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# Silicon South: Promoting Digital Literacy and Computational Thinking in Mississippi

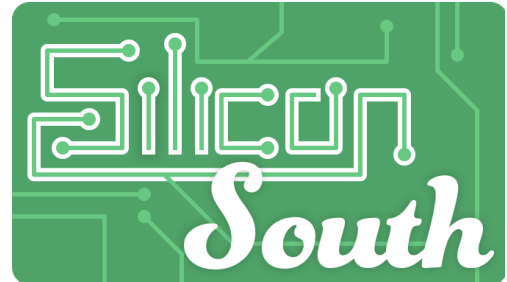
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Location: **Mississippi Public Broadcasting**  
**3825 Ridgewood Road**  
**Jackson, MS**

Date: April 11, 2017

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

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## **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

## **11:00 am Student Testimonial**

Rian Walker, Mississippi State University

**11:30 am Lunch**

**12:30 pm Student Testimonial**

Rimika Banerjee, Madison Central High School

**12:45 pm The Importance of Diversity to Computing**

*“Tech Inclusion: A National Workforce Imperative”*

Ruthe Farmer, National Advocate for Equity and Inclusion in Technology

*“Research-Based Strategies to Diversify the Technology Pipeline”*

Katie Ertz, National Center for Women and Information Technology

**1:45 pm The Mississippi Alliance for Women in Computing**

Dr. Sarah Lee, Mississippi State University

Dr. Vemitra White, Mississippi State University

**2:00-3:20 pm Breakout Sessions**

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

**3:30 pm Wrap Up – Next Steps**



*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.*

