



AABC 21st Annual Conference: May 4-5, 2026
Rooted in Service: Growing the Skills That Support Strong School Leadership

AGENDA

Monday, May 4, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. Welcome: Rooted in Service**
Michelle Martin, AABC President, Pontotoc City School District
- Planting the Plan: Agendas, Minutes, Board Calendars, and Records Retention**
Dr. Denotris R. Jackson, MSBA Executive Director
- 9:45 a.m. Break**
- 10:00 a.m. Grounded in Policy**
Austin Gilbert, Esq., MSBA Policy and Legislative Manager
- 11:00 a.m. Standing Tall in Integrity: Understanding the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics**
Etta Taplin, MSBA Vice President, and Board Member, North Pike School District
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. Growing Stronger Through Communication and De-Escalation**
Dr. Tommye Henderson, MSBA Superintendent Search Manager
- 1:45 p.m. Break**
- 2:00 p.m. Protecting What Grows: Cybersecurity and Social Engineering**
David Carter, MSBA Information Technology Director
- 2:45 p.m. Tending to Legal Issues**
Jim Keith, Esq., MSBA General Counsel, and Partner, Adams and Reese, LLP
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn**

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. Welcome: Planting the Seeds for Success**
Michelle Martin, AABC President, Pontotoc City School District
- Helping New Leadership Take Root: New Superintendent Orientation**
Michelle Martin, AABC President, Pontotoc City School District; Monica Hall, East Tallahatchie School District; LaTeasha Blackmon, Oxford School District; Christy Little, Monroe County School District; Judy Collins, Winona Montgomery Consolidated School District; and Heather Nestor, Amory School District
- 9:00 a.m. Keynote: The Heart Behind the Work—The Quiet Strength That Helps Leadership Grow**
Dr. Toriano Holloway, Superintendent, Vicksburg Warren School District
- 9:45 a.m. Break**
- 10:00 a.m. Grounded in Ethics**
Ross Hammons, Esq., Assistant Director and Counsel, Mississippi Ethics Commission
- 11:00 a.m. Caring for the Whole Garden: Mental Health for Staff and Families**
Dr. Donna Scott, MSBA Trainer
- 12:00 p.m. Blooming Together Luncheon (Provided by MSBA)**
Featured Speaker: Dr. Shannon Whitehead, Superintendent, Philadelphia Public School District
- 1:00 p.m. AABC Business Meeting**
- 1:30 p.m. Adjourn**