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MS WORKS

a guide to life after high school



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HEATHER HIGGINBOTHAM
ASSISTANT OPERATOR AT MISSISSIPPI POWER IN GULFPORT

+ WHAT THEY PAY
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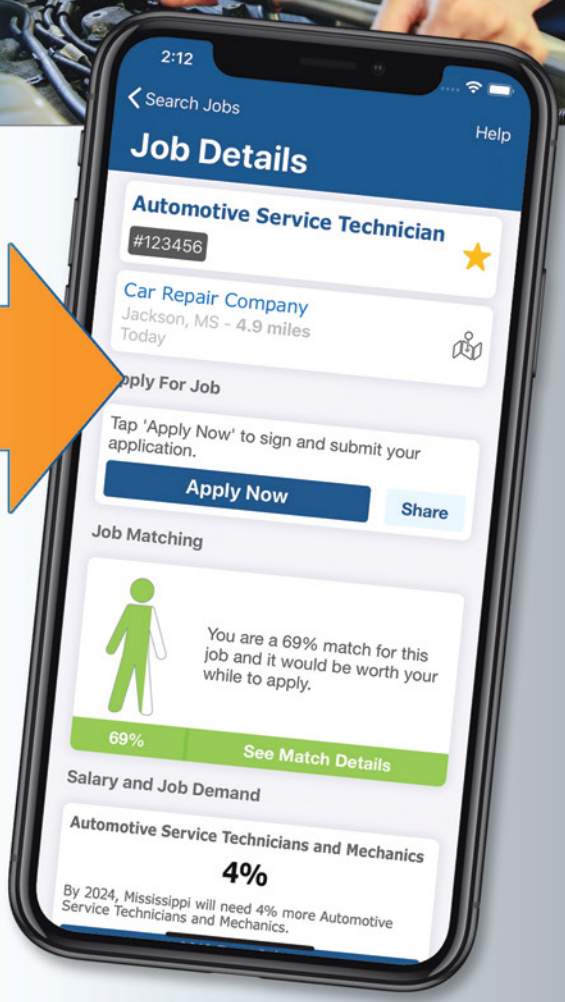
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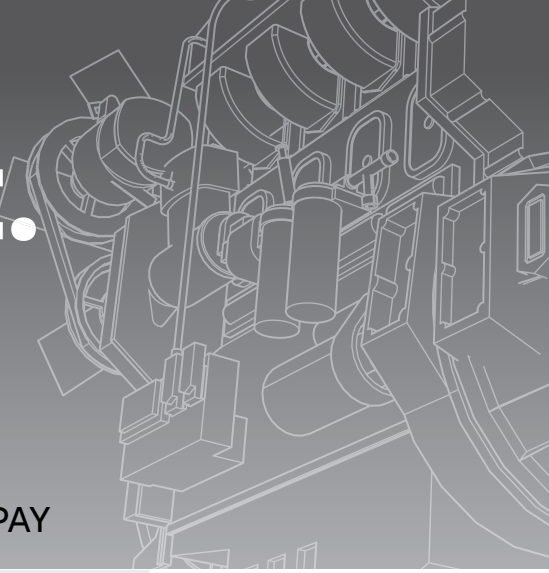
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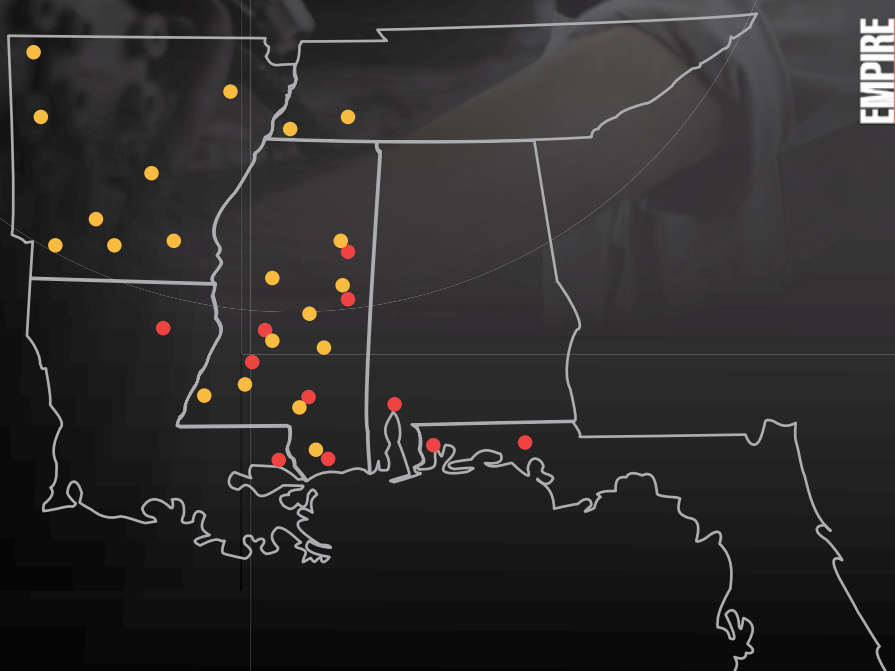






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Q&A WITH OUR GOVERNOR

Governor Phil Bryant shares his background and offers advice for students considering life after high school.





WHAT WAS SCHOOL LIKE FOR YOU GROWING UP?

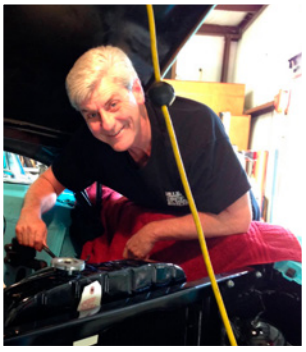
School was difficult for me. As a dyslexic child, I often did not do well on tests and fell behind in most subjects. A fifth-grade teacher finally explained that I was not dumb but I had a reading disorder. That made all the difference for me going forward.

WHAT WAS THE STANDARD IN YOUR FAMILY FOR GOING TO COLLEGE?

I grew up in a working-class family. My dad was a diesel mechanic, and my mother stayed home to take care of the demands of a growing family. I was the first generation to ever attend college, and most of my peers were not expected to obtain a degree in higher ed. It was a great opportunity for a working-class kid from the Mississippi Delta to attend a community college and two universities.







HOW DID YOU PAY FOR YOUR HIGHER EDUCATION?

I worked most of the time in college and used a student loan for grad school, which I paid back.

WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST VALUABLE FROM YOUR HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE?

The most important thing about my higher education experience was the attainment of a college degree. The work ethic necessary to obtain a bachelor's degree and a master's degree has served me well during my career.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU MOST WANT TO GIVE TO OUR READERS AS IT RELATES TO CHOOSING A CAREER?

My best advice is to find a path that excites you each day! Remember that your first choice may not be your final career. It may take a second or third try to find your destiny.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WISH TO SHARE?

Being governor is the most exciting, rewarding and challenging job anyone could have. It's extremely fulfilling because there are so many opportunities to help others. The challenges are knowing where to apply your time and resources to get the best results! I believe in planning my work and working my plan.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

If I hadn't gone the traditional college route, I would've liked to *be a welder* because *I could help build warships.*

FAST FACTS

Hometown:
Moorhead, Mississippi

Alma maters:
Hinds Community College & University of Southern Mississippi

Highest degree level achieved:
Master's degree and Honorary Ph.D. in Law from Mississippi College

What did you want to be when you grew up:
Law enforcement officer

First job you ever had:
Construction – installing garage doors

Favorite subject in school:
History

If you could do one other job it would be:
Country singer

Note: Governor Bryant's term will end in January 2020.

Photos courtesy of Governor's office.



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CONTRIBUTORS

What's one thing you hope readers take away from this publication?



ANDREA MAYFIELD, PH.D.
Executive Director
MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD AND CHAIR AT THE STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD



LAURIE SMITH, PH.D.
Executive Director
STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

"I hope the students and families viewing this publication see the tremendous opportunities for successful careers in Mississippi. Community colleges are ready to train, and businesses and industries are ready to hire."



JACKIE TURNER
Executive Director
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY



CHAD SHEALY
Superintendent
VICKSBURG WARREN SCHOOL DISTRICT

"We encourage all students to embrace the fact that all education leads to employment and that what they do in middle and high school will greatly impact their future. This publication outlines the many opportunities available in Mississippi and the great earning potential from the multitude of meaningful careers in our state."



KRISTEN P. WINDHAM
Marketing Director
STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

"There's no question that job opportunities are growing and changing in Mississippi and across the country. I hope our readers study each of the careers highlighted in this publication and check out the quiz to see what fields they might be interested in pursuing."



WENDY CLEMONS
Executive Director
OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

"I hope that our secondary students and educators use this as a guide to the vast career opportunities that exist for Mississippi during and after high school."



VICKIE POWELL, IOM
Senior Vice President, Foundations
MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC COUNCIL

"Over 30 years ago, we did not have the technology, jobs and careers we have today. As the economy continues to change and new jobs emerge, career and technical education is playing a critical role in how we teach and educate our future and current workforce."

Special Thanks!

MS Works Magazine
Stakeholder Committee

ELLIE BANKS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

DIANNE BELL
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

CLAY CHANDLER
MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

WENDY CLEMONS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TARRINISHA JONES
GREENVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANDREA MAYFIELD, PH.D.
MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

JIM MCINGVALE
HUNTINGTON INGALLS

RACHEL PITRE
ABPG

VICKIE POWELL
MISSISSIPPI ECONOMIC COUNCIL

CHAD SHEALY
VICKSBURG WARREN SCHOOL DISTRICT

LAURIE SMITH, PH.D.
STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

MICHAEL SPANBAUER, PH.D.
NSPARC

MIKE TAQUINO, PH.D.
NSPARC

PATRICK WARD
SOUTHEASTERN CONSTRUCTION CO.

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JOBS FOR MISSISSIPPI GRADUATES

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ARKANSAS BUSINESS PUBLISHING GROUP

PRESIDENT / MITCH BETTIS
PUBLISHER / RACHEL PITRE
EDITOR / LINDSAY IRVIN
WRITER / LYDIA MCALLISTER
ART DIRECTOR / OMAR ALONSO
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE / ALICIA SANDAGE

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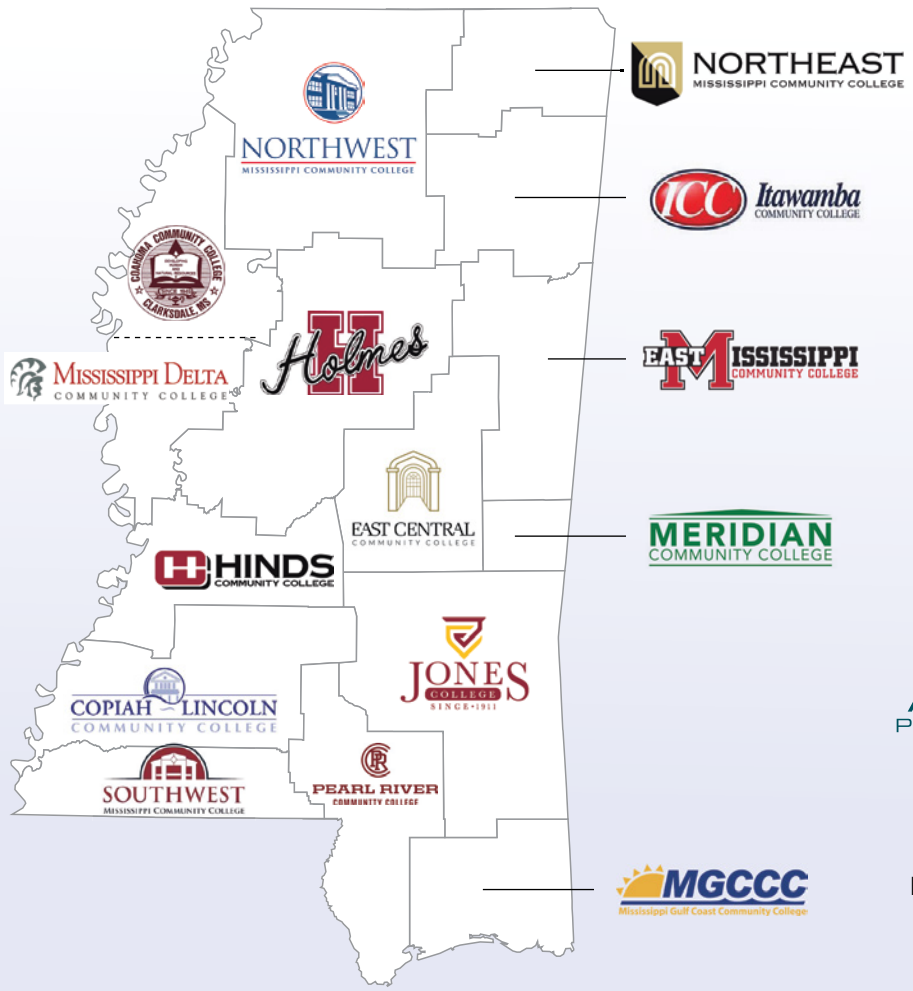


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For more information, **www.mccb.edu/Workforce**
601.432.6365

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About the cover: Assistant operator Heather Higginbotham on the job at Mississippi Power in Gulfport
Photography by Jacob Slaton Photography

MELVAN TAYLOR
RIGGER
INGALLS SHIPBUILDING
IN PASCAGOULA

PG. 44



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CLIMB THE LADDER A DIFFERENT WAY!

In Mississippi, there's a growing demand for professionals trained in key middle skills. Mississippi employers are eager to fill jobs in industries like manufacturing, agriculture, transportation, health care and construction. A majority of these technical jobs go unfilled. *MS Works* seeks to encourage more students to choose high-demand training pathways that will lead to a high-paying career.



57%

OF MISSISSIPPI JOB OPENINGS WILL BE MIDDLE SKILL BY 2022.

Source: nationalskillscoalition.org

1-2-3 GO!

The Countdown to Graduation is On!

It's never too soon to get ready for your life after high school. We reveal what you need to do and when!

8th Grade

❑ SET GOALS
Maybe you already know exactly what you want to do after graduation, or maybe you're still figuring that out. Either way, setting goals for yourself is a good habit to get into. Maybe you want to score a certain number on your ACT or you want to master a foreign language. Setting long-term and short-term goals will help you achieve them in high school and beyond.

❑ BEGIN RESEARCHING CAREERS

❑ LEARN ABOUT CTE CLASSES
Career & Technical Education (CTE) classes help students develop job skills and earn national industry certifications that will set them apart from the crowd when they apply for jobs. CTE courses are offered at more than 500 schools and 15 community and junior colleges in Mississippi.

If there's a profession you're interested in, ask a career readiness instructor or guidance counselor about CTE courses that can help you pursue that industry.



Junior Year

❑ RESEARCH CAREER FIELDS
Look at fields that allow you to use your talents and passions. Make sure the schools you're considering offer degrees you're interested in.



❑ SET UP JOB SHADOWING APPOINTMENTS WITH PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK IN A FIELD YOU'RE INTERESTED IN.
Getting to see what they do on a day-to-day basis can help you decide if that job is for you.

❑ TAKE THE ACT WORKKEYS ASSESSMENT
The ACT WorkKeys assessments help you measure workplace skills that measure a range of hard and soft skills relevant to any occupation, at any level, and across industries. Find out more on page 25.

❑ THINK ABOUT MAJORS OR TRAINING
Consider what majors and degrees lend themselves to careers you're considering. Or do you have a particular talent? While you research options, start taking high school electives related to these fields.

❑ KEEP IN TOUCH
Stay in close contact with your guidance counselor.

❑ MAKE A LIST
List the colleges you're interested in and research degrees offered, enrollment size, tuition cost, facts about their campuses and communities. You should factor in your career plans and determine what level of education is required for your field of interest. Many careers don't require a four-year college degree. In fact, there are plenty of awesome jobs with great paychecks that only require on-the-job training or apprenticeships. Know your options so you can make the best decision for you and your wallet.



❑ BUILD A RESUME
Remember that list you have been keeping since freshman year? Time to pull it out and compile a resume including extracurricular activities, volunteer work, community associations, work experience and academics. For help, visit tinyurl.com/mdesresume for tips on building a solid resume.

❑ START APPLYING
Begin applying for as many scholarships as you can during the second semester of your junior year.

❑ VOLUNTEER
If you didn't have any volunteer work to put on your resume, now is the time to collect some volunteer hours. These will help you qualify for scholarships too.

❑ PREPARE FOR AND TAKE THE ACT OR SAT
Take the test several times to improve your score. The more familiar you are with these tests, the easier it will be to get your numbers up. Check to see what test score your prospective schools require or recommend.

❑ KEEP UP WITH DEADLINES
Ask counselors and other individuals to submit pieces for your applications long before deadlines, so you don't get in a bind.

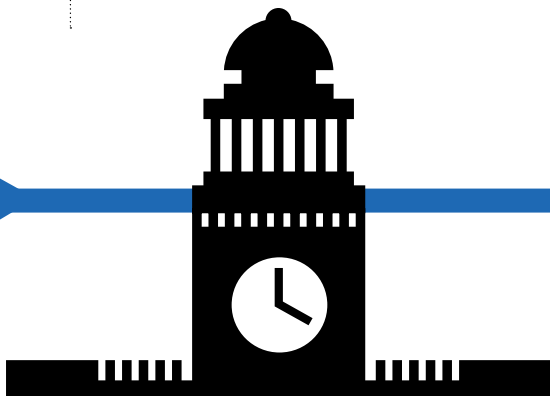


Senior Year

FIRST SEMESTER

❑ ACQUIRE LETTERS
Collect letters, transcripts and anything else required for your chosen career/education path and scholarship apps. Remember, almost all community and junior colleges are open-access, which means almost anyone who applies is accepted. So, you may not need letters or other paperwork, but always call each school to determine what they require.





Freshman Year

❑ GET GOOD GRADES
As a freshman, your slate is wiped clean of your past grades, but now your GPA starts to count. Pay attention to whether you are taking 4.0 or 5.0 classes. Your GPA will help determine your eligibility for colleges and scholarships in the future.

❑ RESEARCH JOBS YOU THINK YOU'D LIKE

❑ HANG WITH THE RIGHT CROWD
You will change and grow a lot as you transition from elementary and middle school to high school. Hanging out with the right people will help you make better choices.



❑ GET INVOLVED
Participate in extracurricular activities and stay active all four years of high school. Join groups both inside and outside your high school through leadership-oriented activities and volunteer opportunities. There are tons of career-related organizations on high school campuses around Mississippi such as Future Farmers of America, the Technology Student Association, National Technical Honor Society, Future Health Professionals and SkillsUSA. Visit MDEK12.org/CTE/SO or ask your counselor for more info.

❑ MEET WITH YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
It's OK if you don't know exactly what you want to do after high school. Meeting with your counselor is a great way to talk about what interests you and how you can take classes that relate to those interests – or they might introduce you to new ones!



❑ KEEP A LIST
As you go, keep a list of accomplishments, awards and recognitions. It'll make your life a lot easier in a few years when you need to fill out resumes.

❑ START WORKING ON YOUR ACT NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE
The ACT National Career Readiness Certificate is an invaluable credential that certifies that you have the essential skills for workplace success. More than 2,000 companies in Mississippi recognize and recommend the NCRC.

After successfully completing three WorkKeys assessments (Applied Math, Graphic Literacy and Workplace Documents), you'll receive the ACT NCRC, which shows potential employers that you have what it takes to make it in their workplace.

Learn more on page 25.



Sophomore Year

❑ PREPARE FOR THE ACTs AND SATs
You will take the ACT during junior year, and if you do well, you can qualify for a lot of college cash. Consider ACT and/or SAT prep courses to help ensure good scores.

❑ THINK ABOUT CAREERS THAT INTEREST YOU; DO SOME RESEARCH

PRO TIP:
Tear these pages out and pin them to a bulletin board in your bedroom or put them up in your locker for a daily reminder of the things you need to do each year or semester.





❑ APPLY
Apply to your top programs, schools or apprenticeships.

❑ KEEP APPLYING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
National and state scholarships are great, but the smaller local ones add up and make a difference. Your school guidance counselor is a great resource.

❑ MEET WITH YOUR COUNSELOR
Make sure all graduation requirements are being met.

SECOND SEMESTER

❑ CHOOSE A SCHOOL, APPRENTICESHIP OR TECHNICAL PROGRAM
Consider all your acceptance letters, financial packages and scholarships and continue visiting until you decide. Get all your questions answered, see the campus and experience the atmosphere before deciding.

❑ NOTIFY THE ORGANIZATION OR SCHOOL THAT YOU INTEND TO ENROLL.



❑ FILL OUT FAFSA
Ask your parents to finish their taxes early, so you can submit your FAFSA on or shortly after Jan. 1 of your senior year.

❑ STAY MOTIVATED
Senioritis is a real thing, and, even though this semester often doesn't count for acceptance, it does affect scholarships! Finish strong!

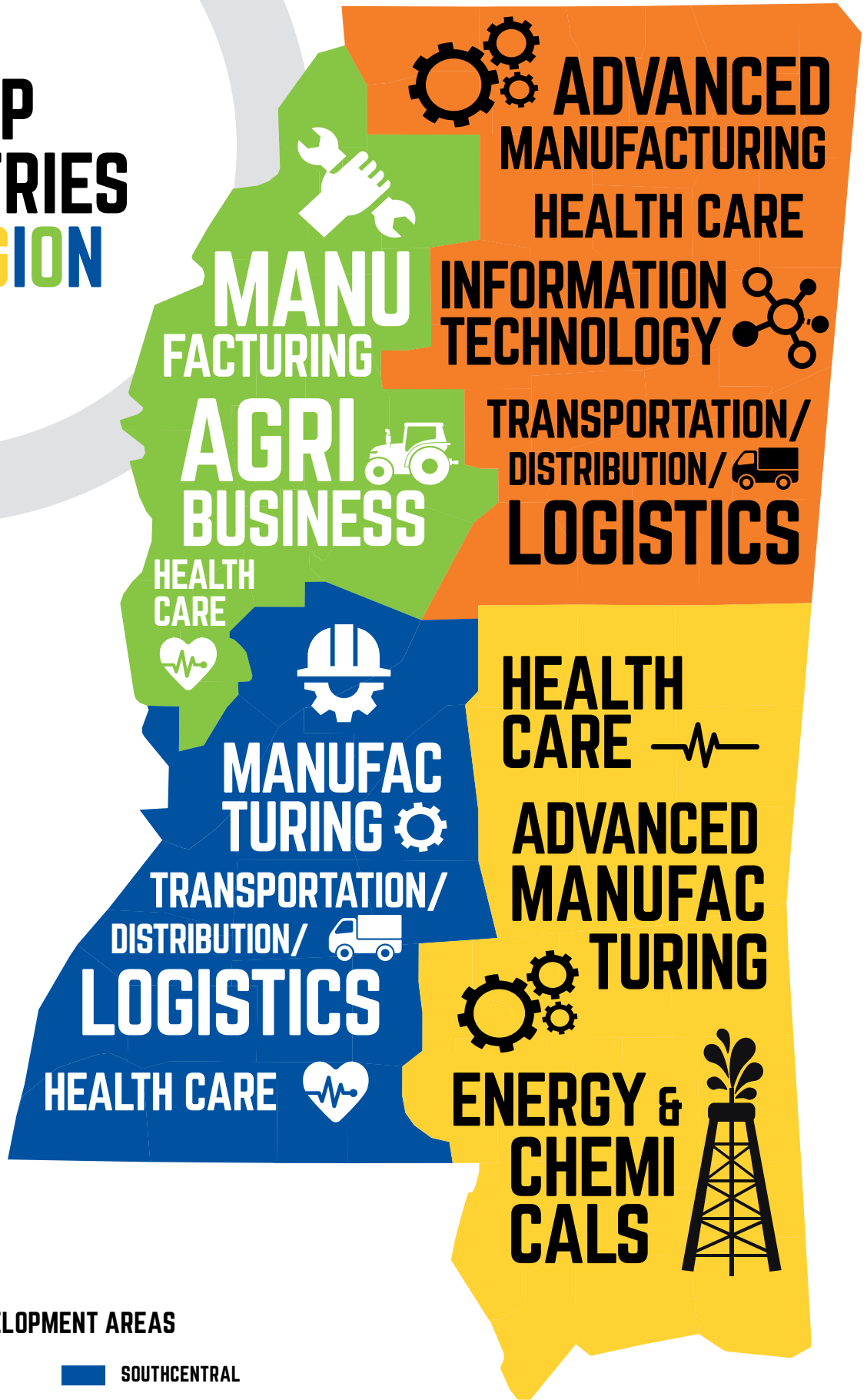
❑ GRADUATE
Enjoy your summer. Attend freshman orientation and related events. It will help you meet lots of people and adjust to college life.

❑ SAY THANK YOU
Send thank you notes to everyone who gave you a graduation gift, wrote you a letter of recommendation, let you job shadow or helped you prepare for college. It's a good habit to start.



thank you

THE TOP INDUSTRIES BY REGION



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

- DELTA
- MS PARTNERSHIP
- SOUTHCENTRAL
- TWIN DISTRICTS

SOURCE: 2017 Sector Strategy Report SWIB

MISSISSIPPI WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Learn what they can do for you!

Did you know, four agencies within key Mississippi Workforce Development Areas have been created to help you get trained and find a job? In fact, these groups are working directly with employers and job seekers to easily connect them to each other. It's a win, win for all parties – jobs for people, employees for companies and a healthy workforce and economy for Mississippi.

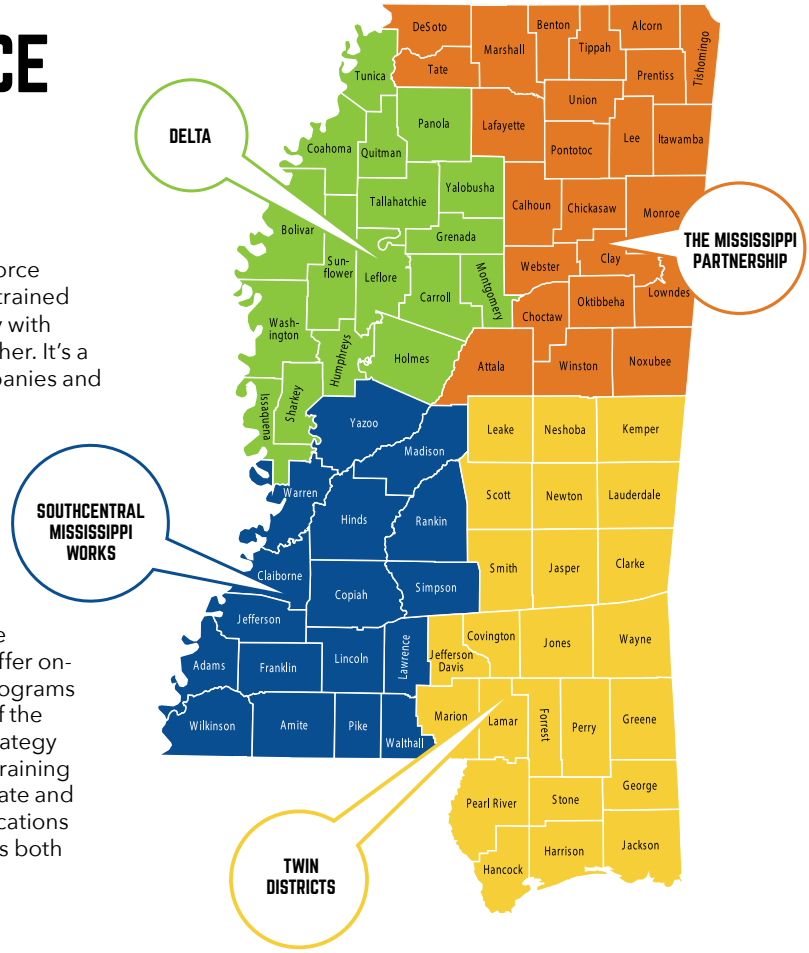
FIRST THINGS FIRST

The four Mississippi Workforce Development Areas are:

- **The Mississippi Partnership**
- **Twin Districts**
- **Southcentral Mississippi Works**
- **Delta**

These groups are the fiscal and administrative agents of the Workforce Investment Network (WIN) job centers, and they offer on-the-job training and various apprenticeship and internship programs across the state, according to Bill Renick, executive director of the Mississippi Partnership. WIN in Mississippi is an innovative strategy designed to provide convenient, one-stop employment and training services to employers and job seekers. Combining federal, state and community workforce programs and services into physical locations and electronic sites, WIN in Mississippi creates a system that is both convenient and user-friendly.

More info: *tinyurl.com/msworkforceareas*



A CLOSER LOOK *Determine which one serves your community and see how they can help you!*

The Mississippi Partnership

The Mississippi Partnership is the largest geographical workforce development area with 27 counties in the northeast, and the district's sector strategy plan focuses on four sectors: advanced manufacturing, health care, IT and transportation/logistics.

"We have a very diverse workforce area," Bill Renick says.

The Mississippi Partnership is in the second year of its specialized industry-recognized apprenticeship programs.

Toyota has offered an Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program for more than five years, which inspired the other Mississippi Partnership apprenticeship programs.

"They're just very successful," Renick says. "The private companies embraced them. They're investing 50% of the cost of these apprenticeship programs. We're using Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds for part of it, and the state's putting up part of the money. They have embraced this entire apprenticeship model."

A gateway program in high schools prepares students for the apprenticeship programs.

Twin Districts

In line with the sector strategy plan, Twin Districts focuses on advanced manufacturing – including aerospace and shipbuilding – health care and energy/chemical, according to Patricia Morrison. Three funding streams provide for internships, apprenticeships and youth offerings.

"We have a lot of good programs," Morrison says.

The Twin Districts area comprises 24 counties and has several WIN Job Centers that provide valuable services to job seekers.

Southcentral Mississippi Works

Southcentral Mississippi Works offers training services through the WIN Job Centers, according to Workforce Director Mary Powers. Through this program, employers can train employees while they are working, and WIOA would reimburse the employer 50% of the wages paid to the employee during the training period.

Other Programs

- **Individual Training Accounts:** Similar to a scholarship, the program pays tuition and related costs for individuals to attend a career tech training program, typically at community colleges.
- **Internship Program:** An individual can be placed with an employer at no cost to the employer to determine if the job and employee are a good fit.
- **Apprenticeship Program:** An employer can receive reimbursement for the wages paid to an employee during a training period.

The WIN Job Centers also help individuals choose a career path, create employment plans and learn basic skills. The targeted industry sectors in this district are health care, manufacturing and transportation logistics.

"Everything that we do is not limited to those industry sectors," Powers says. "We do emphasize training in those because obviously they offer the greatest employment opportunities."

Delta

Delta offers individual training accounts, on-the-job training, internships, pre-apprenticeships and youth activities that include work experience. According to Workforce Director Mitzi Woods, the Delta team works with community colleges, career tech centers and workforce centers to match students with these opportunities. They also work with employers to match students with jobs.

"Right now, we're working with automotive maintenance and then industrial maintenance," Woods says. "We're exploring other opportunities, but those are the main ones."

Woods says she is most proud of the electrical lineman training program at the Mississippi Delta Community College.

"We can't get them trained fast enough," Woods says.

IS IT WORTH IT















CONSIDER THIS:

Individuals with higher levels of education earn more & are more likely than others to be employed.

In 2015, median earnings of bachelor's degree recipients with no advanced degree working full time were **$24,600** (67%) higher than those of high school graduates.

The unemployment rate for individuals age 25 and older with at least a bachelor's degree has consistently been about **half** of the unemployment rate for high school graduates.

Source: *Education Pays 2016: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society,* The College Board, https://trends.collegeboard.org/education-pays

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
ADVANCING OUR STATE TOGETHER

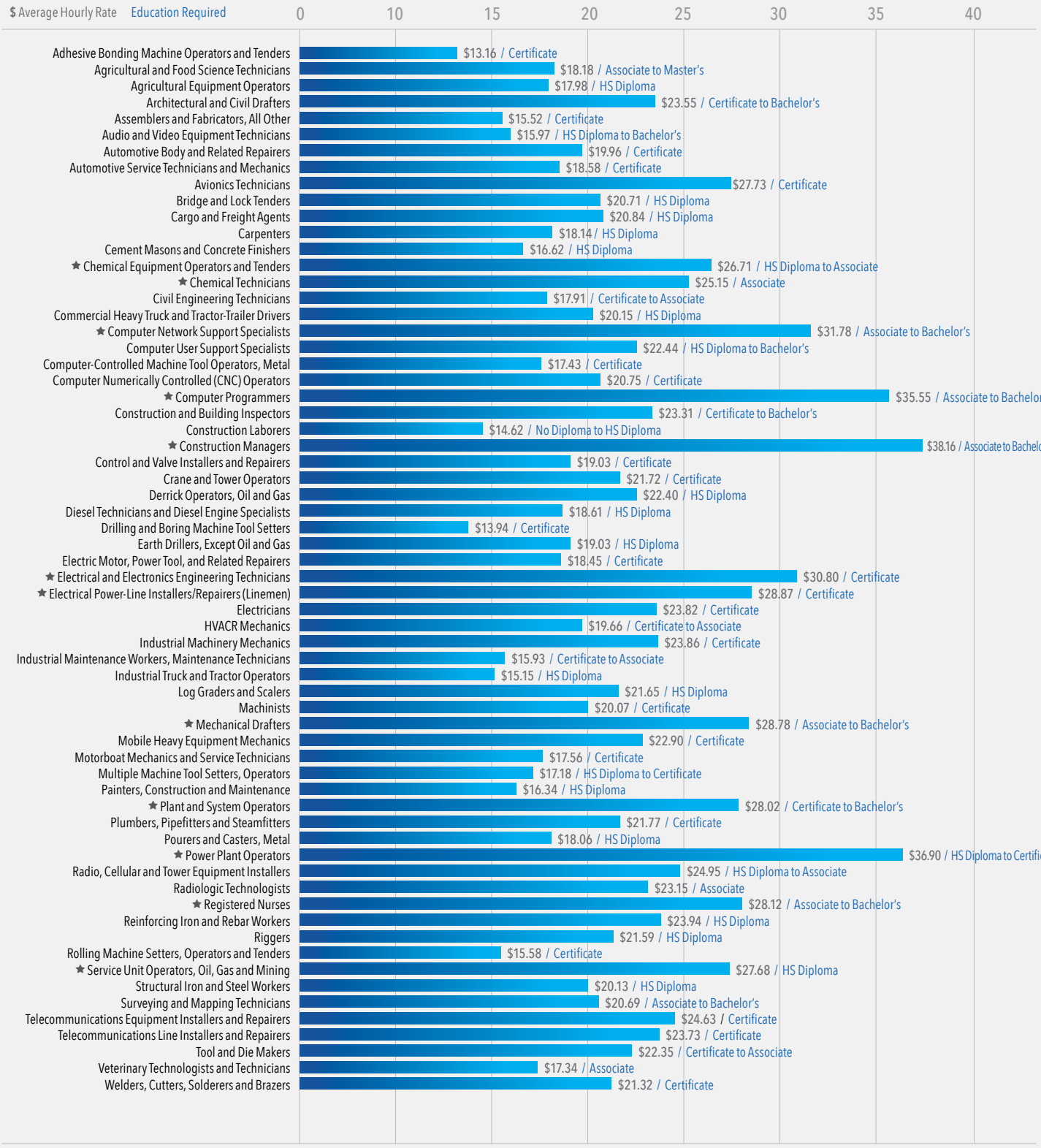
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ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY • DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY • JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY • MSU DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, & VETERINARY MEDICINE
MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN • MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI • UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI



WHAT'S THE PAY?

The hourly pay for many of Mississippi's technical professions



★ Indicates a particularly high-paying job ($25/hour+) where a bachelor's degree is not required

*Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2018) and O*Net Resource Center*

MISSISSIPPI'S BOOMING INDUSTRIES

These fields need technical professionals to keep up with all the amazing growth!

BUSINESSES & WORKERS

Top 10 Largest Private MS Employers

1. Huntington Ingalls Industries - **11,500**
2. Merit Health - **7,000**
3. Nissan North America Inc. – **6.300**
4. Sanderson Farms Inc. - **4,962**
5. Baptist Memorial Health Care - **4,475**
6. North Mississippi Medical Center - **3,800**
7. Tyson Foods – **3,600**
8. St. Dominic Hospital - **3,500**
9. Howard Industries Inc. - **3,500**
10. Ashley Furniture Industries – **3,470**

Target Industries

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Aerospace
- Agribusiness
- Automotive
- Data Centers & IT
- Distribution & Warehousing
- Forestry & Energy
- Health Care
- Tourism & Film
- Shipbuilding

1,280,500
Labor Force

26,403
training classes are offered by Mississippi community colleges.

550 COMPANIES
benefit from the training classes.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING INSTALLATION & REPAIR OCCUPATIONS

Manufacturers employ 12.3% of the state's workforce. **+12%**

Manufacturers account for 14.4% of the total output in the state. **+14%**

$8.9 billion
annual exports

JUST LOOK AT THIS JOB GROWTH!

3,800 projected total of machinist jobs in Mississippi by 2026

4,880 projected total industrial maintenance jobs in Mississippi by 2026

Nearly **200** automotive-related manufacturers call Mississippi home, including Toyota, Nissan, PACCAR, Continental Tire and Yokohama.

108,810
people employed in production jobs across the state

$235 million
the total disposable income created from 6,700 direct and indirect jobs at Toyota Mississippi

AGRIBUSINESS



35,800 FARMS IN MISSISSIPPI



Sanderson Farms is the third largest poultry producer in the United States and produces **10.6 million chickens per week.**

10.7 million acres of farmland in Mississippi

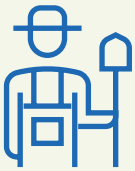
299 acres average size of a farm

Sanderson Farms is the second largest company in Mississippi, when comparing companies with the most employees that are headquartered in Mississippi. It is the only **Fortune 1000** company headquartered in Mississippi.





Nearly a third of the state's workforce is employed in agriculture.



4,800 people are employed in farming, fishing and forestry occupations across the state.



+6.9% annual growth in this field

HEALTH CARE

4 public research universities in Mississippi



3 top Mississippi hospitals according to U.S. News & World Report

(North Mississippi Medical Center–Tupelo, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson and Memorial Hospital at Gulfport)



10,028 staffed beds at Mississippi hospitals



Sta-Home Health & Hospice is the largest Mississippi-based company

JUST LOOK AT ALL THESE JOBS!



79,780 people employed as practitioners and in technical health care occupations



42,620 employed in nursing-related occupations



35,320 employed in health care support occupations



2,270 employed as radiologic technologists

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



3,100 technology businesses in Mississippi

12,380 employees in computer and mathematical occupations in Mississippi





in Mississippi technology job postings from 2016 to 2017.

$3.4 billion is the financial impact of the IT industry on the Mississippi economy.

Three **Mississippi Coding Academies** were created as an educational initiative between five state agencies and nonprofits. The academies provide a no-cost 11-month training program that transforms young adults into full-stack coders and software professionals.



TRANSPORTATION: DISTRIBUTION & LOGISTICS

The state's transportation network ranks the eighth best in the U.S.



99,780 people employed in transportation and material moving occupations in Mississippi



22,710 heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers





2,500 miles of railroad track





ports along the Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi River and Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

7 COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS





Top 5 state in foreign trade zone activity in the U.S.

Sources: *Mississippi Business Journal*, mississippi.org, bls.gov, Mississippi Development Authority, ahd.com, Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce, CompTIA Cyberstates, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, The Center for Automotive Research, U.S. News & World Report, zippia.com

NEWS & MORE

BULLETIN BOARD

The latest news, higher ed essentials and noteworthy programs

Compiled by Lydia McAllister

GENUINE MISSISSIPPI INITIATIVE

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

It's easier than ever to shop local thanks to a new initiative by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce (MDAC). The MDAC created Genuine Mississippi to make it easy for shoppers to find products created right here in Mississippi by local farmers and entrepreneurs. GenuineMS.com helps connect people and places that grow, raise, craft and make Mississippi products.

Get inspired: Check out some cool things made in Mississippi on page 36!

THINK ABOUT

THE COST OF LIVING & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



Knowing how much money you need to do and buy the things you want can help you decide what career to pursue. **Jumpstart.org created a handy lifestyle calculator** (tinyurl.com/ybrk2efa) that can tell you exactly how much you need to make to live your best life – and also gives a reality check about how much things like internet bills and rent actually cost!

When you're looking for jobs it's important to **look for companies that offer employee benefits.** Depending on the company, benefits may include **health insurance, dental insurance, vision care, life insurance, personal leave, sick leave, a retirement plan and paid vacation time** – all things that help keep employees healthy and happy. Jobs that don't offer benefits mean that you'll have to pay for your dental visits or time off for vacations out of your own pocket.

GET2COLLEGE

A LOCAL GUIDE TO LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Get2College, a Woodward Hines Education Foundation (WHEF) program, has centers in Jackson, Ocean Springs and Southaven that reach more than 45,000 Mississippi students annually, providing individual counseling on college admissions and financial aid. Get2College provides resources, support and training for students, their families and educators to increase the number of students statewide getting to and through college. WHEF also supports grants focused on increasing college access and success that ultimately lead to meaningful employment.

Learn more at woodwardhines.org.

WHAT ARE ACT WORKKEYS?

AND WHY YOU MIGHT NEED A NCRC CERTIFICATE

If you're looking to begin a career in a technical profession, you'll probably need to know a thing or two about the ACT WorkKeys. WorkKeys are assessments that measure career readiness. These assessments don't just measure reading and writing abilities; they measure a range of skills relevant to any occupation across industries.

After successfully completing three WorkKeys assessments (Applied Math, Graphic Literacy and Workplace Documents), individuals will receive the WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), which shows potential employers that the candidate has foundational workplace skills. In fact, **2,210 employers in Mississippi recognize and recommend the NCRC for their employees.**

The NCRC is awarded at four levels – platinum, gold, silver and bronze – depending on the scores you receive on the exam. To get the silver certification, you must get a Level Four or higher on all three exams. **Some Mississippi companies and training programs actually require potential employees to have a WorkKeys Silver Certification** in order to apply, including:

- **Toyota Mississippi's Advanced Manufacturing Technician Program**
- **USG Interiors Inc.**
- **SABIC Innovative Plastics**
- **Yokohama Tire**



Everything I always wanted in a career



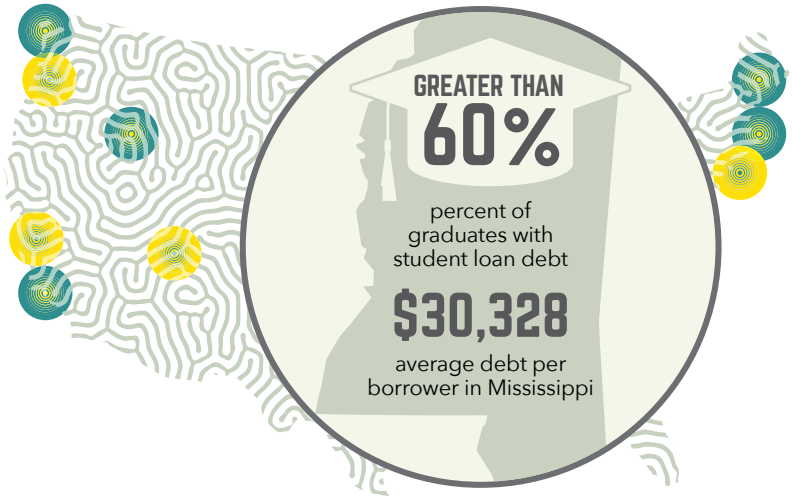
Nathaniel Wiggins — Electrician
Employee for more than a year

It's all here: good wages, solid benefits and the opportunity for advancement.

Best of all, it didn't take years of college to get here. VT Halter Marine's on the job training program for trade school and community college graduates was perfect for me. I'm earning now while training for my future. Do you have what it takes to join the Gulf Coast's premier shipbuilding team?

VT Halter Marine
A company of VT Systems

Contact VTHM Human Resources at
hr@vthm.com



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT

THE STUDENT LOAN EPIDEMIC?

- **$1.48 trillion** - total student loan debt in the U.S.
- Student loan debt has doubled in the past 10 years.
- There are **44.7 million U.S. borrowers** with student loan debt.
- **$33,109** - average amount owed by students nationwide.
- **22%** of U.S. adults who went to college are still paying off loans.

Sources: New York Federal Reserve Statistics (Q2 of 2019); U.S. Department of Education; The Project for Student Debt; LendingTree; finaid.org; LendEDU

SOFT SKILLS ARE NECESSARY SKILLS

Besides mastering the trade, employers also expect their potential employees to have other "soft skills" that will help them navigate their job and adapt to life in their career.

Hard skills are skills you can gain through education, training programs, certifications and apprenticeships. These skills can easily be defined and evaluated. For example, a hard skill for a commercial truck driver would be knowing how to back up an 18-wheeler, while a hard skill for a carpenter might be knowing how to frame a house.

On the other hand, soft skills are much harder to define and evaluate. Soft skills include communication, listening and empathy, among others.



Here are a few important soft skills that are transferable to any job you might pursue:

- **Communication:** Being able to clearly express your thoughts and explain an issue to coworkers or clients makes good communication skills essential.
- **Responsibility:** This skill means that you're able to take responsibility for your actions and own up to mistakes without blaming others, which demonstrates humility and the desire to improve.
- **Teamwork:** Working in teams is almost unavoidable in the workplace. This means that you'll need to learn how to work with others even if you don't always get along.
- **Time management:** This skill means that you have the ability to work under pressure, as well as within tight deadlines.
- **Showing up on time:** This is an incredibly important skill for employees in any career. Showing up on time means you're a reliable employee.
- **Flexibility:** Flexibility is the ability to go with the flow or quickly change your schedule for the day based on unforeseen events. For example, many jobs might require you to go on an out-of-town trip in emergency situations (like a lineman during a storm). Being flexible in these situations shows that you're a real team player.



MISSISSIPPI SCHOLARS & TECH MASTER PROGRAM

A TOOL TO FINDING YOUR PATH AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Mississippi Scholars pairs local business leaders with classes of eighth-grade students. These leaders give powerful presentations that encourage students to take more rigorous courses to best prepare for college coursework or technical training.

Mississippi Scholars' Tech Master program gives students a chance to learn high-tech skills by encouraging students to pursue classes in the STEM field. To graduate as a Tech Master, students must complete classes in math, biology, social studies, English, computer and health, as well as four CTE credits in your area of study.

The program is offered in 81 out of 82 counties in Mississippi. Volunteer work and community service are required of students in both programs – as well as 95% school attendance, minimum 18 on ACT (increasing to 19 for seniors graduating in 2022 and later) and no out-of-school suspension. Students who have completed the programs earn a medallion to wear at graduation, a certificate of completion and seals of distinction on their high school diploma and transcripts.

A GUIDE TO DIFFERENT DEGREE LEVELS

CERTIFICATES
These are issued to people who have completed a specialized course of study related to specific vocational skills in a technical profession. Certification could take a few weeks or as long as 18 months.

LICENSES
Think of licenses as the last step before starting your career. It depends on the state and the technical profession, but many require a license. For example, some states require electricians to pass an examination on electrical theory, the National Electrical Code and local electric and building codes.

ASSOCIATE DEGREES
To earn an associate degree, you'll have to enroll at a college or university. This path is a quicker, less expensive route than pursuing a bachelor's. Average completion time is two years.

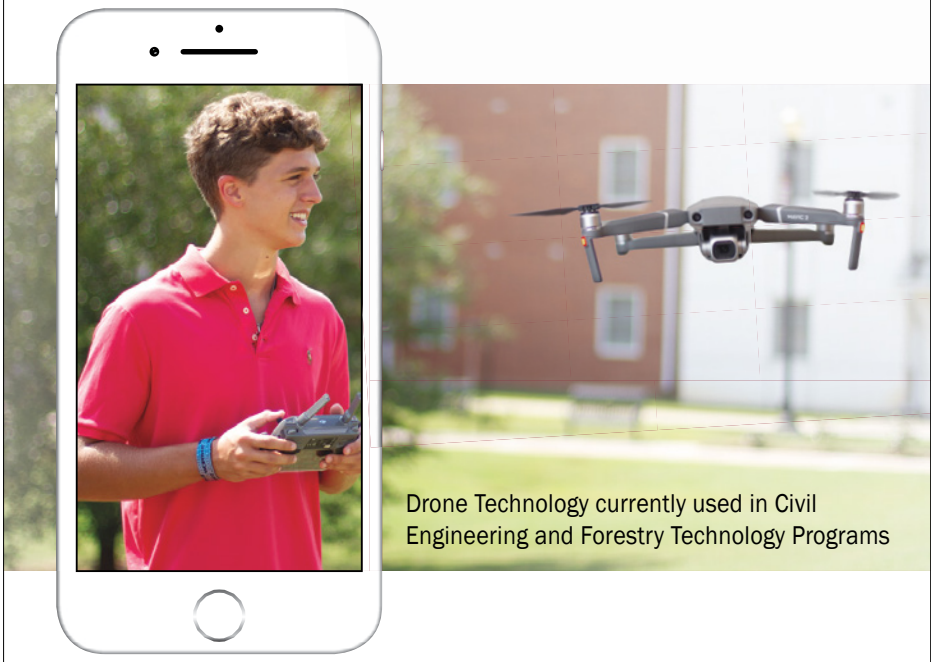
BACHELOR'S DEGREES
To earn a bachelor's degree, you'll have to enroll at a college or university. It typically takes four years of full-time study to complete. This is considered the traditional route to higher education, but often requires student loans and can be very expensive.

MASTER'S DEGREES
To obtain a master's degree, you must first possess a bachelor's degree. The master's degree must also be obtained from a college or university. This degree signifies that a person has "mastered" a specific field. Completion time takes one to two years (sometimes more).

PH.D.
A Ph.D. (aka a doctor of philosophy) takes twice as long as a bachelor's degree to complete – typically eight years. A master's degree is usually required to begin your studies.

Jones College

Rethinking Education



Drone Technology currently used in Civil Engineering and Forestry Technology Programs

- Affordable tuition
- Innovative career choices
- Stackable credentials
- Technology based learning

Scan here to discover more about Jones College.

JONES COLLEGE
SINCE•1911

(601) 477-4000 | www.jcjc.edu | Ellisville, MS

CONSIDER CTE COURSES

Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses help students develop marketable job skills and earn national industry certifications needed to achieve their occupational goals. In Mississippi, CTE courses are available at more than 500 schools and 15 community and junior colleges. Courses can be taken for 49 different occupations from 16 key career clusters.

Students can enroll in CTE programs in secondary, postsecondary or short-term adult sessions, as well as through industry training or business and industry partnerships. "The CTE concentrator graduation rate in Mississippi is 95 percent–12 percentage points higher than the state's adjusted cohort graduation rate," according to careertech.org/mississippi.

124,671
high school CTE enrollment

99,755
public community college enrollment (full & part-time)

9,561
high school CTE concentrators

Find out more at mdek12.org/cte or careertech.org/mississippi.



16 CTE CAREER CLUSTERS

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology & Communications
- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Finance
- Government & Public Administration
- Health Sciences
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

MEET THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Mississippi Construction Education Foundation (MCEF) is an awesome resource for anyone thinking about going into the construction industry. This nonprofit is dedicated to promoting careers, recruiting individuals and training them to work in Mississippi.

Students don't have to wait until after high school to get a head start in a construction career. MCEF provides National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) credentials and training documentation for approximately 5,000 students annually. These students are enrolled in 186 different trade programs at 110 construction career and technical education centers throughout Mississippi.

Head to mcef.net to learn more.







GET ON THE GRID

Find out more about technical professions available in Mississippi – and how you can score a job.

We get it, four-year degrees aren't for everyone. But great jobs are still plentiful for people who choose to pursue a technical profession instead. Opportunities in advanced manufacturing, energy, health care, information technology and logistics are in high demand and pay well above the average salary – with or without a four-year degree.

So how do you get one? The Skills Foundation of Mississippi began an initiative called Get on The Grid to help you learn more about technical professions. The Get on The Grid website is your go-to resource for learning more about the amazing opportunities available in Mississippi. On the website, you're able to choose a career, compare salaries and find training programs.

Bookmark this now!
getonthegridms.com

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME

A STAR STUDENT?

The Mississippi Economic Council and its M.B. Swayze Foundation sponsors the Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) Program to spotlight scholastic achievement among high school students. The STAR Program has two specific purposes:

- **Emphasize scholastic excellence and encourage greater scholastic effort among Mississippi students.**
- **Recognition of the teaching profession.**

To be eligible for the STAR Student honor, a student must be a regularly enrolled senior or an approved dually enrolled student in an accredited public or private high school and/or an accredited post-secondary institution. The student must be completing his or her last year of work and must be eligible to receive a diploma in the current school year. The student must have an overall ACT composite score of at least 25 and an overall average of 93 or above in selected subjects in ninth, 10th and 11th grades, and in the first semester of 12th grade.



GETTING A JOB

HOW MDES CAN HELP

When you're ready to begin your job hunt, the Mississippi Department of Employment Security will be an invaluable resource. MDES is a great source for job listings, information about upcoming job fairs and resources for helping your job search. MDES can help you build a better resume, discover interview tips to help you score your dream job, learn how to dress for interviews and more.

Bookmark these now!

Tips for finding a job: mdes.ms.gov

Local job listings: mississippiworks.org









WHERE TO TRAIN & WORK

TRAINING PROGRAMS

1. CenterPoint Energy, Oxford*, Byram**, Laurel***, Gulfport****
2. Coahoma Community College, Clarksdale
3. Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson, Natchez, Mendenhall
4. East Central Community College, Decatur
5. East Mississippi Community College, Mayhew, Scooba, Columbus, West Point
6. Empire Truck Sales, LLC, Jackson++, Meridian, Columbus, Brookhaven, Hattiesburg, Biloxi++
7. Eutaw Construction Company, Inc., Petal, Aberdeen, Madison
8. Hinds Community College, Raymond, Jackson++, Richland++, Pearl, Vicksburg, Utica
9. Holmes Community College, Goodman, Ridgeland, Grenada, Kosciusko, Yazoo City
10. Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula
11. Itawamba Community College, Belden, Fulton, Tupelo
12. Jones College, Ellisville, Leakesville, Stonewall, Bay Springs, Waynesboro
13. KLLM Transport Services, Jackson
14. Meridian Community College, Meridian++
15. Mississippi Construction Education Foundation, Pearl, Gulfport
16. Mississippi Delta Community College, Moorhead, Greenville, Indianola, Greenwood
17. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Perkinston, Gulfport++, Gautier, Biloxi++, Lucedale, Pascagoula, Long Beach
18. Northeast Mississippi Community College, Booneville, Iuka
19. Northwest Mississippi Community College, Senatobia, Southaven, Olive Branch, Oxford, Ashland
20. Pearl River Community College, Poplarville, Hattiesburg, Waveland
21. Southeastern Construction, Hattiesburg, Ocean Springs
22. Southwest Mississippi Community College, Summit
23. Stribling Equipment, LLC, Jackson, Natchez, Greenwood, Meridian, Columbus, Brookhaven, Hattiesburg, Biloxi, Philadelphia, Tupelo
24. Toyota Mississippi, Blue Springs
25. University of Mississippi, Oxford

COMPANIES HIRING

A. ABB, Columbus
B. CenterPoint Energy, Oxford*, Byram**, Laurel***, Gulfport****
C. Chevron Pascagoula Refinery, Pascagoula, Collins, Picayune
D. Empire Truck Sales, LLC, Jackson, Meridian, Columbus, Brookhaven, Hattiesburg, Biloxi
E. Eutaw Construction Company, Inc., Madison, Petal, Aberdeen
F. Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula
G. KLLM Transport Services, Jackson
H. Milwaukee Electric Tool, Greenwood, Jackson, Olive Branch
I. Mississippi Power, Moss Point, Gulfport, De Kalb
J. Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc., Flowood
K. PACCAR Engine Plant, Columbus
L. Puckett Machinery Company, Biloxi, Brookhaven, Flowood, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Madison, Meridian, Natchez, Richland
M. Southeastern Construction, Hattiesburg, Ocean Springs
N. Stribling Equipment, LLC, Jackson, Natchez, Greenwood, Meridian, Columbus, Brookhaven, Hattiesburg, Biloxi, Philadelphia, Tupelo
O. Sudden Service, Louisville
P. Taylor Machine Works, Louisville
Q. Taylor Power Systems, Clinton
R. Toyota Mississippi, Blue Springs
S. VT Halter Marine, Inc., Pascagoula

ALSO HIRING!

ENTERGY MISSISSIPPI is hiring throughout portions of western Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI POWER is hiring throughout portions of eastern Mississippi.

*This office serves Oxford, Water Valley, Sardis and portions of the Mississippi Delta

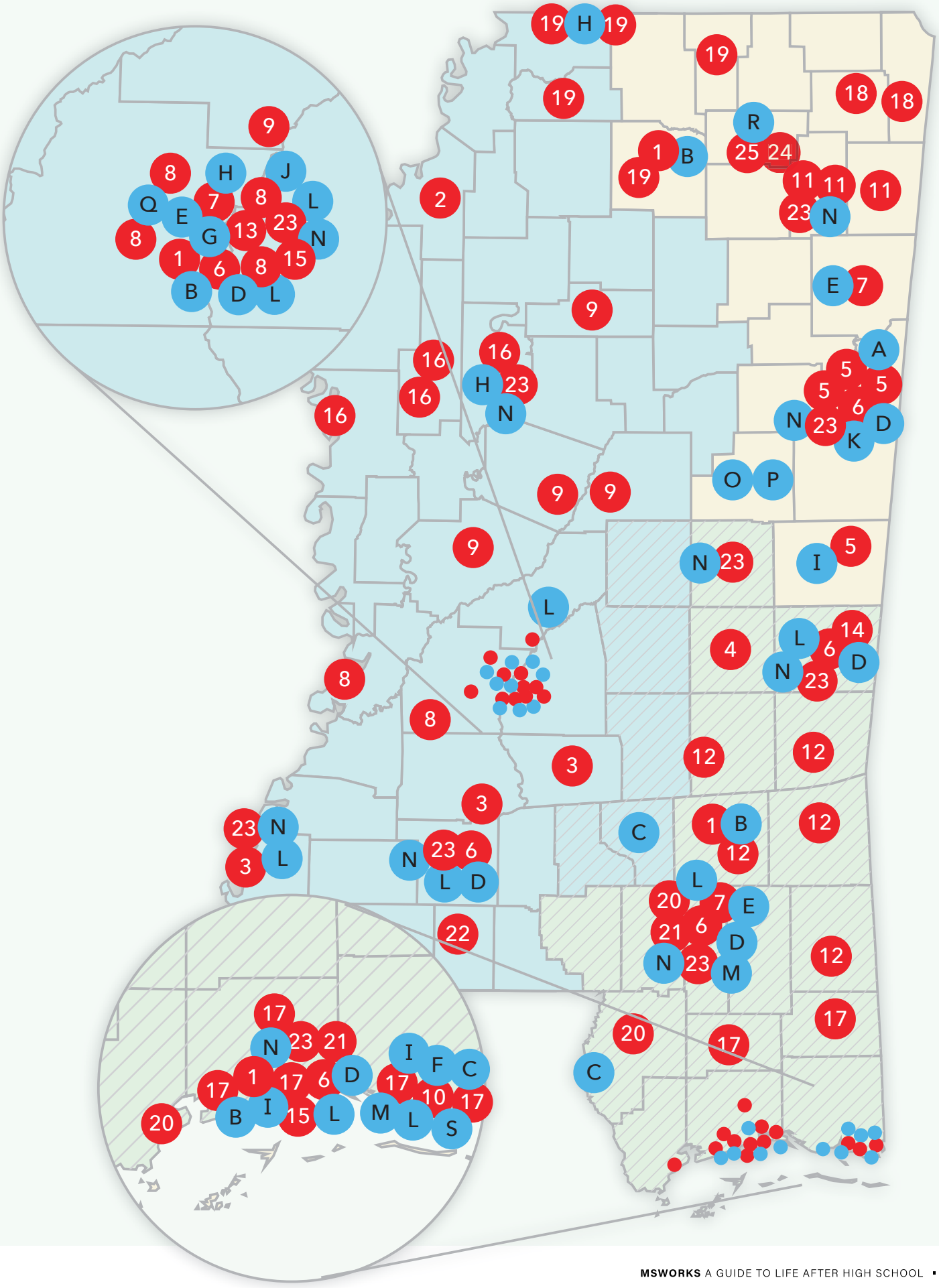
**This office serves Ridgeland, Brandon, Byram, Brookhaven, Summit, Magnolia, McComb, Hazlehurst and Madison

***This office serves Laurel, Columbia, Philadelphia, Forest, Poplarville, Taylorsville, Pelahatchie, Ellisville, Lumberton and Collins

****This office serves Biloxi, Gulfport, Pass Christian, Ocean Springs, Wiggins, Pascagoula and D'Iberville

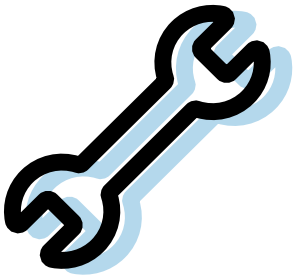
++More than one campus in this city

Editor's Note: This is not a comprehensive list of places to work in Mississippi. Companies and schools listed are advertising partners with MS Works. Many of these community colleges have extension sites in surrounding counties; please visit each school's website for more information.


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QUIZ

WHICH TECHNICAL PROFESSION IS RIGHT FOR YOU?







1 ON A TYPICAL SATURDAY, YOU CAN BE FOUND...

A. cruising around and taking care of your car.

B. scouting and testing out the latest tech gadgets at Best Buy.

C. tinkering with tools and gear in the garage.

D. volunteering with Habitat for Humanity or binge watching HGTV.

E. helping mom move a couch, fix the sink, run the grill, set up a new TV/ internet service – you seem to be able to figure anything out!

F. babysitting for side money.

2 AFTER GRADUATION, YOU'RE CONSIDERING...

A. getting a job as soon as possible; on-the-job training.

B. doing a job shadow to really experience a field.

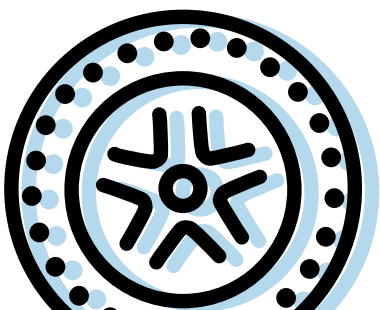
C. a gap year; traveling; a little freedom.

D. an apprenticeship.

E. the least amount of college you can do, while still getting a degree.

F. earning a certificate; you want to perfect a certain skill.





3 YOUR GO-TO TV SHOWS ARE...

A. how-to videos on YouTube.
B. "Fixer Upper" and "Property Brothers."
C. "MythBusters" and "Deadliest Catch."
D. all 16 seasons of "Grey's Anatomy."
E. "Stranger Things" and "Black Mirror."
F. "Top Gear" and "Fast 'N' Loud."

4 YOU THINK IT WOULD BE COOL TO...

A. observe a surgery.
B. know how to build and restore cars.
C. have the latest and greatest technology before everyone else.
D. volunteer with a disaster relief group during a crisis.
E. build skyscrapers and hospitals.
F . road trip across country.

5 LET'S SAY YOU GO THE FOUR-YEAR ROUTE, WHICH MAJOR WOULD YOU MOST LIKELY PICK...

A. logistics or supply chain management.
B. architecture or graphic design.
C. cybersecurity or software engineering.
D. business or agribusiness.
E. pre-med.
F. civil or mechanical engineering.

RESULTS

Find Your Number
Circle the letter you chose for each question to reveal its number. Which number did you get the most?

1. A. 5, B. 4, C. 3, D. 2, E. 1, F. 6
2. A. 3, B. 6, C. 5, D. 1, E. 4, F. 2
3. A. 3, B. 2, C. 1, D. 6, E. 4, F. 5
4. A. 6, B. 3, C. 4, D. 1, E. 2, F. 5
5. A. 5, B. 2, C. 4, D. 3, E. 6, F. 1

WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER

MOSTLY 1s
You enjoy solving problems and saving the day. Guess what? There are several skilled trades that allow you to showcase that talent and get paid (very well) while doing so!

JOBS PERFECT FOR YOU
and where to learn more!
- Lineman – PAGE 62
- Electrical Engineering Technician – PAGE 64
- Operator – PAGE 65
- Agriculture Equipment Operator – PAGE 50
- Industrial Machinery Mechanic – PAGE 42

MOSTLY 2s
You have a passion for building things. It may have started when you got your first Legos or after a weekend marathon of "Property Brothers," either way, your curiosity for building things lead to a high-paying career in skilled trades.

JOBS PERFECT FOR YOU
and where to learn more!
- Construction Careers – PAGES 72 & 73
- Welder – PAGE 46
- Electrical Engineering Technician – PAGE 64
- Automotive Service Technician – PAGE 59

MOSTLY 3s
You know your way around a toolbox. You're handy and can fix things on your own. On-the-job training, an apprenticeship or a certificate – these training options are all you'll need to get a job right after high school.

JOBS PERFECT FOR YOU
and where to learn more!
- Diesel Technician – PAGE 58
- Electrician – PAGE 66
- Rigger – PAGE 44
- Automotive Service Technician – PAGE 59
- Welder – PAGE 46
- Machinist – PAGE 40

MOSTLY 4s
You're a techie with a knack for mastering the latest gear and gadgets before everyone else. From Macs and PCs to Wi-Fi and drones, you understand it all. Mississippi companies are clamoring for pros like you!

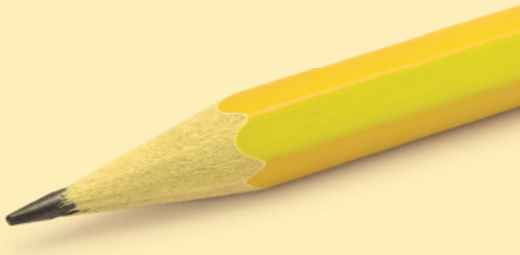
JOBS PERFECT FOR YOU
and where to learn more!
- Computer Programmer/Coder – PAGE 82
- IT Careers – PAGE 83
- Electrical Engineering Technician – PAGE 64
- Operator – PAGE 65

MOSTLY 5s
You crave freedom. You love the open road and being your own boss sounds great, but four-year college is out of the question. Transportation-related jobs are a great fit for you, and local companies have jobs to fill.

JOBS PERFECT FOR YOU
and where to learn more!
- Commercial Truck Driver – PAGE 56
- Diesel Technician – PAGE 58
- Automotive Service Technician – PAGE 59
- Lineman – PAGE 62

MOSTLY 6s
Your fascination with how the human body works and how it can heal should be put to good use. Mississippi hospitals and health care providers are in need of skilled professionals with your interests. A little training and you'll be ready!

JOBS PERFECT FOR YOU
and where to learn more!
- Nursing – PAGES 78 & 79
- X-ray Technician – PAGE 76
- Health Tech Careers – PAGE 77
- Emergency Medical Services – PAGE 79




MACHINIST
Clay Upchurch


INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY MECHANIC
Clay Kowalczyk

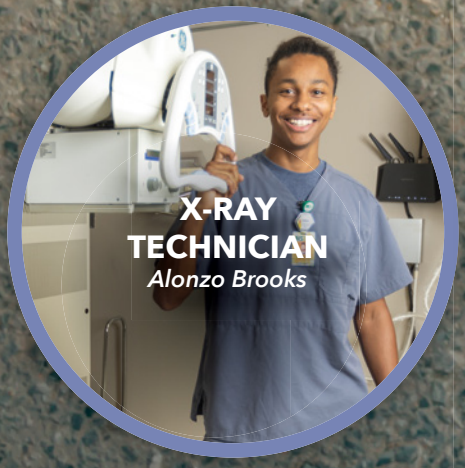

RIGGER
Melvan Taylor

THE NEW PATH


DIESEL TECHNICIAN
Malik Smith


AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNICIAN
Alonso Hernandez


LINEMAN
Zac White


X-RAY TECHNICIAN
Alonzo Brooks


REGISTERED NURSE
Erin Rawson


COMPUTER PROGRAMMER/CODER
Martin Guzman







TO SUCCESS »







MSWORKS

15 young pros reveal why you should consider Mississippi's technical professions.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACOB SLATON

COOL THINGS MADE IN MISSISSIPPI



Agriculture is a significant part of Mississippi's economy, but the state is also a leader in manufacturing and innovation. From building a majority of the U.S. Navy's warships to producing cars, rockets and jet fuel, Mississippi contributes to important parts of the American economy.

NAVY WARSHIPS

Company: Ingalls Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls
Location: Pascagoula

Ingalls Shipbuilding builds 70% of the warships in the U.S. Navy, including destroyers and amphibious assault ships.

SHIPS

Company: VT Halter Marine, Inc.
Location: Pascagoula

VT Halter Marine builds ships, often for the Army.

TRANSFORMERS

Company: Howard Industries
Location: Laurel

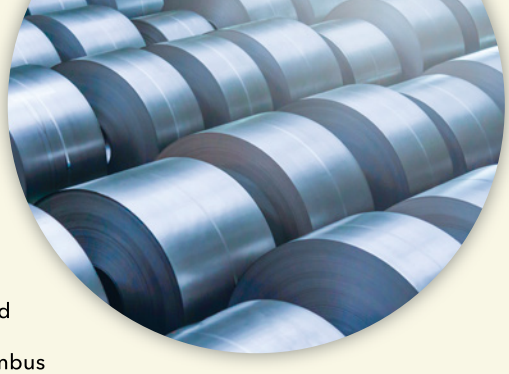
Transformers made in Mississippi are used in all kinds of commercial buildings as well as chemical plants and manufacturing facilities.

CARS AND TRUCKS

Company: Nissan and Toyota
Locations: Canton and Blue Springs

The Nissan manufacturing plant in Canton has produced over 4 million cars and trucks in the past 16 years. Toyota's Blue Springs facility is able to produce up to 150,000 cars and trucks annually.

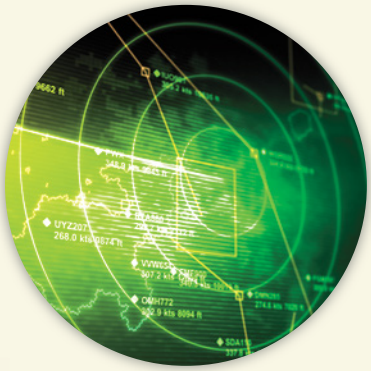




STEEL

Company: Steel Dynamics Inc. and Nucor Steel
Locations: Columbus and Flowood

The Steel Dynamics Columbus mill can produce up to 3.4 million tons of steel per year, and Nucor Steel manufactures steel and steel products including pipes and tubes.



RADAR SYSTEMS

Company: Raytheon Space & Airborne System
Location: Forest

Raytheon is building a radar production facility that is projected to finish construction in 2020.



CRANKSHAFTS

Company: FEUER Powertrain North America Inc.
Location: Robinsonville

The crankshafts contribute to vehicles and agricultural machinery.

SPACECRAFT TESTING

Company: Stennis Space Center
Location: Hancock County

The Stennis Space Center was the test site for rockets and engines that contributed to the space program.

TITANIUM DIOXIDE

Company: Tronox
Location: Hamilton

Titanium dioxide is a frequent ingredient in paints and plastics for its white color.

GASOLINE, DIESEL AND JET FUEL

Company: Chevron
Location: Pascagoula

The refinery in Pascagoula produces approximately 6.45 million gallons of gas on a daily basis.

TIRES

Company: Cooper Tire, Yokohama Tire and Continental Tire
Locations: Tupelo, West Point and Bolton

Tire manufacturing is popular in Mississippi. The Continental location is projected to open in late 2019.









CHICKEN

Company: Sanderson Farms
Location: Laurel

Sanderson Farms started as a supply store in 1947 but is now the third largest poultry producer in the country. As a whole, the company produces 10.6 million chickens per week.



MEDICATION

Company: Natureplex, LLC
Location: Olive Branch

The pharmaceutical company produces skin care and moisturizing cream as well as other antibiotic and cosmetic products.

WINE

Company: Old South Winery
Location: Natchez

Old South Winery makes nine different types of muscadine wine as well as one blueberry wine.

SAUSAGE AND HAM

Company: Polk's Meat Products
Location: Magee

The sausage and ham made in Magee come in original flavors as well as cajun and hickory.



AIR COMPRESSORS

Company: Wood Industries
Location: Belmont

Wood Industries manufactures a variety of air compressors, and the company just released a Silent Series that won awards.



TOOLS

Company: Milwaukee Tool
Locations: Greenwood, Jackson, and Olive Branch

The three locations produce power tools and accompanying accessories.

CLEANING PRODUCTS

Company: Taylor Industries
Location: Madison

Taylor Industries provides cleaning products for industrial and individual settings.

FURNITURE

Company: Ashley Furniture
Locations: Ecru, Ripley and Verona

In 2016, Ashley Furniture shifted their manufacturing from California to three plants in Mississippi.







VIKING APPLIANCES

Company: Viking Range
Location: Greenwood

A kitchen's refrigerator, dishwasher and gas range can all come from Greenwood.

ENGINES

Company: PACCAR Engine Plant
Location: Columbus

PACCAR builds advanced diesel engines for trucks.





MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Company: Peavey Electronics Corporation
Location: Meridian

Instruments, speakers and amplifiers are just some of the musical tech that comes out of Meridian.

HunterDouglas

WINDOW BLINDS

Company: Hunter Douglas Metals/Distribution
Location: Shannon

Window blinds are made in Lee County, along with shutters and shades.

Sources: Mississippi Development Authority, Ingalls Shipbuilding, VT Halter Marine, Inc., Howard Industries, Nissan Group of North America, Toyota Mississippi, Steel Dynamics, Nucor Steel, Chevron Pascagoula Refinery, FEUER powertrain North America, Tronox Holdings, Titanium Dioxide Manufacturers Association, Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, Yokohama Tire Manufacturing, NASA, Old South Winery, Mississippi State University, Polk's Meat Products, Sanderson Farms, Wood Industries Incorporated, Viking Range, Natureplex, Taylor Industries, PACCAR Engine Plant, *Clarion Ledger*, Peavey Electronics Corporation and Hunter Douglas Group

Agri Exports

About **35,800 farms** participate in Mississippi's largest industry. Almost a third of the workforce contributes to the diverse field.

TOP 10 AGRICULTURAL CROPS IN MISSISSIPPI

1. Poultry/Eggs
2. Forestry
3. Soybeans
4. Cotton
5. Corn
6. Cattle/Calves
7. Catfish
8. Sweet Potatoes
9. Rice
10. Hay

Source: Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce



BARQ'S ROOT BEER AND PINE-SOL

Barq's Root Beer started out in Biloxi in 1871 and stayed there for the next century. The company moved to New Orleans in the 1970s and then to Atlanta in the 1990s, but the unique soda grew its roots in Mississippi.

Pine-Sol was invented and manufactured in Mississippi, but the production moved to Atlanta in 2009.

Sources: The Coca-Cola Company and Advantage Business Marketing



MACHINIST

CLAY UPCHURCH

Hometown: Bailey / **Age:** 20
High school: West Lauderdale High School
Training: Meridian Community College
Degree: A two-year certificate in Precision Machining Engineering Technology
Employer: Eaton Aerospace in Jackson
Title: CNC Machinist



Clay Upchurch decided to follow in his father Thomas Upchurch's footsteps to become a CNC machinist. While Clay was still in high school, his dad talked to Brian Warren, the instructor of the program at Meridian Community College. Clay was hooked. He's attended two SkillsUSA competitions where he earned the title of two-time SkillsUSA state champion for the state of Mississippi – making him the first CNC technician state champion. Clay went on to represent Mississippi at SkillsUSA Nationals in 2018 and 2019, where he earned a silver medal. For any students considering a career as a machinist or CNC operator, Clay recommends learning from Brian Warren at the Meridian Community College program. "He works with students one-on-one, opens shop up at night for practice and really goes above and beyond," Clay says. "I would not have the job I have today if not for him."

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You want to learn something new every day.
- You're a perfectionist.
- You want to create useful things.
- You like following step-by-step instructions.
- You like to see instant results.

WHAT DO MACHINISTS AND CNC OPERATORS DO?

CNC operators use computer-programmed machines to manufacture precision parts for a variety of different products. The machines drill, cut and shape the raw materials into metal and plastic parts. Machinists use raw materials to make their own parts and tools. They operate machines, and the parts and tools they create eventually go toward building larger things.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Operate different kinds of machinery.
- Understand blueprints and computer-aided design (CAD) files.
- Examine completed parts to make sure they meet standards.
- Monitor various machines.
- Calibrate the settings of machines for temperature, speed and cycle times.
- Record production numbers.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

2,230 current employment
443 average annual job demand

The training programs and employers listed on each profile page include MS Works partners that we recommend you check out first!

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$60,820

$41,730 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI

$20.07 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

Coahoma Community College
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
East Central Community College
East Mississippi Community College
Empire Truck Sales, LLC
Hinds Community College
Holmes Community College
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Itawamba Community College
Jones College
Meridian Community College
Mississippi Construction Education Foundation
Mississippi Delta Community College
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Pearl River Community College
Stribling Equipment, LLC
Toyota Mississippi

READY TO HIRE YOU

ABB
Chevron Pascagoula Refinery
Empire Truck Sales, LLC
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Milwaukee Electric Tool
Mississippi Power
Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
PACCAR Engine Plant
Puckett Machinery Company
Stribling Equipment, LLC
Sudden Service
Taylor Machine Works
Toyota Mississippi
VT Halter Marine, Inc.



"It's only been two years since I graduated from high school, but I can say that I'm finished with college, and most of my friends still have two years to go. I'm making a decent salary, and I finished without having to take out any student loans."

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

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INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY MECHANIC



CLAY KOWALCZYK

Hometown: Booneville / **Age:** 27
High school: East Union Attendance Center
Training: Advanced Manufacturing Technician Program
Degree: Associate degree in Industrial Maintenance from Itawamba Community College in Fulton
Employer: Toyota Mississippi in Blue Springs
Title: Skilled Maintenance Team Member

All it took was a billboard to get Clay Kowalczyk thinking about a career in the automotive industry. He was driving down the highway one day when he saw a billboard advertising the Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program – a partnership between Toyota Mississippi and Itawamba Community College that lets students pursue an associate degree in industrial maintenance while working at Toyota Mississippi three days per week in a paid internship. Clay landed a full-time position at Toyota as soon as he finished the AMT program. "I graduated with minimal debt and went straight to work in a field that is in desperate need of people," Clay says. "I was fortunate that I didn't have to look for work as jobs were lined up for me upon graduating." He says he gets to use his mind and abilities to solve issues each day. "It can be challenging, but that's part of the fun. I also know that if I do need help, I have an entire team of technicians that will support me."

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You enjoy using hand and power tools.
- You like an active work environment.
- Your hand-eye coordination is on point.
- You have good communication skills.

WHAT DOES AN INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY MECHANIC DO WITHIN THE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE FIELD?

Industrial machinery mechanics and machinery maintenance workers keep machines in working order by detecting and correcting errors before the machine or product has been damaged. Industrial machinery mechanics have to know their machines inside and out and be able to detect slight changes in order to identify problems. Examples of machines they may work with are robotic welding arms, automobile assembly line conveyor belts and hydraulic lifts.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Disassemble machinery and equipment when there is a problem.
- Read technical manuals to understand equipment and controls.
- Repair or replace broken or malfunctioning components.
- Perform tests and run initial batches to make sure that the machine is running smoothly.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

5,080 current employment
296 average annual job demand



"I graduated with minimal debt and went straight to work in a field that is in desperate need of people. I was fortunate that I didn't have to look for work as jobs were lined up for me upon graduating."

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$79,070

$49,630 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI
$23.86 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

Coahoma Community College
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
East Central Community College
East Mississippi Community College
Hinds Community College
Holmes Community College
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Itawamba Community College
Jones College
Meridian Community College
Mississippi Construction Education Foundation
Mississippi Delta Community College
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Toyota Mississippi

READY TO HIRE YOU

ABB
Chevron Pascagoula Refinery
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Mississippi Power
Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
PACCAR Engine Plant
Toyota Mississippi
VT Halter Marine, Inc.

> To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**



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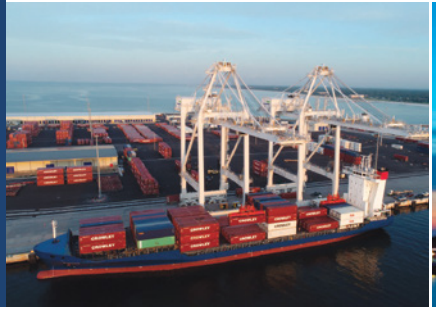
PORT OF GULFPORT MISSISSIPPI

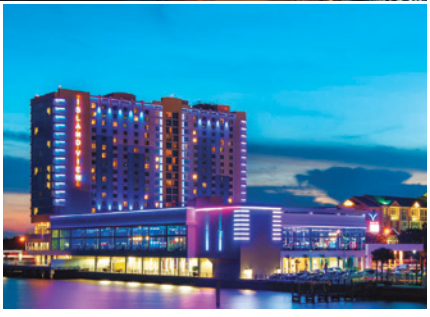
COMMITTED TO A DYNAMIC AND DIVERSE WATERFRONT

THE PORT OF GULFPORT HAS ALL THE ELEMENTS TO MAKE IT A NATIONAL LEADER IN WATERBORNE COMMERCE AND AN ECONOMIC DRIVER FOR MISSISSIPPI, CREATING GOOD JOBS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST.

VISIT WWW.SHIPMSPA.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.







RIGGER



MELVAN TAYLOR

Hometown: Vancleave / **Age:** 20
High school: Vancleave High School
Training: Ingalls Shipbuilder Academy & Ingalls Rigger Apprentice School
Degree: During his senior year of high school, Melvan took the Ingalls Shipbuilder Academy class where he received credentials in nine tradecraft skills and college credit. He is now pursuing a U.S. Department of Labor Certificate of Completion through the Ingalls Rigger Apprentice School to become a Journeyman First Class Rigger.
Employer: Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula
Title: Rigger Apprentice

Melvan Taylor grew up surrounded by the rigging industry. His grandfather works at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, and Melvan decided to follow in his footsteps. After completing the Ingalls Shipbuilder Academy, Melvan was more aware of the maritime industry and what types of jobs that were open to him at Ingalls. He's now in his second year of the four-year Ingalls Rigger Apprentice Program. "Once I complete my rigger apprentice program, I have the opportunity to enter into management and work my way into leadership or become an instructor for training."

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You're good at noticing problems.
- You enjoy working with your hands.
- You have a knack for visualizing how something will look after it's moved or changed.

WHAT DOES A RIGGER DO?

Riggers set up or repair rigging for construction projects, manufacturing plants, logging yards, ships and shipyards and more. Riggers use ropes and pulleys to move heavy objects and sub in for machines in tight spaces. Riggers use cranes with heavy chains, cables and straps.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Coordinate installations or repairs.
- Test mechanical systems to ensure proper functioning.
- Attach rigging to objects so they can be moved.
- Determine types of equipment, tools or materials needed for jobs.
- Operate cranes, hoists or other moving or lifting equipment.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

380 current employment
60 average annual job demand



"The thing that would surprise people about my job is the fact that I get to build the best ships in the Navy right here in Pascagoula. I get to say daily, 'I had a part in protecting my country.'"

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$60,930

$44,900 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI
$21.59 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

CenterPoint Energy
East Mississippi Community College
Hinds Community College
Holmes Community College
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Jones College
Mississippi Construction Education Foundation
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Southeastern Construction

READY TO HIRE YOU

CenterPoint Energy
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
Southeastern Construction
VT Halter Marine, Inc.

> To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019



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WELDER



TYLER MALONE

Hometown: Hurley / **Age:** 24
High school: East Central High School
Training: On-the-job welding and grinding training at VT Halter Marine
Degree: Welding certificates
Employer: VT Halter Marine in Pascagoula
Title: Welder A

Tyler Malone became acquainted with the world of welding through his dad and grandpa. Tyler's dad helped him apply for his job at VT Halter Marine and helped him with his on-the-job training. He began as an entry-level welder and worked his way up to become a first-class structural welder. Tyler says one of the perks of his career is that welding is a way to make good money without any student debt. "You have to be dedicated to learning to be good," he says. "You have to be prepared for a lot of hard work and a lot of heat. Welding is not an easy job, but if you stick with it, you can make a good living."

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You are creative or artistic.
- You like a challenge in your work.
- At the end of the day, you want to think "I've helped build that!"

WHAT DOES A WELDER DO?

Welders fuse and cut metal materials. They can work in several industries, so welders might build structures or repair existing infrastructure. Arc welding, the most common type of welding today, uses electrical currents to create heat and bond metals together – but, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are more than 100 different processes that a welder can use.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Utilize welding machines to cut or fuse metals such as aluminum or steel.
- Understand blueprints and calculate dimensions and specifications for the welds.
- Safely clean, set up and maintain the equipment.
- Supervise the process to prevent overheating.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

5,770 current employment
1,895 average annual job demand



"Welding isn't something you can just jump into and be good at. You have to work hard and put in many hours of practice to develop the skills that are necessary."

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$61,580

$44,350 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI

$21.32 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

CenterPoint Energy
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
East Central Community College
East Mississippi Community College
Hinds Community College
Holmes Community College
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Itawamba Community College
Jones College
Meridian Community College
Mississippi Construction Education Foundation
Mississippi Delta Community College
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Pearl River Community College
Southeastern Construction
Southwest Mississippi Community College
Toyota Mississippi

READY TO HIRE YOU

CenterPoint Energy
Chevron Pascagoula Refinery
Eutaw Construction Company, Inc.
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Milwaukee Electric Tool
Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
Puckett Machinery Company
Southeastern Construction
Sudden Service
Taylor Machine Works
Toyota Mississippi
VT Halter Marine, Inc.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

> To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

WHY APPRENTICESHIPS ARE AWESOME

Mississippi happens to have some of the best programs in the country

With a growing economy and tons of perks, Mississippi is a great place to live and work, but one of the major ways the state stands out is through apprenticeships. An article published on CNBC.com in July 2019 identified Mississippi as a leader in apprenticeships for a program offered by Huntington Ingalls International, which is known for building most of the U.S. Navy's warships. The on-the-job training benefits many people, but the Huntington Ingalls program is one of several great apprenticeships in Mississippi.

Apprenticeships offer skills and experiences that benefit participants for years to come. Anyone who wants to learn a new skill while getting paid should try out an apprenticeship, according to Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board. After the apprenticeship ends, participants can often keep their jobs at a higher rate of pay.

Some other benefits of apprenticeships include career advancement opportunities, industry-recognized credentials and opportunities to earn college credit. For employers, apprenticeship programs provide customized training, increased productivity and a stable source of qualified workers.

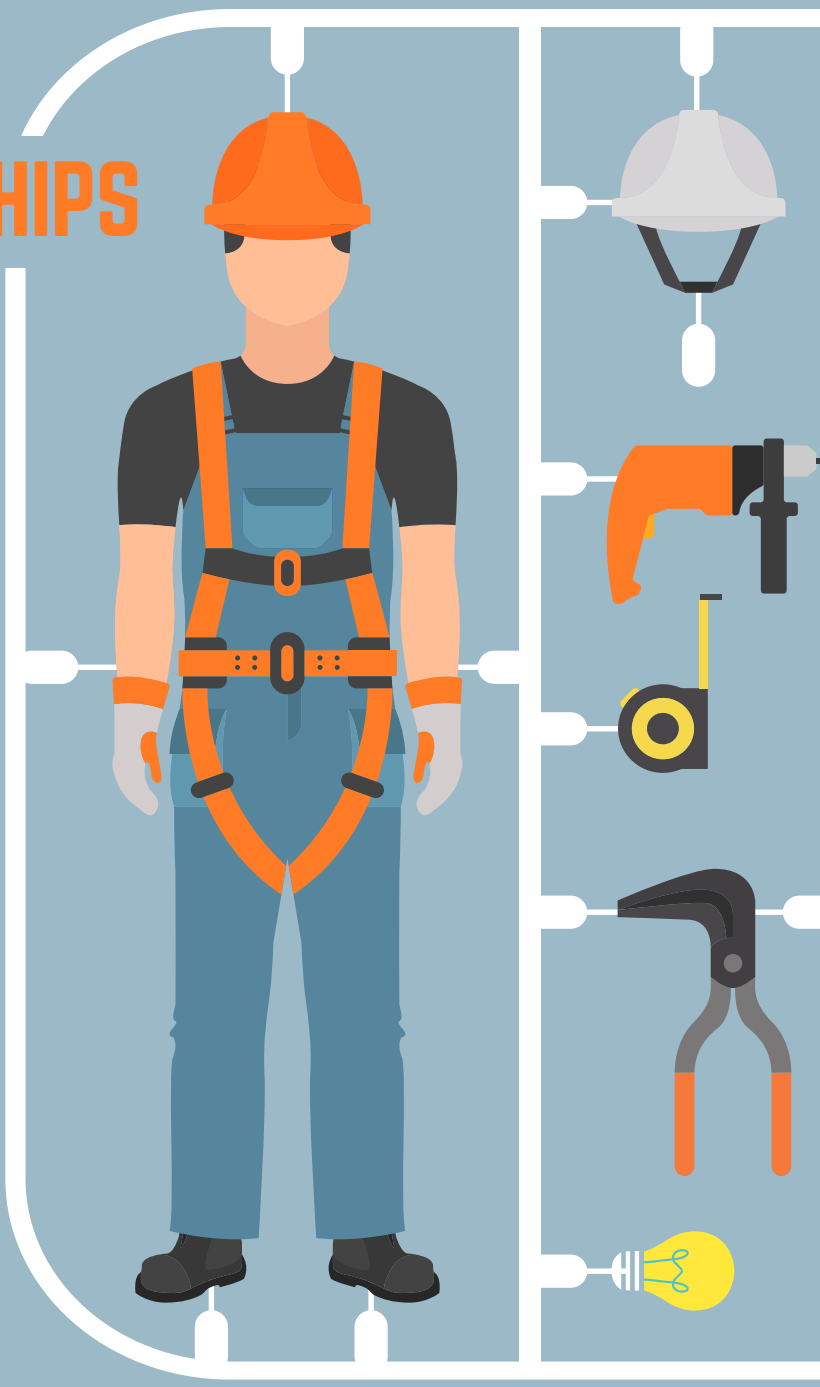
"Apprenticeship is a viable solution and a proven workforce strategy in helping companies build their skilled workforce through a combination of customized and rigorous on-the-job training and related classroom instruction," Dr. Mayfield says. "Mississippi continues to expand in drawing in major companies that have transformed the workforce and economic development in our state."

"As apprenticeships grow and expand, we are excited about moving into industry sectors such as information technology (including cybersecurity), health care and banking and finance," Dr. Mayfield says.

Common Fields to Find Apprenticeships

- Manufacturing
- Automotive Maintenance
- Construction
- Energy
- Technology
- Transportation

Search for apprenticeship openings: mdes.ms.gov



Some Apprenticeship Programs Offered in the Mississippi Partnership

- Careers in Advanced Manufacturing & Technology (CAMT) Program at Itawamba Community College
- Tiger Apprenticeship Program at Northeast Mississippi Community College
- Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) at Northwest Mississippi Community College

AGRICULTURE WORKS













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Mississippi's largest industry,

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29%

of the state's workforce.

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MISSISSIPPI WORKS IN...

AGRIBUSINESS

$7.2 BILLION

THE IMPACT MISSISSIPPI'S TOP INDUSTRY HAS ON THE STATE ECONOMY.

Source: mississippi.org

AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR



ZACK IVY

Hometown: Shannon / **Age:** 25
High school: Mooreville High School
Training: Itawamba Community College
Degree: Associate of Applied Sciences
Employer: Mississippi State University in Starkville
Title: Engineering Technician

After growing up on a farm, Zack Ivy decided to pursue a career in agriculture. He completed his associate degree from Itawamba Community College while working full-time for Mississippi State University's Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Experiment Station in Verona. There, his research centered around some of Mississippi's most important crops like corn, soybeans, cotton, peanuts, rice, wheat and oats. Recently, Zack was promoted from a research technician to an engineering technician based on his mastery of GPS software and skill in row crop production.

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You enjoy being outside.
- You have a green thumb.
- You don't mind getting dirty.
- You like working with machines.

WHAT DOES AN AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR DO?

Agriculture equipment operators drive and control farm equipment to till soil and to plant, cultivate and harvest crops. They also perform tasks, such as crop baling or hay bucking. May operate stationary equipment to perform post-harvest tasks, such as husking, shelling, threshing and ginning.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Load and unload crops or containers of materials.
- Operate farm equipment and maintain agricultural production areas to conform to scientific testing parameters.
- Spray fertilizer or pesticide solutions to control insects, fungus and weed growth.
- Mix specified materials or chemicals, and dump solutions, powders, or seeds into planter or sprayer machinery.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

240 current employment
291 average annual job demand

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$73,890

$37,410 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI
$17.98 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

East Mississippi Community College
Empire Truck Sales, LLC
Hinds Community College
Itawamba Community College
Mississippi Delta Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Stribling Equipment, LLC

READY TO HIRE YOU

Empire Truck Sales, LLC
Stribling Equipment, LLC



"The thing I love about my job is that it's the best of both worlds. I get to operate the equipment, but I also get to work on the farm."

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

› To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**



A CLOSER LOOK

THE AGRICULTURE BUSINESS

There's a lot more to this field than farming. Discover the many agriculture careers available in Mississippi.

#1
AGRICULTURE IS MISSISSIPPI'S NUMBER ONE INDUSTRY.

29% THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY EMPLOYS APPROXIMATELY 29% OF THE STATE'S WORKFORCE EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

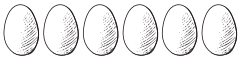
$7.2 BILLION
AGRICULTURE IN MISSISSIPPI IS A MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR INDUSTRY.

299 ACRES
THE AVERAGE SIZE FARM IN MISSISSIPPI.





35,380
THE APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF FARMS ACROSS THE STATE.



Mississippi-based Cal-Maine Foods is **the largest producer of eggs in the U.S.**

They produced **MORE THAN 1 MILLION EGGS** in 2018

which accounted for **19% of U.S. egg consumption.**

5.40 million hundredweight of sweet potatoes were produced in 2018.



1,480,000 bales of cotton were produced in 2018.

116,600,000 bushels of soybeans were produced in 2018.

1.18 million tons of hay were produced in 2018.

96 million pounds of peanuts were produced in 2018.

Source: Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce

MORE CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

● AGRIBUSINESS ● ANIMAL SYSTEMS ● PLANT SYSTEMS

AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORS



Agricultural Inspectors are in charge of making sure that farms, processing facilities and fish and logging operations are in compliance with regulations and laws that govern health, quality and safety.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$18.95**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$39,410**

Education: Agricultural Inspectors require a high school diploma or GED at minimum. Many positions prefer an associate degree in biology, animal science, agricultural science or other related field.

FARM BUSINESS MANAGERS



Farm business managers analyze, report and give advice for a company or farm's financial well-being. They conduct detailed record-keeping and oversee management accounts, company budgeting and accounting tasks.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$23.73**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$49,350**

Education: As farm and land management has grown more complex and costly, farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers have increasingly needed postsecondary education, such as an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in agriculture or a related field. There are also certificates you can pursue such as the Accredited Farm Manager (AFM) credential.

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN



Veterinary Technicians are responsible for the well-being of animals. They work hand-in-hand with veterinarians providing the essential medical procedures to ensure that animals are healthy.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$17.34**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$36,060**

Education: Veterinary Technician jobs require an associate degree in veterinary technology or animal science. Research-based positions may require a bachelor's degree.

POULTRY FARM WORKER



A poultry farm employee assists in daily operations on the farm. This includes checking birds, collecting eggs and feeding.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$17.25**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$35,870**

Education: Typically, a high school diploma is required. Although it is not always required, an associate degree in animal science or animal husbandry is recommended.

PESTICIDE HANDLERS, SPRAYERS AND APPLICATORS



People in this field maintain and operate pesticide equipment that is used to fertilize fields.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN THE US **$13.92**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN THE US **$28,950**

Education: An associate degree is not required but would increase the chance of scoring a job in this field.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; careeronestop.org; environmentalscience.org; agcareers.com

LEARN MORE >

To explore training opportunities across Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM.**

HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIESEL TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY



BUILD YOUR FUTURE AS A DIESEL TECHNICIAN

DIESEL ENGINES POWER THE TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT THAT IMPACT YOUR LIFE EVERY DAY.

The Diesel Technology Academy prepares individuals to be highly skilled technicians employed in the field by providing classroom instruction and hands-on experience using equipment comparable to that found in industry.



At Hinds Community College you will have:

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- Small Classes
- Latest Training Aids
- Credentials
- Internships/Apprenticeships
- Financial Aid Available





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YOU ARE TO A DEGREE

Get the Training and Experience
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HINDS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

601-857-3478 | **Laurie George,** Navigator
www.striblingequipment.com/careers/hinds-diesel-technology-academy

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MISSISSIPPI WORKS IN...

TRANSPORTATION

8TH
THE STATE'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK was ranked the eighth best in the nation.

+

More than 200 automotive-related manufacturers employ more than 20,000 skilled workers.

Source: mississippi.org



COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVER



JERRY CHANDLER

Hometown: Inverness / **Age:** 23
High school: Gentry High School
Training: KLLM Driving Academy at Hinds Community College
Degree: Technical certificate in Commercial Truck Driving
Employer: KLLM Transport Services
Title: Commercial Truck Driver

On any given week, you might find Jerry Chandler trekking across the country for his job as a commercial truck driver. He says that when he was in high school, he'd always wanted to drive an 18-wheeler, so he decided to go for it. After completing the KLLM Driving Academy at Hinds Community College, Jerry began his career as a truck driver where he spends his days on the open road traveling to places like South Carolina, Texas and California. Jerry hopes to one day buy his own truck that he'll pay off and then lease to his company.

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You like to travel or have always wanted to see the country.
- You enjoy your independence and working alone.
- You're good under pressure.

WHAT DO COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVERS DO?

Commercial truck drivers operate heavy and tractor-trailer trucks to transport products all across the country. They haul long distances, often across state lines, to deliver their products.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Transport products across long distances.
- Communicate with a dispatcher about incidents on the road.
- Clean, maintain and inspect the truck.
- Check for mechanical issues and report any problems.
- Keep a log of working hours.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

22,710 current employment
8,174 average annual job demand



"I like going places I've never been before and seeing things I've never seen before. Driving is a great thing."

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$62,620

$41,900 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI
$20.15 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

Copiah-Lincoln Community College
East Central Community College
East Mississippi Community College
Empire Truck Sales, LLC
Hinds Community College
Holmes Community College
Itawamba Community College
Jones College
KLLM Transport Services
Meridian Community College
Mississippi Construction Education Foundation
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Pearl River Community College
Southeastern Construction
Southwest Mississippi Community College
Stribling Equipment, LLC

READY TO HIRE YOU

Empire Truck Sales, LLC
Eutaw Construction Company, Inc.
KLLM Transport Services
Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
Puckett Machinery Company
Southeastern Construction
Stribling Equipment, LLC

> To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

KLLMDRIVINGACADEMY.COM
1-855-780-8006

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KLLM DRIVING ACADEMY, INC.







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- Incentive Bonus
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- Paid Class-A Driver's License
- Paid Training





DIESEL TECHNICIAN

MALIK SMITH

Hometown: Polkville / **Age:** 23
High school: Raleigh High School
Training: Diesel Technology Academy at Hinds Community College
Degree: Technical certificate in Diesel Technology
Employer: Stribling Equipment, LLC in Richland
Title: Field Technician

Malik Smith learned about the diesel technician career while attending Hinds Community College. After he graduated from the college's Diesel Technology Academy, he was offered a job at Stribling Equipment where he's been building his skills and being challenged each day – which is one of Malik's favorite parts of the job. "The people you're surrounded by become your friends, and everyone works as a team." He also enjoys how he could get a certificate and start making a paycheck quicker than he would have if he went to a four-year college. "I was able to get into the industry a lot faster not having to go to college for four years, and I started learning the actual trade faster," he says.

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You enjoy fixing things.
- You love playing with the latest technology.
- You thrive in a changing work environment.
- You're good at troubleshooting issues with technology.

WHAT DOES A DIESEL TECHNICIAN DO?

Diesel technicians inspect, maintain, repair and care for diesel engines. Some diesel technicians specialize in a specific type of vehicle. When commercial transportation has malfunctions, they diagnose the problem and find solutions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Inspect and drive vehicles to troubleshoot problems.
- Use diagnostic equipment and interpret results.
- Perform routine maintenance such as changing the oil and aligning the wheels.
- Repair any malfunctions in the equipment or replace parts.
- Communicate with customers.
- Utilize charts to plan work procedures.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

2,520 current employment
422 average annual job demand

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$58,300

$38,700 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI

$18.61 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

Copiah-Lincoln Community College
East Central Community College
East Mississippi Community College
Empire Truck Sales, LLC
Hinds Community College
Itawamba Community College
KLLM Transport Services
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Southwest Mississippi Community College
Stribling Equipment, LLC

READY TO HIRE YOU

Empire Truck Sales, LLC
Eutaw Construction Company, Inc.
KLLM Transport Services
Mississippi Power
Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
PACCAR Engine Plant
Puckett Machinery Company
Stribling Equipment, LLC
Sudden Service



"I was able to get into the industry a lot faster not having to go to college for four years, and I started learning the actual trade faster."

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

› To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNICIAN



ALONSO HERNANDEZ

Hometown: San José, Costa Rica / **Age:** 26
High school: Alonso received his GED while taking classes for the welding program through Jones College's Mississippi Integrated Basic Education & Skills Training Program (MIBEST)
Training: Jones County Junior College
Degree: Technical certificate in Welding & Automotive Technology
Employer: Madero Garage in Ellisville
Title: Classic Ford Truck Restorer & Customizer and Owner of Madero Garage

In 2015, Alonso Hernandez left his home country of Costa Rica to marry his wife in her hometown of Ellisville, Mississippi. Alonso quickly realized that finding a job and getting into an American college was very difficult without a high school diploma from the U.S. He enrolled in the MIBEST program at Jones College where, within a year, he earned his high school equivalency and 15 college credits, which he used to complete his certificate. Today, Alonso owns his own garage where he specializes in classic car restoration and customization. "I never even owned a car in Costa Rica and now, after falling in love with old trucks, putting myself through school and working professionally for almost two years, I'm open for business."

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You don't mind working in hot temps.
- You have an interest in welding.
- You've always been interested in cars.
- You have a great work ethic.

WHAT DOES AN AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECH DO?

Automotive service technicians and mechanics, often called service technicians, inspect, maintain and repair cars and light trucks. Service technicians sometimes specialize in a particular type of repair that may be subject to specific regulations or procedures. A few specialty tech jobs include brake repairers, automotive air-conditioning repairers, front-end mechanics and driveability technicians.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Identify mechanical problems, often using computerized diagnostic equipment, following checklists to ensure nothing is missed.
- Test parts and systems to ensure that they are working properly.
- Fix problems discovered during diagnostics.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

5,460 current employment
751 average annual job openings



"After working a long day, when you sit at the table to eat dinner, you can honestly say, 'Man, I earned this meal with the sweat of my brow.' There is something amazing, almost romantic about working with your hands, building or repairing things to help people continue the lifestyle we enjoy in this great nation. Once you follow your passion, you stop having a job and start having a craft. It becomes part of you, it becomes a lifestyle. You will love it."

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$62,100

$38,640 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI
$18.58 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

Copiah-Lincoln Community College
East Central Community College
East Mississippi Community College
Empire Truck Sales, LLC
Hinds Community College
Holmes Community College
Itawamba Community College
Jones College
Meridian Community College
Mississippi Delta Community College
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Pearl River Community College
Southwest Mississippi Community College
Stribling Equipment, LLC

READY TO HIRE YOU

Empire Truck Sales, LLC
Mississippi Power
PACCAR Engine Plant
Stribling Equipment, LLC
Taylor Power Systems

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Mississippi Power

MISSISSIPPI WORKS IN...

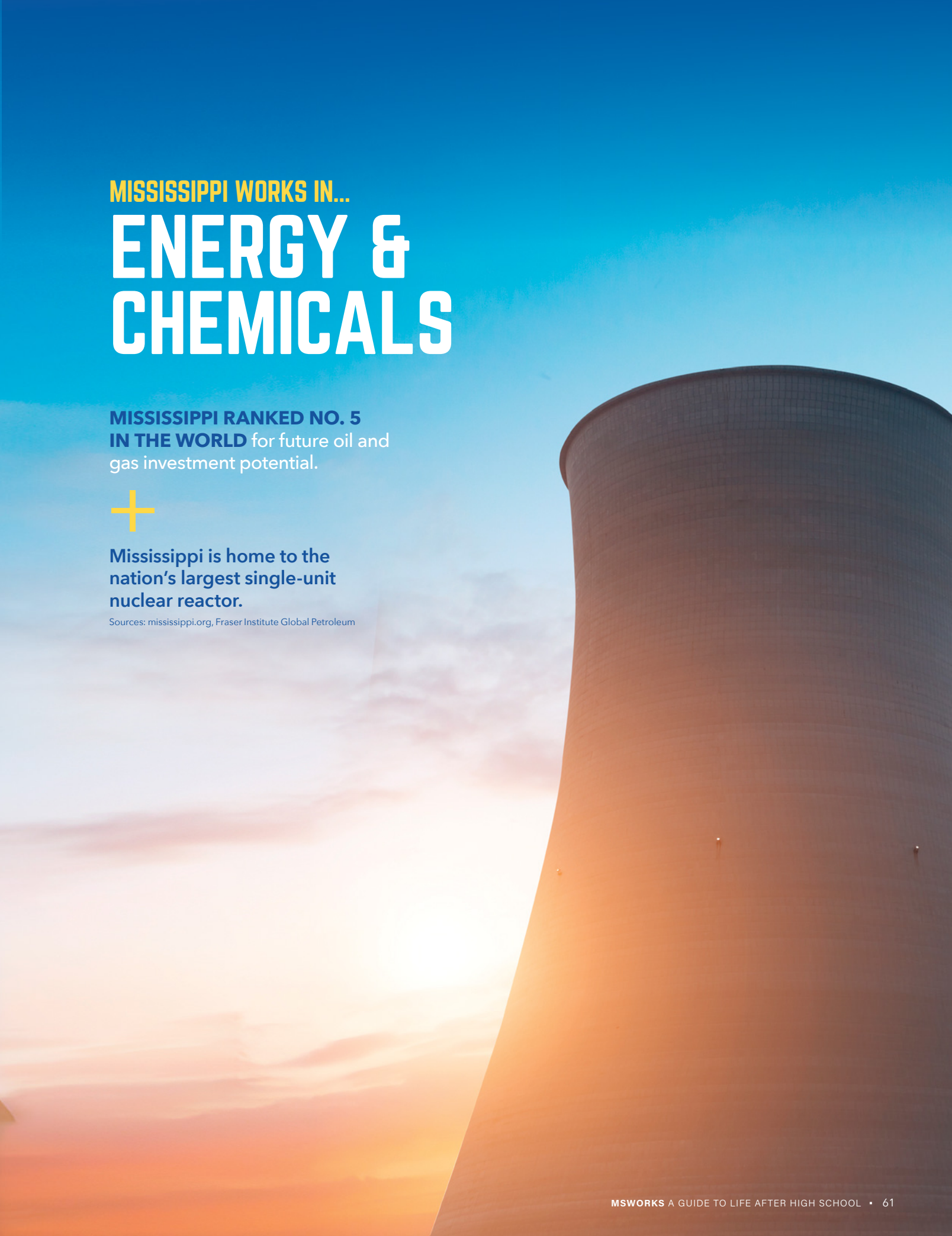
ENERGY & CHEMICALS

MISSISSIPPI RANKED NO. 5 IN THE WORLD for future oil and gas investment potential.

+

Mississippi is home to the nation's largest single-unit nuclear reactor.

Sources: mississippi.org, Fraser Institute Global Petroleum



LINEMAN

ZAC WHITE

Hometown: Liberty / **Age:** 24
High school: Parklane Academy
Training: Holmes Community College
Degree: Certificate in the Electrical Lineman Program
Employer: Entergy Mississippi
Title: Lineman First Class



Most days, Zac White can be found 40 feet up in the air working to provide Mississippi with power. Zac followed in his dad's footsteps to pursue a career as a lineman. Many of Zac's friends were surprised by just how nonstop his job can be. Sometimes he'll get off work at a normal time and get to spend his evenings at home, but other times he can be called right back for emergency situations, which include helping other states in storm situations. Last year, he went to South Carolina, Florida and Arkansas for storm relief. "I love my job. We're on call 24/7, 365 days," he says. "You're pretty much just like a first responder. After storms, they can't do anything until we get there and clear the lines off the street. We're up in the air 40-50 feet every day. It's fun and exciting."

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You're not afraid of heights.
- You love to save the day (think power outages!).
- You have steady hands.
- You work well with others.
- You don't mind nontraditional work hours.

WHAT DOES A LINEMAN DO?

Linemen deal with electrical lines, whether in utility poles or underground systems. Electrical linemen often work with high-voltage electrical lines, so they need to understand how to safely fix problems in electrical systems.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assist in the burying of cable and other related work.
- Operate vehicles and equipment like bucket trucks and forklifts.
- Build and maintain electric lines.
- Troubleshoot outages and restore power.
- Monitor work areas or procedures to ensure compliance with safety procedures.
- Test electrical circuits or components for proper functioning.
- Control power supply connections.
- Climb equipment or structures to access work areas.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

2,000 current employment
389 average annual job demand

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$80,020

$60,060 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI
$28.87 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

CenterPoint Energy
East Central Community College
East Mississippi Community College
Holmes Community College
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Mississippi Construction Education Foundation
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Pearl River Community College

READY TO HIRE YOU

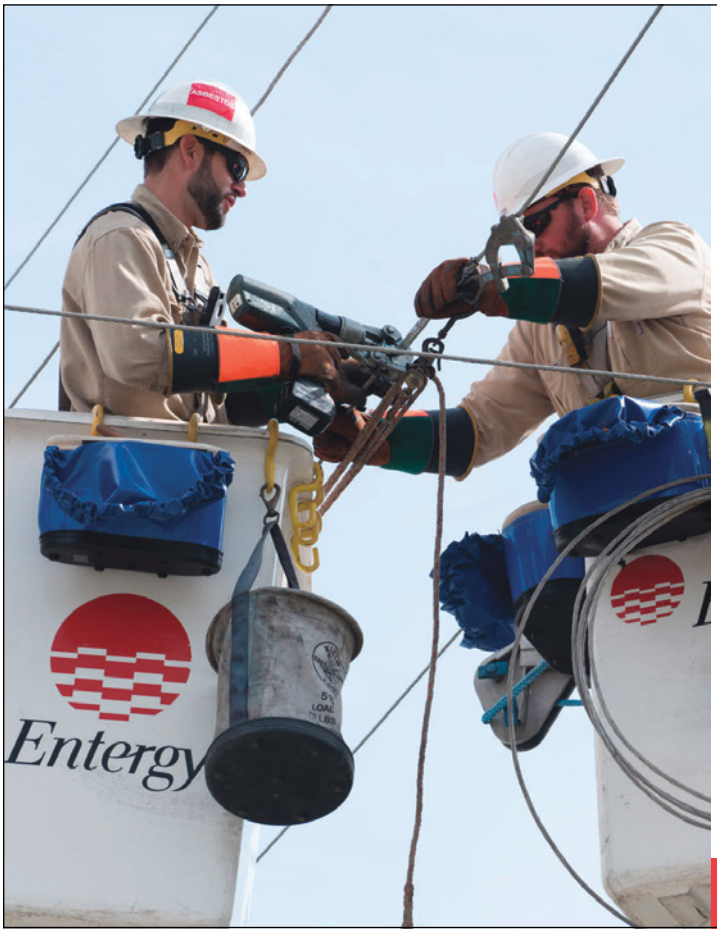
CenterPoint Energy
Entergy Mississippi
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Mississippi Power



One of the best perks of his job is not having to worry about student loans. *"Within six months of having a job, I bought a new truck," Zac says. "I'd always wanted a new truck and I went and bought one. I was able to get my own place and move out quicker. I wasn't tied down to student loans."*

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

› To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**



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Entergy line workers are critical to keeping Mississippi lives and businesses running smoothly every day. As our state continues to grow, we're looking forward to training the next generation.

Working on our team isn't just a job – it's a career full of responsibility and opportunity. We'll teach you the diverse skills in demand today and required for tomorrow.

Join us to help build a brighter future for all of Mississippi. Together, we power life.

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CenterPoint Energy has career opportunities across Mississippi.

We're proud to offer full-time, entry-level technical positions.
We are always looking for qualified high school graduates to join our Mississippi technical field team.

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- In-house training
- Advancement opportunities in a growing company

Consider joining our team. To learn more, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Careers.

CenterPoint Energy is an Equal Opportunity Employer looking to employ and advance in employment qualified minorities, females, people with disabilities and veterans. View our Equal Opportunity Policy Statement and EEO is the Law for more information.

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission and distribution, natural gas distribution and energy services operations. With more than 7,400 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 140 years.



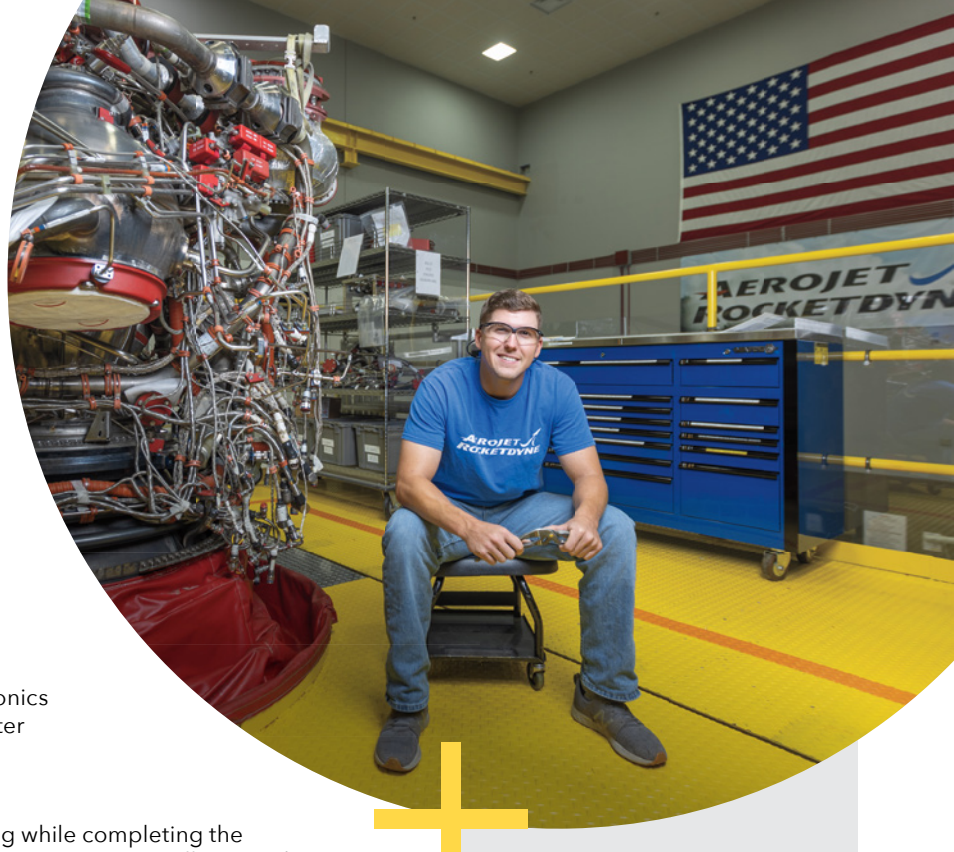
CenterPoint Energy Mississippi employees (left to right): Alexis P.- engineering intern, University of Mississippi; Austin W.- materials tech I, veteran, US Army; Brian L.- construction tech II; Bryant W.- engineer, Mississippi State; Ayesha B.- engineer, Louisiana State University; and Eric W.- construction tech II.

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ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN



KURT SMITH

Hometown: Picayune / **Age:** 26
High school: Picayune Memorial High School
Training: Two-year instrumentation and electronics program at Pearl River Community College
Degree: Associate degree in Instrumentation/Electronics
Employer: Aerojet Rocketdyne at Stennis Space Center
Title: Assembly & Test Technician II

Kurt Smith found his passion for electrical engineering while completing the instrumentation and electronics program at Pearl River Community College. Today, he works as an Assembly & Test Technician II, where his daily responsibilities include learning from the technicians who built the engines that powered the Apollo 11 space mission and ensuring his work is performed flawlessly so the hardware performs exactly as expected. For those interested in a career like his, Kurt recommends having a willingness to learn. "This is an industry that's growing every day," he says. "You need to be able to grow with it and be open to a lot of on-the-job training.

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You enjoy problem solving.
- You have steady hands.
- Patience is one of your many virtues.
- You don't mind reading.

WHAT DOES AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECH DO?

Electrical engineering technicians test or modify developmental or operational electrical machinery, as well as electrical control equipment and circuitry, in industrial and commercial plants or laboratories. They usually work under the direction of engineers or technologists.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assemble equipment or components.
- Calibrate scientific or technical equipment.
- Maintain electronic equipment.
- Inspect finished products to locate flaws.
- Resolve operational performance problems.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

1,010 current employment
223 average annual job demand

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$88,050

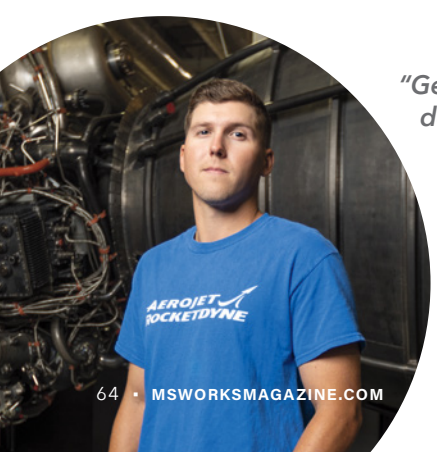
$64,070 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI
$30.80 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

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Copiah-Lincoln Community College
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Holmes Community College
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Itawamba Community College
Jones College
Mississippi Construction Education Foundation
Mississippi Delta Community College
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Pearl River Community College
Toyota Mississippi

READY TO HIRE YOU

Chevron Pascagoula Refinery
Ingalls Shipbuilding
Mississippi Power
Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
Toyota Mississippi
VT Halter Marine, Inc.



"Getting to learn from people that have been doing this work for a long time – some of them working here longer than I've been alive – is really special to me. Also, I really enjoy test days. It's really cool to see an engine build completed and tested successfully. It's like a bonus to see that final product in action."

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

OPERATOR

HEATHER HIGGINBOTHAM

Hometown: DeKalb / **Age:** 26
High school: Kemper Academy
Training: Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Degree: Associate of Applied Science in Process Operation Technology
Employer: Mississippi Power in Gulfport
Title: Assistant Operator



Heather Higginbotham was in her senior year of high school when she learned about a scholarship focused on career and technical opportunities. She was immediately interested. By the time she finished her associate degree at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, she already had two summer internships under her belt. When the Assistant Operator job became available at Mississippi Power, she jumped at the opportunity. Based on her education and skill set, Heather has options to progress in her career to become an operations manager, plant manager or move into a different area of the business. Her advice to students considering a technical career is to research your options. "Do not think you have to go to college for several years just to have a career," she says. "There will always be a need for skilled trades."

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You're all about the details.
- You have good communication skills.
- You're a team player.
- You enjoy problem solving.

WHAT DOES A POWER PLANT OPERATOR DO?

Power plant operators control, operate and maintain machinery to generate electricity. They use control boards to distribute power among generators and regulate the output of generators. They also monitor instruments to maintain voltage and electricity flow from the plant to meet customer demand throughout the day.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Control power-generating equipment, which may use coal, nuclear power or natural gas.
- Read charts, meters and gauges to monitor voltage and electricity flows.
- Check equipment for any operational problems.
- Adjust controls to regulate the flow of power.
- Start or stop generators, turbines and other equipment.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

POWER PLANT OPERATOR
350 current employment
51 average annual job demand

PLANT & SYSTEMS OPERATOR, ALL OTHER
60 current employment
37 average annual job demand

HIGH-END POWER PLANT OPERATOR EARNERS MAKE:
$101,250

$76,740 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI
$36.90 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

- CenterPoint Energy
- East Central Community College
- East Mississippi Community College
- Hinds Community College
- Ingalls Shipbuilding
- Jones College
- Mississippi Construction Education Foundation
- Mississippi Delta Community College
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
- Toyota Mississippi

READY TO HIRE YOU

- CenterPoint Energy
- Chevron Pascagoula Refinery
- Ingalls Shipbuilding
- Milwaukee Electric Tool
- Mississippi Power
- Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
- PACCAR Engine Plant
- Toyota Mississippi
- VT Halter Marine, Inc.



"I love that every day is different. Working in the field at the plant, I never know what challenges I may face. And I like that I can use my degree and skill set to make an impact."

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

› To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

ELECTRICIAN

TAYLOR MOODY

Hometown: Louisville / **Age:** 25
High school: Winston Academy
Training: East Mississippi Community College in Scooba
Degree: Associate degree in Electrical Technology
Employer: Moody's Electric Service LLC in Ackerman
Title: Journeyman Electrician and Owner/President of Moody's Electric Service LLC



One of the cool things about careers in the technical professions is that the job of your dreams really is at your fingertips. At only 25, Taylor Moody owns his own business as a journeyman electrician. After completing his associate degree in electrical technology, Taylor went on to open Moody's Electric Service. Even though he owns his own company, he says many people would be surprised to know that he doesn't get to make his own hours. Instead, the customers dictate when he needs to be working. When it comes to a job as an electrician, Taylor says having an open mind is key. "Make sure you don't mind blood, sweat and tears," he says. "Dealing with Mother Nature can be a hassle, but for the strong-minded and self-determined, it'll be easier!"

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You tend to be a leader among your peers.
- You're willing to go where the work is.
- You're always learning something new.
- You've always had a knack for fixing things.

WHAT DOES AN ELECTRICIAN DO?

Electricians install or repair electrical systems that control power and lighting. Electricians work both indoors and outdoors, typically at homes, businesses, factories and construction sites.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Install and maintain electrical systems to ensure businesses and homes run efficiently.
- Troubleshoot problems and repair wiring or equipment.
- Use different electrical tools to diagnose problems.
- Read blueprints and follow safety and building regulations.
- Perform maintenance and upgrade older systems.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

5,150 current employment
919 average annual job demand



"I love my job. It comes with many rewarding challenges. For example, I might run into challenges that are causing a big operation to be shut down. And when I fix the issue and things are back to normal, I feel like I've accomplished what I need to."

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$68,610

$49,540 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI
$23.82 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

- Coahoma Community College
- Copiah-Lincoln Community College
- East Central Community College
- East Mississippi Community College
- Hinds Community College
- Holmes Community College
- Ingalls Shipbuilding
- Itawamba Community College
- Jones College
- Meridian Community College
- Mississippi Construction Education Foundation
- Mississippi Delta Community College
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
- Northeast Mississippi Community College
- Northwest Mississippi Community College
- Pearl River Community College
- Southwest Mississippi Community College
- Toyota Mississippi

READY TO HIRE YOU

- Chevron Pascagoula Refinery
- Ingalls Shipbuilding
- Milwaukee Electric Tool
- Mississippi Power
- Nucor Steel Jackson, Inc.
- PACCAR Engine Plant
- Taylor Power Systems
- Toyota Mississippi
- VT Halter Marine, Inc.

To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019



A PATH TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mississippi Development Authority's Entrepreneur Center lights the way for technical pros to become business owners

"As an entrepreneur, it's tough to come up with the right analysis and marketing research. We teach them what's important, why it's important and how to manage it."

JOE DONOVAN
DIVISION DIRECTOR FOR THE ENTREPRENEUR AND INNOVATION SIDE OF MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Photography by Jacob Slaton

When Alonso Hernandez reaches for something, it's usually a book. Thick ones. Something on car engines – manifolds, carburetors, spark plugs. Anything. Leafing through the pages of a dictionary is also how he learned English. The Costa Rican-native says he learned English on his own.

His passion for both reading and cars finally converged in 2016 when he enrolled at Jones College. Hernandez was hearing from local garages that he lacked foundational car engine knowledge, which is why he couldn't get hired. That's when he realized he needed more schooling. "I was reading and researching things to catch up with the people who'd been doing it since they were kids," he says.

Hernandez soon earned two certificates from Jones College – one in automotive technology and the other in welding technology. Now he owns Madero Garage, which launched this past June. The shop focuses on truck engine repair.

HELPING HANDS

Automotive is one of eight "target industries" in Mississippi, according to the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA). The others include advanced manufacturing, forestry and energy, tourism and film, health care, agribusiness, shipbuilding, and aerospace. MDA has partnered with clusters of companies within the eight industries to boost livelihoods and the economy. Through this partnership, MDA connects new entrepreneurs with training and resources to nurture and develop their businesses, says Joe Donovan, division director for the entrepreneur and innovation side of MDA.

At the start of every new venture there is a lot of "hand holding," he says. "We walk them through the process of getting everything established. As an entrepreneur, it's tough to come up with the right analysis and marketing research. We teach them what's important, why it's important and how to manage it."

At the Entrepreneur Center at MDA, Donovan says he and his team work with entrepreneurs to match them with different state universities that may have a particular insight or best-practice application for running an organization more adeptly.

"We lead [the entrepreneur] from one technical assistance path to another," he says. Of course, there's the academic side to running a company, which is done by the book and can be taught and studied. Then there's the other side – running a company from instinct because it's in the blood."

Hernandez based most of his start-up knowledge on advice from business-savvy family and friends. But, he's interested in making use of the Entrepreneur Center for his next venture. "Those guys are good at teaching you how to get the paperwork rolling, as well as finding sources of capital and how to use it wisely," he says.

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Mississippians wanting to master a trade like Hernandez are in a great position to start their own businesses, and the state is prepared to help. The Entrepreneur Center is there for you to get help developing business plans and analyzing financial statements, get counsel on cash flow and working capital, strategize marketing and so much more. Call The Entrepreneur Center at MDA at (601) 359-2399 or visit mississippi.org/home-page/business-services for more information.



There is growing demand in the Mississippi economy for a skilled workforce.

Our institute provides education and training to individuals seeking advance training in trade skills with the goal to be advanced from a general laborer to a skilled laborer with the appropriate proficiencies.



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SOUTHEASTERN



MISSISSIPPI WORKS IN...

CONSTRUCTION

From 2016 to 2026, Mississippi's construction industry is projected to add **2,310 NEW JOBS AND GROW BY 5.1%.**

Source: MDES Labor Market Data, mdes.ms.gov

RISING TO THE TOP

The Mississippi native and "Home Town" star weighs in on the importance of technical professions.

HGTV STAR BEN NAPIER



By Lydia McAllister / Brooke Davis Photography

If there's one thing that HGTV's "Home Town" star and woodworker Ben Napier wants you to know, it's this: When it comes to jobs in the technical professions, you can go to school for a couple of years and come out making more than he did when he graduated with a four-year degree – and not be $50,000 in debt.

"Somewhere along the way, trades became something that were considered 'less than' by society," Ben says. "I hate when a skilled tradesman feels like they need to explain to me why college wasn't for him/her. [My wife] has an art degree, doctors learn their trade, everyone has to learn how to do what they do. It's all trades."

While he enjoyed his time at Ole Miss (and Ole Miss was where he discovered his love for woodworking), he says that had he been introduced to the world of carpentry, he would have never gone to college. But growing up, he had always been told to pick a major and go to college. While Ben was at Ole Miss, he switched from accounting to math to broadcasting to political science before graduating with a history degree. And while he's proud of his degree, he doesn't want to be a historian or teach history classes.

"If I would've been introduced to carpentry in 12th grade, I would've known that this is what I'm supposed to do," Ben says. "If it were up to me, I'd work in my woodshop every day. I'd make furniture and work on projects for people, and I could earn a decent living doing it. I'd never get tired of it. It's what I like to do."

"I hate when a skilled tradesman feels like they need to explain to me why college wasn't for him/her. ...doctors learn their trade, everyone has to learn how to do what they do. It's all trades."



Today, he and his wife Erin star on HGTV's hit show "Home Town," where they renovate and restore historic houses in their hometown of Laurel, Mississippi. The couple keeps busy with the show and running their stores with four of their best friends. Ben and Erin are currently filming season four of their show, which will wrap up filming in early 2020.

"We do four houses in eight weeks," Ben says. "Then we'll do the last group of four in January and February. A lot of people in town told us that you couldn't do a house in that kind of timeline, but we do it. It requires everybody working really hard and being well-coordinated with each other. It's kind of a miracle, but at the same time, our team is *so* good."

Ben says that with all the projects they do for "Home Town," they're always searching for new help and there's not much. Building and restoring houses for the show requires help from welders, concrete workers, carpenters, painters and everything in between – jobs that are in demand all over Mississippi, not just in Laurel.

At the end of the day, Ben and Erin love the life they're able to lead in Mississippi helping to revive Laurel – something they've been passionate about for much longer than the show has been around.

"Erin and I live in our dream house, I drive my dream truck, Erin drives her dream car, and we get to do what we love," Ben says. "We can afford to do this here. We were already living this life before the show."

"Building and restoring houses for the show requires help from welders, concrete workers, carpenters, painters and everything in between – jobs that are in demand all over Mississippi.

Words of Wisdom FROM BEN

Most in-demand trade you need for restorations? "Plumbers. We have one crew that we really depend on, but everyone in this county depends on them. They probably make more than a doctor does."

Favorite home restoration? "Jody and Bill Holloway's house on season one is hands down my favorite house we've ever worked on."

Favorite part of restorations? "Getting to uncover the work that other craftsmen did decades before we came along."

Biggest lesson learned while working on a TV show? "The TV show adds a certain level of pressure. You want to look smart, sound smart and be smart. It's easy to succumb to that pressure and rush the job, but that's when mistakes start to happen. I have learned over the course of four years how to stay calm when the cameras are there."

Favorite part of working in a skilled trade? "Knowing that I'll always have a job. I can always go into my woodshop and build something that somebody needs."



BUILDING YOUR CAREER

Consider the possibilities within Mississippi's booming construction industry

Construction work in Mississippi is growing, according to Mike Barkett, president of the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation. "There are a number of jobs in the state in the construction industry today that we have not been able to fill," Barkett says. "We haven't been able to fill those jobs today because of the lack of trained employees."

For young people who like working outside with their hands and enjoy seeing something completed, he says there are many benefits in the world of commercial industrial contractors. Some of the other benefits include 401(k), insurance and paid vacation.

"It's one of the high-demand jobs around here now," Barkett says. "You can't import construction."

Construction is also not the same industry it was 15 years ago.

"It's not just hammers and nails," he says. "Construction today is a world of technology."

Barkett says smart phones and tablets are now a part of construction, and there are many more opportunities in the industry. The job often calls for employees to work all over Mississippi and the United States, or even outside of the country, while also making good money.

"It takes hard work," Barkett says. "It takes dedication. It takes determination. … If you have those desires, then construction may just be for you."



Construction makes up **4.2% of Mississippi industry,** according to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

That includes a variety of jobs, and Mississippi contractors can receive a license in the following classifications, as well as in specialty classifications:

- building construction
- electrical
- heavy construction
- highway
- street & bridge construction
- mechanical & municipal & public works

From 2016 to 2026, the construction industry is projected to add **2,310 new jobs**

5.1% growth according to Labor Market Data/ mdes.ms.gov

There were **44,980** people working in construction in Mississippi in 2016, according to Labor Market Data/ mdes.ms.gov



Here are some of the jobs available in construction:

CARPENTERS

Carpenters build structures by reading blueprints, working with materials such as wood and repairing damages when necessary.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$18.14**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$37,740**

Education: With a high school diploma, carpenters can learn on the job or with an apprenticeship.

CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING INSPECTORS

A construction and building inspector abides by building codes and zoning laws to survey plans and approve them if they pass specifications.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$23.31**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$48,480**

Education: In Mississippi, home inspectors must pass a course and receive certification.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

Construction managers coordinate construction projects. They work with others, manage the budget, schedule tasks and manage problems that may arise.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$38.16**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$79,380**

Education: Construction managers may earn a bachelor's degree or work through the ranks of construction.

ELECTRICIANS

Electricians install electrical systems, and when problems surface, they perform tests to determine the obstacle and repair the damages.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$23.82**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$49,540**

Education: Electricians typically train through trade programs or apprenticeships.

GLAZIERS

Glaziers remove, replace and install glass in buildings.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$16.39**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$34,090**

Education: Glaziers typically receive on-the-job training or an apprenticeship.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REMOVAL WORKERS

Hazardous materials removal workers locate dangerous material such as lead or asbestos, and then dispose of the material.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$17.32**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$36,020**

Education: Hazardous materials removal workers must go through 40 hours of on-the-job training.

INSULATION WORKERS

Insulation workers place insulation in buildings.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$16.55**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$34,420**

Education: Depending on the type of insulation worker, they may complete an apprenticeship or learn on the job.

PAINTERS, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Painters prepare walls, buildings and structures and then administer paint.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$16.34**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$33,990**

Education: Painters usually receive on-the-job training.

PLUMBERS, PIPEFITTERS AND STEAMFITTERS

A plumber, pipefitter or steamfitter works on pipe systems by installing them and repairing them when necessary.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$21.77**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$45,280**

Education: Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters usually attend a technical school or complete an apprenticeship.

SHEET METAL WORKERS

Sheet metal workers use metal sheets to build products for construction sites.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$19.32**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$40,180**

Education: They can train through a technical school, apprenticeship or on the job.

Sources: Mississippi Department of Employment Security; Mississippi State Board of Contractors; Mississippi Home Inspector Board; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; Mississippi Development Authority; Mississippi Construction Education Foundation (Mike Barkett)

LEARN MORE >

To explore training opportunities across Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM.**





MEET CELLAS.

He's a first-generation college student from Ludlow, Miss.
He's the first person in his family to earn a college degree.
And he's not done yet.
Now, he's becoming the first doctor in his family.

"Being at Ole Miss has been a transformative experience and so much more than I ever imagined it could be. I thank Ole Miss for the opportunities and for being the best university for me."

Just like Cellas, you have opportunities.

Just like Cellas, you have dreams.

Just like Cellas, you can begin your journey at the University of Mississippi.

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MISSISSIPPI WORKS IN...

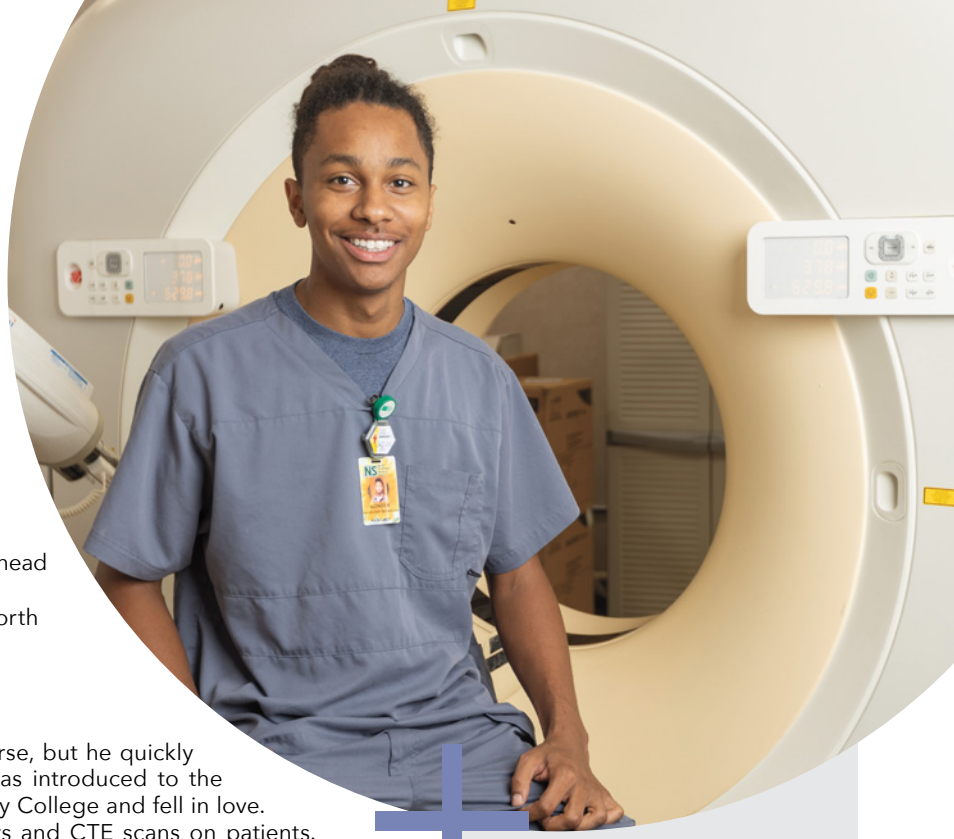
HEALTH CARE

From 2016 to 2026, Mississippi's health care industry is projected to add **13,450 NEW JOBS AND GROW BY 8.6%.**

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; Mississippi State Department of Health; Mississippi Board of Nursing; The International Council of Nurses



X-RAY TECHNICIAN



ALONZO BROOKS

Hometown: Cleveland / **Age:** 23
High school: Cleveland High School
Training: Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead
Degree: Associate degree in Radiology
Employer: Bolivar Medical Center in Cleveland and North Sunflower Medical Center in Ruleville
Title: X-ray Technician

Originally, Alonzo Brooks had plans to become a nurse, but he quickly realized that wasn't the path for him. Instead, he was introduced to the radiology department at Mississippi Delta Community College and fell in love. On any given day, Alonzo performs dozens of X-rays and CTE scans on patients. "The radiology department plays a huge role in helping the ordering physicians see what's happening on the inside and diagnose patients properly. I get the chance to help a very diverse group of people and that alone gives me the drive to get up in the morning with a smile on my face, knowing that I can be the difference-maker in bettering a patient's health."

One of the best things about his health care career choice is now that he's gotten his foot in the door, he can go on to become a CT Technician, MRI Technician, Ultrasound Technician or Nuclear Medicine Technician. "The opportunities are endless," Alonzo says.

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You enjoy helping other people.
- You have good communication skills.
- You have a knack for critical thinking.
- You're good at operating sensitive equipment.

WHAT DOES AN X-RAY TECHNICIAN DO?

X-ray Technicians, (also known as Radiologic Technicians), perform diagnostic imaging examinations such as X-rays on patients. MRI Technologists operate magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners to create diagnostic images.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Adjust and maintain imaging equipment.
- Precisely follow orders from physicians on what areas of the body to image.
- Prepare patients for procedures.
- Protect the patient by shielding exposed areas that do not need to be imaged.
- Position the patient and the equipment in order to get the correct image.
- Operate the computerized equipment to take the images.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

2,270 current employment
190 average annual job demand



"The opportunities are endless. Radiology is nationwide, and your career path possibilities are vast."

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$65,670

$48,150 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI

$23.15 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

Copiah-Lincoln Community College
East Central Community College
East Mississippi Community College
Hinds Community College
Holmes Community College
Itawamba Community College
Jones College
Meridian Community College
Mississippi Delta Community College
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Pearl River Community College

READY TO HIRE YOU

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Each year, Mississippi's many hospitals and medical centers have an average of **2,125 job openings** for all the various health technologist and technician occupations, according to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

A CLOSER LOOK:

HEALTH TECH CAREERS

Discover more Mississippi careers in health care – jobs that don't require a bachelor's degree!

DENTAL ASSISTANTS



Dental assistants work in dentist offices where they prepare patients, maintain a safe environment with sterile equipment and assist dentists during procedures. They also communicate with patients and record their information.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$15.82**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$32,900**

Education: Dental assistant requirements vary, but in Mississippi, they must graduate from a dental assistant program and earn a Certified Dental Assistant certificate.

DENTAL HYGIENISTS



A dental hygienist cleans teeth and helps to protect teeth from oral disease. They also record information about the patient, including treatment plans.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$27.82**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$57,860**

Education: Dental hygienists typically require an associate degree.

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS



A dental laboratory technician builds and repairs appliances such as dentures. They follow work orders, and they manipulate the material into a functional device that looks natural.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$22.32**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$46,430**

Education: Dental laboratory technicians may participate in a program or receive on-the-job training with a high school diploma.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRERS



A medical equipment repairer installs medical equipment, and they take steps to prevent problems and maintain the equipment. When something breaks, they perform repairs and record the maintenance history.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$20.01**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$45,780**

Education: Medical equipment repairers typically earn an associate degree.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGISTS



A nuclear medicine technologist deals with radioactive drugs, and they prepare, administer and dispose of the drugs in a safe manner. They also monitor the effects of the drugs and record information.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$31.11**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$64,710**

Education: Nuclear medicine technologist usually require an associate degree and certification.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS



An occupational therapy assistant helps occupational therapists in caring for patients and helping them to learn or recover skills that improve their lives. They communicate with patients to inform them and also record their personal information.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$27.43**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$57,050**

Education: Occupational therapy assistants require an associate degree.

PHARMACY TECHNICIANS



Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists by preparing prescription medication, recording patient information, organizing inventory and informing pharmacists of when a patient wishes to speak with them or if inventory is low. They often work in pharmacies, drug stores, hospitals or pharmacies within general stores.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$15.12**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$31,440**

Education: Pharmacy technicians can complete a program and receive certification from a vocational school or community college, or they can receive training on the job.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS



A physical therapist assistant helps physical therapists assist patients in recovering their mobility. They help patients with exercises and techniques, and they educate them and record observations during the therapy session.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$23.14**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$48,130**

Education: Physical therapist assistants must earn an associate degree.

RADIATION THERAPISTS



A radiation therapist uses radiation to care for patients with cancer. They operate the equipment and take precautions to limit the unnecessary exposure to the radiation.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$39.97**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$83,130**

Education: Radiation Therapists typically have an associate degree along with a certificate and license.

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST TECHNICIANS



A respiratory therapist provides emergency care or treatments for those who are struggling with breathing. They measure a patient's lung capacity, form plans for treatment and measure progress.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$21.99**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$45,730**

Education: Respiratory therapist technicians must earn an associate degree.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS



A surgical technologist helps surgeons during operations, and they prepare the operating room, equipment and patients for surgery. During the operation, they give the doctors tools and maintain a sterile environment.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS **$19.09**

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN MS **$39,700**

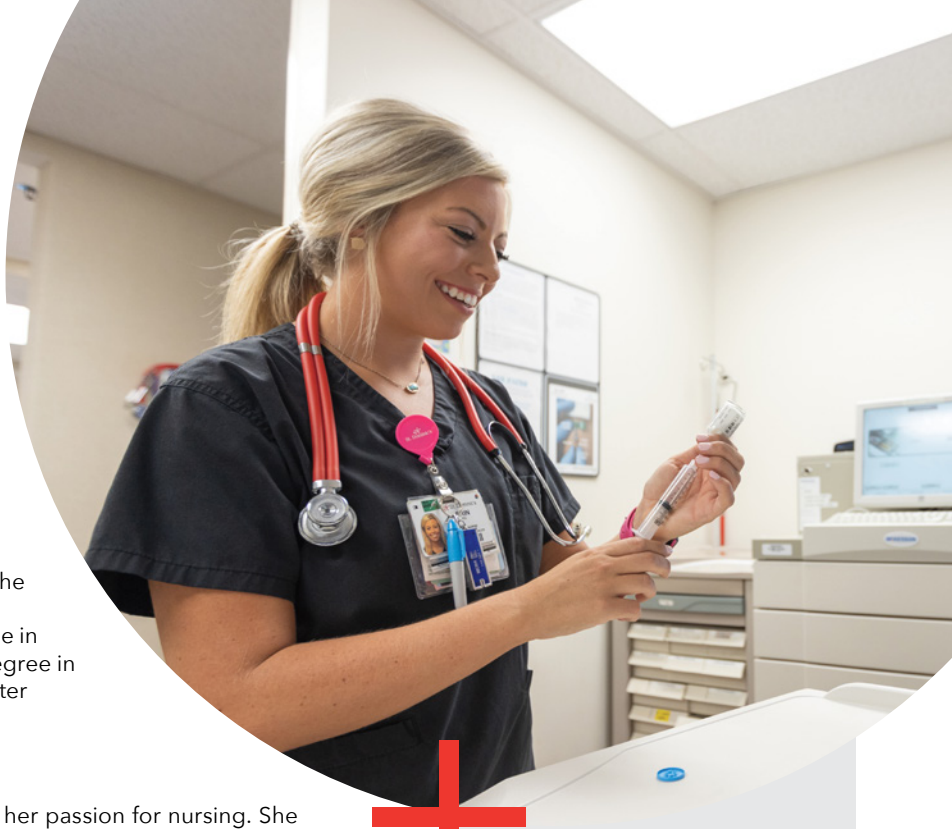
Education: Surgical technologists typically require certification or an associate degree, and the programs last up to two years.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; East Mississippi Community College; Vista College; The DALE Foundation; The College Board

LEARN MORE ›

For more information about this field and to explore training opportunities across Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM/HEALTHCARE.**

REGISTERED NURSE



ERIN RAWSON

Hometown: Brandon / **Age:** 23
High school: Brandon High School
Training: Hinds Community College in Raymond and the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson
Degree: Practical nursing degree and associate degree in nursing from Hinds Community College; Bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center
Employer: St. Dominic Memorial Hospital in Jackson
Title: Registered Nurse

Erin Rawson was in high school when she discovered her passion for nursing. She was enrolled in a health science program at Brandon High School that provided her with information about all the opportunities in the health care field. While she was still in high school, she was able to take her first semester of practical nursing school while completing her senior year. After getting her practical nursing degree, Erin continued to rise up the education ladder to become a registered nurse. On any given day, Erin's main responsibility is making sure her patients are well cared for. "I think everyone has an idea about a typical emergency department, but I don't think anyone realizes how fast-paced and overwhelming an average day can be," Erin says. "There's never a dull day!"

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You like a fast-paced work environment.
- Critical thinking is one of your strong suits.
- You don't mind long shifts.
- You're a people-person.

WHAT DOES A REGISTERED NURSE DO?

Registered nurses (RNs) provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members. They typically work in hospitals, physicians' offices, home health care services, and nursing care facilities. Others work in outpatient clinics and schools, or serve in the military.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assess patients' conditions.
- Observe patients and record the observations.
- Set up plans for patients' care or contribute information to existing plans.
- Consult and collaborate with doctors and other health care professionals.
- Teach patients and their families how to manage illnesses or injuries.

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

29,860 current employment
6,140 average annual job demand



"I love meeting new people and being able to help them when they are unable to help themselves. Being able to make a difference in someone's life is rewarding. My job is very meaningful, and the career is filled with many opportunities."

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$78,930

$58,490 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI

$28.12 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

START YOUR TRAINING

Coahoma Community College
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
East Central Community College
East Mississippi Community College
Hinds Community College
Holmes Community College
Itawamba Community College
Jones County Junior College
Meridian Community College
Mississippi Delta Community College
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College
Pearl River Community College
Southwest Mississippi Community College
The University of Mississippi

READY TO HIRE YOU

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Each year, Mississippi's many hospitals and medical centers have an average of 2,070 job openings for all the various nursing occupations, according to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

A CLOSER LOOK:

THE NURSING FIELD

More levels of nursing and emergency medicine in Mississippi

NURSE AIDE



Requirements: Complete a nurse aide course approved by the Mississippi State Department of Health and receive certification.

Responsibilities: Care for patients under the guidance of registered nurses, including duties such as bathing and feeding.

NURSING ASSISTANT



A nursing assistant cares for patients, including cleaning and providing food for patients, measuring their vital signs, transporting them and recording their information. They often work in hospitals or nursing homes, sometimes under the direction of registered nurses.

Education: Nursing assistants typically complete a state-approved program and receive on-the-job training.

LPN EXPANDED ROLE



What Is It: In Mississippi, an LPN with an expanded role also includes IV therapy and hemodialysis.

How to Do It: Receive LPN Expanded Role certification through the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE



What Is It: APRNs hold a master's-level degree, and they tend to specialize in a particular area.

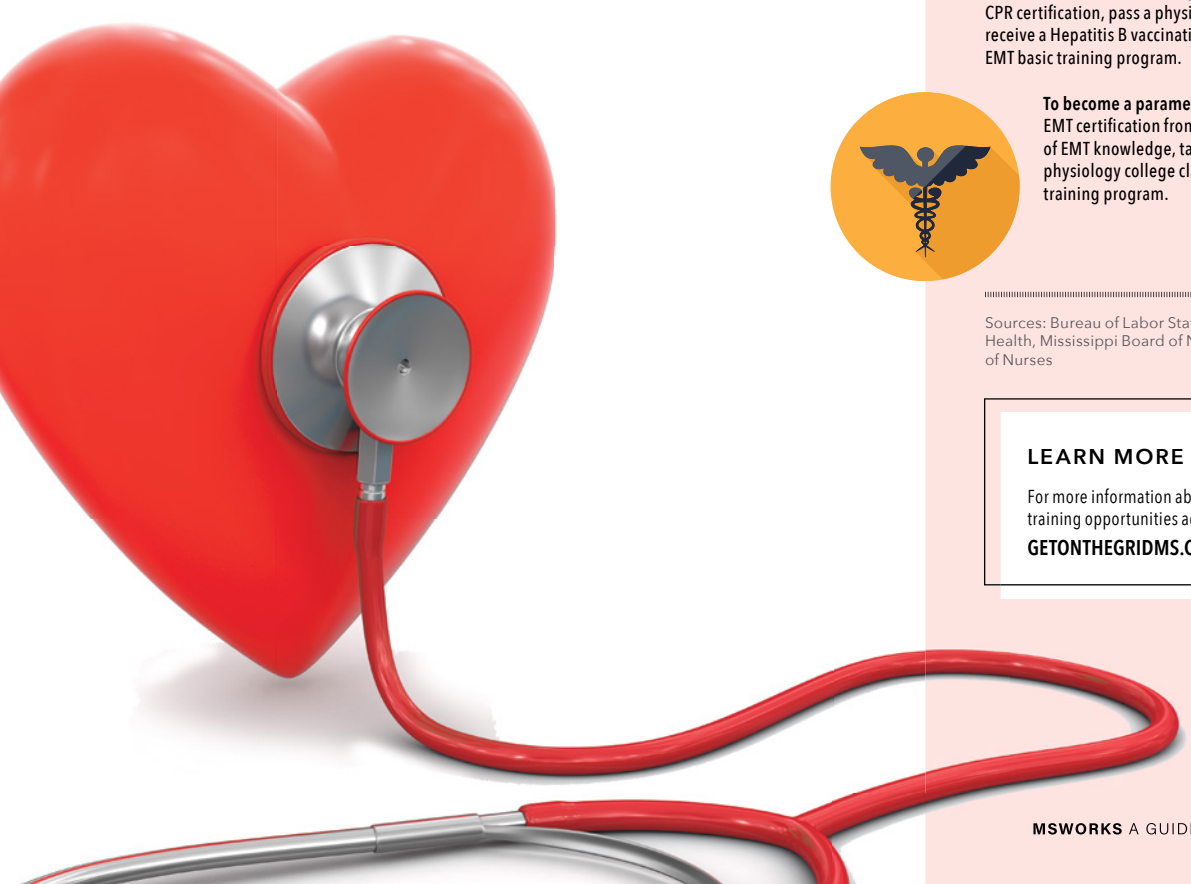
How to Do It: Registered nurses can complete one of the five APRN programs in Mississippi and become certified as an APRN.

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE



Requirements: Complete a licensed practical nursing program and receive licensure by examination.

Responsibilities: Care for patients under the guidance of registered nurses, including duties such as taking vital signs and wrapping bandages.





Emergency Medical Services

The demand, the jobs and the money you can make

Do you have a heart for caregiving and also seek the thrill of saving the day? An EMS career might be for you – and you don't need a four-year degree to pursue one. Job demand is great for the following careers in Mississippi, and the pay is even greater. The average hourly wage for EMTs and paramedics is $16.01/hour, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



To become a first responder in Mississippi, you must be 18 years old, complete a medical first responder training program and register as a first responder in the National Registry.

To becom an EMT in Mississippi, you must earn CPR certification, pass a physical examination, receive a Hepatitis B vaccination and graduate from an EMT basic training program.

To become a paramedic in Mississippi, you must obtain EMT certification from Mississippi, pass a refresher test of EMT knowledge, take eight hours of anatomy and physiology college classes and graduate from paramedic training program.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Board of Nursing and the International Council of Nurses

LEARN MORE >

For more information about this field and to explore training opportunities across Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM/HEALTHCARE.**



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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY RANKED IN THE TOP 500
supercomputers in the world
18 times since 1996.

Source: mississippi.org



COMPUTER PROGRAMMER/ CODER



MARTIN GUZMAN

Hometown: Born in Mexico City; raised in Oxford / **Age:** 22
High school: Oxford High School
Training: Base Camp Coding Academy (BCCA)
Degree: Certificate in coding and software development
Employer: C Spire in Ridgeland
Title: Junior Software Developer

Martin Guzman wasn't quite sure what his life would look like after high school, and he didn't have the financial support to attend college. He had planned to continue working at a Mexican restaurant in town to save up for college like many of his friends. Instead, one of his teachers at Oxford High School showed Martin a brochure about a new tech school called Base Camp Coding Academy that was starting up in Water Valley – and the best part is that it was 100% free.

After completing the program, Martin was offered two full-time positions as a junior developer, but he accepted the position at C Spire. Martin has plans to continue his education while working at C Spire. "C Spire will help you pay for most of your education," he says. "So I plan to attend college while working at C Spire this upcoming year. Also, it's known that most of C Spire's executives started out at the bottom of the chain of command and worked up to be an executive, so that's always some motivation in how progressing is more than possible at this company."

THIS OPTION IS FOR YOU IF:

- You're fascinated by computers and technology.
- You love solving problems.
- You recognize patterns.
- You enjoy working in teams.

WHAT DOES A COMPUTER PROGRAMMER/CODER DO?

Computer programmers write and test the code that makes your favorite computer applications and software function properly. They turn program designs created by software developers and engineers into instructions that a computer can follow. Programmers test new apps and programs to make sure they work. If they don't work correctly, programmers check the code for mistakes and fix them.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Write programs in a variety of computer languages, such as C++ and Java.
- Update and expand existing programs.
- Test programs for errors and fix the faulty lines of computer code.
- Create and test code in an integrated development environment (IDE).

JOB OUTLOOK IN MISSISSIPPI

880 current employment
94 average annual job demand

"Software is never done! Before I started working, I thought that you developed a feature and then you were done with it. However, you often come back to [it]. Maybe it wasn't exactly what the customer wanted, or you're adding more functionality to it, or fixing a bug. One way or another, you often return to code you wrote before."

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018; MS State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), 2019

HIGH-END EARNERS MAKE:
$101,310

$73,940 AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN MISSISSIPPI

$35.55 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

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Northwest Mississippi Community College
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Milwaukee Electric Tool
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VT Halter Marine, Inc.

Each year, there are an average of 875 job openings across Mississippi for all the various computer occupations, according to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

> To find out about this and other exciting careers in Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM**

A CLOSER LOOK:

JOBS IN THE TECH INDUSTRY

GENERAL TECH INDUSTRY INFO:

$63,103
is the median tech salary in Mississippi, according to CompTIA. That's 89% higher than the median wage for all occupations in the state!

3.9%
the approximate amount of tech workers in Mississippi
Source: CompTIA

340,000
number of miles of fiber optic cables installed within the state
Source: CompTIA

46,813
net tech employment in Mississippi
Source: CompTIA

$3.8 billion
the estimated direct economic impact of Mississippi's tech sector
Source: Cyberstates 2019 Report by CompTIA

ONE OF THE **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S** most powerful supercomputers is operated by the U.S. Navy at Stennis Space Center

It's located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

15 OF 22
Department of Homeland Security Data Suppliers are located at NCCIPS*

*National Center for Critical Information Processing & Storage Center, located at Stennis Space Center

JOB GROWTH:

+2.1%
job growth for software developers year-over-year growth

+1.9%
computer support specialists year-over-year job growth

+1.1%
network architects, administrators and support specialists year-over-year growth

Source: Cyberstates 2019 report by CompTIA

Notable Jobs in the Tech Industry

COMPUTER USER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Provide technical assistance to computer users. Answer questions or resolve problems for clients in person, or via telephone or electronically. May provide assistance concerning the use of computer hardware and software.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS
$22.44

AVERAGE SALARY IN MS
$46,670

Education: Typically requires a technical certificate or an associate degree.

COMPUTER OPERATORS

Monitor and control electronic computer and peripheral electronic data processing equipment to process business, scientific, engineering, and other data according to operating instructions. Monitor and respond to error messages.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS
$18.95

AVERAGE SALARY IN MS
$39,410

Education: Typically requires a high school diploma or GED and on-the-job training.

NETWORK SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Analyze, test, troubleshoot, and evaluate existing network systems, such as local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), and Internet systems or a segment of a network system. Perform network maintenance to ensure networks operate correctly with minimal interruption.

AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE IN MS
$31.78

AVERAGE SALARY IN MS
$66,110

Education: Typically requires an associate degree.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018

LEARN MORE >

To explore training opportunities across Mississippi, visit **GETONTHEGRIDMS.COM.**

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

COMMUNITY

COLLEGES

TAKE THE FAST TRACK TO JOBS IN MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi's reputable colleges are located across the state and offer hundreds of unique training programs and associate degrees to help you get a job faster and cheaper. Other benefits include smaller class sizes and more individualized attention from instructors. So what are you waiting for? Explore the following pages to find your perfect school.

COAHOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
On a mission...

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Coahoma Community College Workforce Development Center is committed to training future professionals. Working closely with the WIN Job Center and area businesses/industries, classes, and curriculum are developed to provide short-term training for individuals seeking to enter the workforce or upgrade their skills. We keep abreast of current labor market trends to offer training that will meet the workforce needs in the community, as well as providing a marketable skill for individuals.

For more information, contact the Workforce Development Center at (662) 627-9139 or www.coahomacc.edu.





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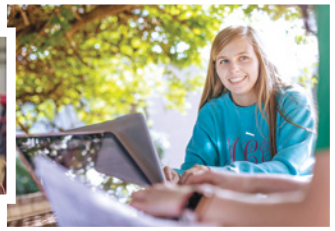
When you find the eagle in you, you'll find the freedom to fly.





For information call **601.483.8241** or visit us online.





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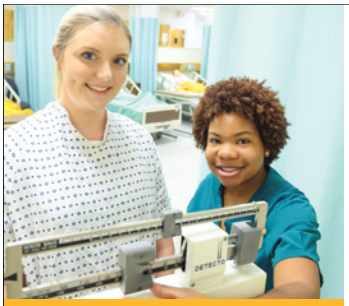






MSDELTA.EDU | 662-246-6322

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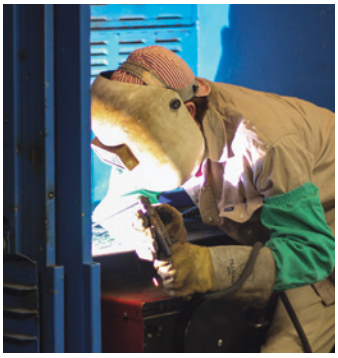
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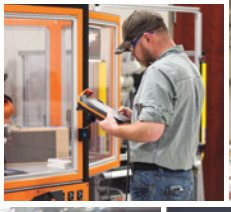
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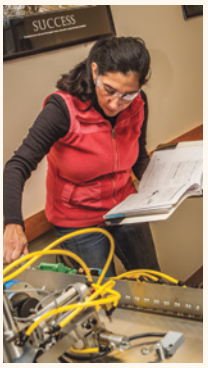
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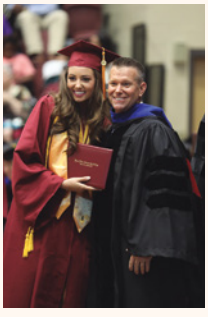
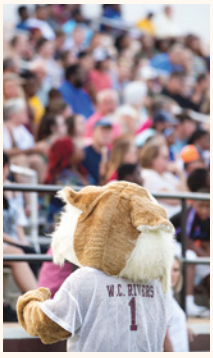
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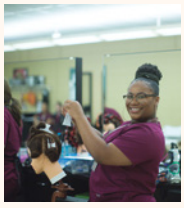
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STILL WANT A BACHELOR'S DEGREE?

Why going into a technical profession FIRST, makes earning a bachelor's degree even easier

YOU'LL GET A JOB FAST. Not only is there a great need for skilled workers in Mississippi, but it takes two years or fewer of training to be eligible for many of the in-demand jobs. From on-the-job training and apprenticeships that pay you from day one to programs that quickly score you a certificate or license to start a job – this route is undoubtedly faster than attending a four-year college. And even if your technical profession requires a two-year degree, and many do, you'll still be years ahead of your peers that pursued a bachelor's immediately after high school.

"Students in our apprenticeship program are full-time employees from day one," says George S. Jones, vice president of operations for Ingalls Shipbuilding, headquartered in Pascagoula.

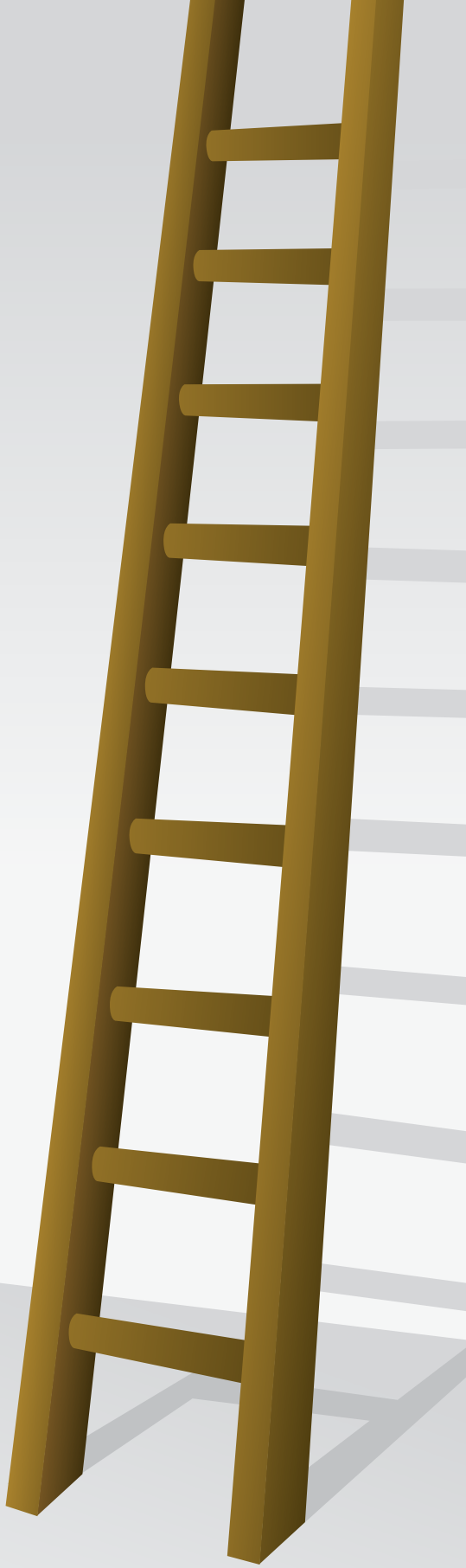
YOU'LL SAVE MONEY. Not only will you be earning money doing a job you love, you won't be spending money on college tuition, room and board, textbooks and more (at least not right away). You can start a savings account and a 401(k) years before your college-going counterparts. Take Ingalls for example. "While [students in our apprenticeship program] are learning their chosen craft, they're also earning a starting salary of $41,000/year, with full benefits," Jones says.

So while your peers are taking out student loans, attending 15 hours of college courses a semester and working nights to make ends meet, you'll be enjoying your head start in life.

YOUR COMPANY WILL SEND YOU BACK TO SCHOOL. Between 2012-2022, 57% of job openings in the state will be middle-skill. Companies have a great need for talent with these skills. That's why many employers make it easy for workers to pursue higher education while staying on as an employee. Plus, companies know this additional education will make you even more of an asset. Do your homework; you're a hot commodity. If your sights are set on a bachelor's degree, let a Mississippi employer pay the way!

IT TAKES LESS TIME. If you chose a technical profession that requires an associate degree, you'll be halfway to a bachelor's when you decide to go back to school. In just two years you'll add another degree and maybe even get a promotion!

YOUR WORK WILL MAKE EARNING A DEGREE EASIER. Your experience on the job will be invaluable in the classroom. Jones says Ingalls' apprentices receive on-the-job-training "that cannot be replicated in a classroom setting." Real world experience is an education all its own. Making it even easier for you, Mississippi's 15 community colleges offer 26,403 training classes and serve more than 550 companies with customized training solutions for their employees.





Sources: National Skills Coalition and the Mississippi Development Authority

Photography by Jacob Slaton



FROM APPRENTICE TO VICE PRESIDENT

How Ingalls' George S. Jones used CTE courses and an apprenticeship to build a high-powered career in Mississippi

Imagine someone paying you to learn instead of you paying them. Better yet, imagine a company providing you health care and benefits to continue your education.

That opportunity exists right here in the Magnolia State, where many Mississippi companies offer apprenticeships in technical careers across the state. These programs can be a very rewarding experience. Just ask George S. Jones, the vice president of operations at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula.

Jones started in his company's apprentice program decades ago and now he's the vice president of operations. At the time, Jones didn't know that by enrolling in Ingalls Apprentice School, he was on a path toward a high salary and honor. It just seemed like the right thing to do.

"I was fortunate that my high school, St. Martin High School in Jackson County, had a very good vo-tech program," Jones said. "Back then, just like now, a good career tech program was a pathway to the Ingalls apprentice program. I chose that path early in high school. I knew I could learn a trade and refine a skill that would provide stable employment opportunities for years to come."

It didn't take long for Jones to prove himself and rise within the company. Having just started his Ingalls apprenticeship in 1984, he quickly achieved journeyman status in shipfitting, welding, electrical and joiner/insulator. And in only two years, he was named 1986 Overall Apprentice of the Year.

Today, Jones is responsible for manufacturing operations for all Ingalls programs, including U.S. Navy surface combatants, amphibious programs and U.S. Coast Guard programs. He also strengthens leadership at every stage of management and implements innovation strategies and modernization efforts at the shipbuilding facility.

To join the Ingalls apprentice program, he says that one must have honesty, integrity and a willingness to work hard; the same things that one must have to get ahead in life.

"Any time you are considering a major life decision you should do your homework," he said. "Learn about the program and the company so that you are making an informed decision. Once you've made the decision, the next step is to make a plan. You must be ready to work hard and take pride in it."

ADVICE FROM GEORGE S. JONES
+ INSIGHT ON INGALLS' APPRENTICESHIPS

Q: What sets Ingalls' apprenticeship program apart from technical schools?
"Students in our program are full-time employees from day one. While they learn their chosen craft, they're also earning a starting salary of $41,000/year, with full benefits.

We have a great appreciation for and support trade and technical schools; they are a great first step prior to entering Ingalls Apprentice School."

Q: What's apprentice school like?
"In addition to academic work, Ingalls apprentices receive on-the-job training that cannot be replicated in a classroom setting.

More than 60 faculty and staff deliver more than 120 courses to apprentices to gain not only the skills, knowledge and pride of workmanship, but also the educational foundation and personal qualities needed to fully meet the challenges of a shipbuilding career."

Q: The program has been around for 60-plus years. What's new?
"The ships we are building today are the most complex and technologically advanced platforms in the world. As the ships we build and the missions they conduct evolve, our apprenticeship program has evolved as well.

Today, more than 1,800 apprentice alumni fill approximately 50 different types of jobs at Ingalls, many in craft, with 850 alumni going on to management and professional roles throughout the shipyard."

Q: What's your advice for high school students considering this path?
"Make a plan. Step one of that plan should be to enroll in your school's CTE program.

The qualities we look for in an apprentice are grit, determination, dependability and accountability. You must be ready to work hard and take pride in it."

How to Apply:
ingalls.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/ingalls-apprentice-school

POWERFUL WORDS

Real talk from real pros



MALIK SMITH

Field Technician at Stribling Equipment LLC

On fast-tracking his career

"I was able to get into the industry a lot faster not having to go to college for four years, and I started learning the actual trade faster."



TYLER MALONE

Welder at VT Halter Marine

On welding skills

"Welding isn't something you can just jump into and be good at. You have to work hard and put in many hours of practice."

ALONZO BROOKS

X-ray Technician at Bolivar Medical Center

On why he loves his job

"This sounds generic, but I love my job because it gives me an opportunity to help the people around me. The radiology department plays a huge role in helping the ordering physicians see what's happening on the inside, and in turn, diagnose the patient properly."



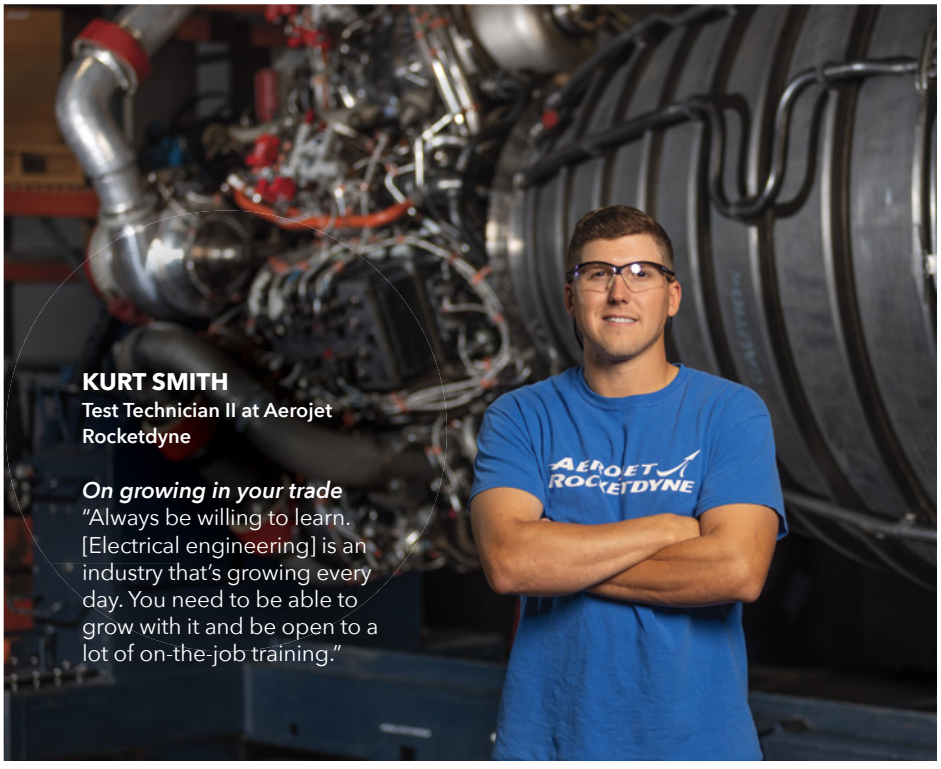


CLAY KOWALCZYK

Skilled Maintenance Team Member at Toyota Mississippi

On getting a job quickly

"I graduated with minimal debt and went straight to work in a field that is in desperate need of people. I was fortunate that I didn't have to look for work as jobs were lined up for me upon graduating."



KURT SMITH

Test Technician II at Aerojet Rocketdyne

On growing in your trade

"Always be willing to learn. [Electrical engineering] is an industry that's growing every day. You need to be able to grow with it and be open to a lot of on-the-job training."

ZACK IVY

Engineering Technician at North Mississippi Research and Extension Center

On his seasonal duties

"In the winter, I do lots of servicing on our equipment and fix anything I can find wrong with them. In the spring, I plant corn, cotton and soybeans, and we have grown milo and rice in the past. [In the] summers, I fix any equipment that needs repair, and I service the harvest equipment. In the fall, I harvest all of the crops and haul the grain to the grain elevator. If time and weather permits, we always try to do a good bit of fall tillage and rebedding fields."



MARTIN GUZMAN

Junior Software Developer at C Spire

On employer education and benefits

"C Spire will help you pay for most of your education. So, I plan to attend college while working at C Spire this upcoming year. Also, it's known that most of C Spire's executives started out at the bottom of the chain of command and worked up to be an executive, so that's always motivation."





HEATHER HIGGINBOTHAM

Assistant Operator at Mississippi Power

On why she loves her job

"In addition to working in a challenging environment with different tasks and unique opportunities every day, I get to help provide power to thousands of customers."

MELVAN TAYLOR

Rigger at Ingalls Shipbuilding

His advice for you

"Do your research. You need to make sure you understand the trade's mission and the skills that need to be obtained, and work towards those goals. And meet with people in the industry too, so you can learn interview tips that will help you give a successful interview."





ZAC WHITE

Lineman First Class, Entergy Mississippi

On financial freedom

"Within six months of having a job, I bought a new truck. I'd always wanted a new truck, and I went and bought one. I was able to get my own place and move out quicker. I wasn't tied down to student loans."

ALONSO HERNANDEZ

Classic Truck Restorer & Customizer and Owner of Madero Garage

On becoming an entrepreneur

"I never even owned a car in Costa Rica and now, after falling in love with old trucks, putting myself through school and working professionally for almost two years, I'm open for business."



DON'T-MISS EVENTS

Incredible opportunities to learn more about Mississippi's technical professions

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI CAREER EXPO

When: Biannual (late February & early October)
Where: Ballroom at the Inn at Ole Miss
What to expect: Be sure to iron your best outfit and polish your resume for this event. Representatives from different companies across the state want to see you looking professional. They also want to see your skills and accomplishments. What have you earned along your way? Top companies and industries are looking to schedule interviews for full-time positions and internships.
Find out more: career.olemiss.edu/career-fairs

EAST MISSISSIPPI JOB FAIR

When: Early April 2020
Where: Lyceum auditorium at East Mississippi Community College Golden Triangle campus
What to expect: Hundreds of potential employers and job seekers flock to the Lyceum auditorium each year for a chance to meet and swap info. This fair is free and open to EMCC students, graduates and the public. It's a great way to network with business and industry leaders, discover new and emerging career opportunities, and learn what kind of career and business skills employers want to see in new hires.
Find out more: eastms.edu/news/2018/east-mississippi-job-fair.html

PASSPORT TO CAREERS P2C EXPO

When: Early April 2020
Where: Fordice Equine Center, Mississippi Fairgrounds, Jackson
What to expect: Contractors, manufacturers and other businesses will demonstrate to eighth graders how they perform different tasks using hands-on skills. Students can participate in hands-on tasks and experience the latest tools, equipment and technology. Industries represented at the expo include construction, manufacturing, industrial maintenance and energy.
Find out more: mcef.net/events-schedule/passport-to-careers-expo

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES: NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI CAREER EXPO

When: October 2019
Where: BancorpSouth Arena, Tupelo
What to expect: This annual event is held each October and is designed to create a greater awareness of job and education opportunities after high school graduation for eighth-grade students. Activities connect students with 18 career pathways such as architecture, arts, business management and administration, education, law, public safety and manufacturing.
Find out more: createfoundation.com/career-expo

PATHWAY2POSSIBILITIES P2P

When: Mid-November 2019
Where: Coast Convention Center, Biloxi
What to expect: An interactive, hands-on career event that is geared toward eighth-grade students in public, private and home school. The expo also welcomes at-risk youth, ages 16-24. Experienced professionals will simulate real-world scenarios with the participation of students to achieve what it's really like to be a practitioner in fields such as EMT work and manufacturing.
Find out more: pathways2possibilities.org



JUMPSTART TO SUCCESS

When: February 6, 2020
Where: Forrest County Multipurpose Center
What to expect: Jumpstart to Success is an interactive career expo exclusive to eighth and ninth graders across Forrest, Lamar and Perry counties designed to expose students various career options. A one-day expo featuring local businesses, universities and community colleges, Jumpstart to Success will share with students the careers that are available and the skill sets necessary to achieve success.
Find out more: theadp.com

MISSION: POSSIBLE

When: A Wednesday-Thursday in mid-September each year
Where: Pine Belt Region
What to expect: An experiential day of learning for more than 500 eleventh-graders in Forrest, Lamar and Perry Counties hosted by Area Development Partnership. Students are exposed to workplace realities and practice soft skills like resume writing, interviews, business communication and job etiquette.
Find out more: theadp.com

VEX ROBOTICS COMPETITION

When: Year-round and annual national events
Where: Across the state and national
What to expect: VEX Competitions bring STEM skills to life by tasking teams of students with designing and building a robot to play against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge. Tournaments are held year-round at the regional, state and national levels and culminate at the VEX Robotics World Championship.
Find out more: vexrobotics.com
Explore all the Mississippi events: robotevents.com/map



C3 C SPIRE CODING CHALLENGE

When: March 2020
Where: C Spire in Ridgeland
What to expect: C3 is the regional coding competition for area high schools to inspire more Mississippi students to pursue computer science.
Find out more: cspire.com/cms/wireless/cspire-coding-challenge/#register

WHAT IS SKILLSUSA?

Founded in 1965, SkillsUSA is a national organization serving more than 300,000 students annually in nearly 4,000 local chapters. SkillsUSA's mission is to empower members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. **The organization helps middle school, high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.**

At the annual SkillsUSA Championships each June, thousands of students compete in 100 occupational and leadership skill areas. The competition is a huge event occupying a space equivalent to 20 football fields. The 2018 competition included more than 6,500 contestants in 103 separate events.

SKILLSUSA MISSISSIPPI COMPETITION

When: April 14 -15, 2020
Where: Mississippi Trade Mart, Jackson
What to expect: A chance for career and technical education students to compete for statewide recognition. Students who win at the state level go on to compete at the national SkillsUSA Competition.
Find out more: mcef.net/events/statechampionship

LEVEL UP

Students can take it up a notch with WorldSkills USA, where every two years, the United States sends a delegation of its most talented young, skilled workers to compete in an Olympics-style skills competition.
Find out more: worldskillsusa.org

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"I graduated with minimal debt and went straight to work in a field that is in desperate need of people. I was fortunate that I didn't have to look for work... jobs were lined up for me upon graduating."

CLAY KOWALCZYK
SKILLED MAINTENANCE TEAM MEMBER
TOYOTA MISSISSIPPI



LAPTOP

HP 14 INCH CHROMEBOOK



BEATS

OVER-THE-EAR NOISE CANCELLING HEADPHONES

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MSWORKS

a guide to life after high school

Prize drawing is for Mississippi students only. Drawings will take place in Spring Semester 2020.
Entries must be received by April 10, 2020.



BUILDING



THE



FUTURE

Manufacturers need curious problem solvers like you to build the next generation of our industry. Build your career through a paid internship and broad-based skilled technical training.

The Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program at Itawamba Community College can help you graduate in two years, debt-free, with a well-paying job and exciting future career prospects. Toyota Mississippi is proud to be one of Itawamba Community College's manufacturing partners that host an AMT work-study program, putting your new experience to work.

For more information and to apply, visit www.iccms.edu/amt

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