jackson. The outing allowed parents and preschoolers to explore interactive exhibits encouraging curiosity and hands-on learning.

The museum visit aimed to strengthen family engagement in early childhood education by immersing participants in activities designed to develop cognitive and social skills, reinforcing the HIPPY program's mission to prepare preschoolers for academic success. “Everyone had a great time!” said CSLC HIPPY Coordinator Lubertha Mosley. Below, Mosley provides an overall HIPPY update:

CSLC HIPPY Program Updates: Supporting Early Literacy and Community Engagement

The CSLC HIPPY Program offers a developmental early literacy curriculum for children ages 3 to 5. Parents engage in role-playing activities with guidance from home visitors, typically former HIPPY parents, under the supervision of Carla Mowell, Independent Site Director for HIPPY United States.

- On June 8, 2024, CSLC held its fifth annual HIPPY Fund Fest, featuring vehicles, raffles, and food, while crowning a HIPPY Prince and Princess for the first time. **(See highlights below).**
- On July 13, Rosalind Greer hosted a Community Luau Fundraiser to support underserved children in Holmes County, with games, karaoke, and Hawaiian dancing.
- As of September 9, the HIPPY Program has enrolled 18 children from 15 families in Holmes County and three in Hinds County. We have home visits and sessions that emphasize role-playing to foster excitement, with ongoing recruitment for more families.
- On September 18, Audrey Anderson, Valorie Young, and I attended a HIPPY US webinar for professional development, which drew over 400 attendees.



Anderson, Young, and Mosley display their certificates from the HIPPY US PD webinar.

--CSLC HIPPY Coordinator Lubertha Mosley



CLOSEOUT SUCCESS: CLSC-CNPP impacts Mississippi’s small business growth!

According to Project Director Antwan Clark, the Community Students Learning Center-Community Navigator Pilot Program (CSLC-CNPP) has successfully implemented the SBA Hub and Spoke approach, significantly aiding small business development in Mississippi. The federally funded program has supported 822 unique clients, trained over 2,759 entrepreneurs, and provided 3,575 hours of personalized business counseling.



CSLC-CNPP facilitated the submission of over \$27.7 million in loans and grants, with \$2.1 million approved, helping local businesses secure essential financial support. The program has benefited underrepresented business owners, enhanced customer satisfaction, and demonstrated a strong return on investment. During the award cycle, CSLC-CNPP held three "Meet the Lenders" and technical assistance workshops to connect small businesses with financial institutions and welcomed SBA Region IV Administrator Allen Thomas, who toured assisted businesses.

The program received two awards from the U.S. Small Business Administration: the Excellent Recognition Award and the Entrepreneurial Development Resource Partner of the Year Award for 2024. CSLC Founder Leslie Greer expressed gratitude and pride in the program’s success, affirming plans to continue collaborations with its partners.

60 home repairs completed, thanks to the CSLC FHLB of Dallas/BankPlus project! Satisfied client Jerry Benson’s home repairs conclude the project.

"I am very pleased with getting a new tin top roof. My house was in very bad condition. I thank God for this program! Because of it, I [now] have a new roof!"

-- Jerry Benson



Jerry Benson stands proud and grateful for his new roof received via the CSLC FHLB Dallas/BankPlus AH Program.

A CSLC FHLB-BankPlus Rehab satisfied client gives testimony for her home repairs



Before



After

"My name is Levon White. The job was very professionally done, and I was very pleased with it. I am enjoying my laundry room. Now, I don't have to go outside in the cold/heat to wash my clothes. The contractor was very friendly and a hard worker. I would like to thank the CSLC for allowing this to happen."



-- Lavon

Teen Violence Prevention Update: Students are ‘making strides’ through TIME!

By Lucretia Holmes, CSLC BJA Teen Violence Prevention Project Director
Transforming Improving Mississippians Education (TIME)

Since receiving the 2020 BJA STOP Grant, the CSLC Teen Violence Program has made significant progress within the Holmes County Consolidated School District. We are proud to implement two outstanding curriculums: "Mind Matters" for middle and high school students, and "Positive Action" for elementary school students. These programs aim to address the emotional, mental, and social needs of students, providing them with tools to better understand and manage their emotions, behaviors, and relationships. We would like to extend our gratitude to Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Wilson and the BJA Teen Violence Prevention (TIME) Team—Carolyn Love, Fredia Johnson, Marven Cantave, and Officer Green—who passionately and expertly deliver the curriculum with fidelity. Dr. Wilson's vision and leadership have been crucial in fostering a strong partnership between CSLC and the Holmes County Consolidated School District. As a result, students are learning effective ways to resolve conflicts, express themselves positively, and build healthier relationships with their peers and adults. Together, we are creating a safer and more supportive community for our youth. **Remember, Teen Violence Prevention Works!**



Below, students listen attentively.

A pleased business owner shares

TKT Healthcare is an innovative start-up business dedicated to providing home health care for senior citizens, including reliable transportation for their appointments. Tina Davis is revitalizing her business name and registering with the System for Award Management (SAM) to access grants and loans for financial support. With assistance from CSLC Business Assistance Services, Fresh Start Enterprise, LLC helped her through the SAM registration, providing the necessary information to secure funding. She is now close to selecting a loan that could transform her business. “This has changed my life; now I can own my own business and no longer need to work my night job,” said Davis.

Dreaming of owning a home?

Are you ready to own a home or need repairs on your current one? CSLC partners with USDA Rural Development to offer the USDA 502 Homeowner Loan and 504 Direct Repair Loan and Grant programs. These resources assist low to very low-income individuals in rural areas with purchasing, building, or repairing homes. **Kalandria Newman**, a certified USDA loan packager, has successfully assisted many clients in obtaining loans for new homes and repairs. She is seeking new clients who may qualify for assistance. For more information about the USDA 502/504 Grant/Loan programs, call Kalandria Newman at (662) 834-0905.

Overcoming a giant life’s hurdle: CSLC HIPPY graduate Carson Hughes is back on track!

His faith keeps him running!

Carson Hughes, a standout track star at Pearl High School, Pearl, Miss., has a passion for running—on and off the track. But even for a young man driven by fierce determination and unyielding faith, one hurdle he never expected to face was an unusual brain tumor.

A graduate of the CSLC Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program in Lexington, Miss., Hughes faced his diagnosis head-on, supported by prayers from his family, friends, and communities.

Hughes’s story has resonated across Mississippi. It was highlighted in the *UMMC Children’s of Mississippi* and *The Mississippi Link* newspaper. His journey serves as a testament to faith’s power, the support of family, and the early influence of programs like HIPPY.

As he keeps pushing forward achieving track and other honors, his family and community could not be prouder of the young man who has refused to let life’s hurdles stop him.

With every move forward he takes on the track, Hughes is running not just for himself, but for everyone who believes in him. His grandmother Audrey Anderson, a CSLC HIPPY Home Visitor, is one of his biggest fans.

Another fan who also saw much promise in Hughes while he was in the HIPPY program was his Coordinator, Lula Friar aka “Ms. Lula,” now deceased. Hughes and all the HIPPY kids will remember their “Ms. Lula,” and without a doubt, her spirit is felt among the crowd or family, friends, CSLC HIPPY staff, and others who are cheering him on to each of his victories on the track and in life.



Hughes



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