Silicon South: Promoting Digital Literacy and Computational Thinking in Mississippi
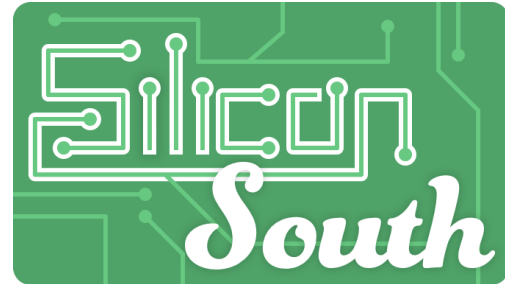
Location: **Mississippi Public Broadcasting**
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS

Date: April 11, 2017

Time: 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

8:00 am   Check-in

8:30 am   Welcome
Cynthia Skinner, College Options Foundation
Ben Minnifield, College Options Foundation

9:00 am   Developing a Public Policy Agenda (Panel)
Mississippi State Representative Jeremy Anderson
Ruthe Farmer, National Advocate for Equity and Inclusion in Technology
Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Executive Director, MS Community College Board
Dr. David O'Gwynn, Belhaven University

9:40 am   Unpacking STEM – Mississippi Job Prospects (Panel)
Kagan Coughlin, Co-founder, Base Camp Coding Academy
Carla Lewis, Sr. Vice President, Information Technology, C Spire

10:20 am   Why Cyber Security is a National Priority
Dr. Craig Orgeron, Mississippi Department of IT Services

11:15 am   Lunch

12:30 pm   Student Testimonials
Rimika Banerjee, Madison Central High School
Rian Walker, Mississippi State University

1:00 pm   The Importance of Diversity to STEM

Ruthe Farmer, National Advocate for Equity and Inclusion in Technology

Katie Ertz, National Center for Women and Information Technology

1:30 pm   The Mississippi Alliance for Women in Computing

Dr. Sarah Lee, Mississippi State University

Dr. Vemitra White, Mississippi State University

2:00-3:30 pm   Breakout Sessions

1) Getting Computational Thinking in Mississippi Schools – Policy Discussion
2) Mississippi Alliance for Women in Computing – Strategic Planning

A National Science Foundation Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (NSF INCLUDES #1649312) project.

Part of a national initiative to increase U.S. leadership in STEM.

Mississippi Public Broadcasting