



MSBA 53RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 24-26, 2025

AGENDA FOR **VIRTUAL** ATTENDEES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

2:00 PM

Navigating the Future: Responsible AI and Policy Insights — *Dr. Nashlie Sephus, Applied Scientist, Amazon Web Services (AWS)*

From Theory to Reality: Hands-On AI for Leaders
Ivan Walker, Engineer, AWS

3:45 PM

Break

4:00 PM

Cyber Shield: Cybersecurity in the Age of AI
Courtney Walker, Cybersecurity Specialist

5:00 PM

Adjourn

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:00 AM

Opening General Session

- **Welcome** — *Dr. Denotris Jackson, MSBA Executive Director; and Dr. Delores McNair, MSBA President*
- **Greetings** — *Glen East, State Board President, Mississippi Department of Education (MDE); and Dr. Lance Evans, State Superintendent of Education, MDE*
- **Posting of Colors** — *NJROTC, Canton High School, Canton Public School District*
- **Recognition of Sponsors** — *Bailey Education Group, LLC*
- **Simbli Introduction** — *Mark Willis, Assistant Executive Director, Georgia School Boards Association*
- **MSBA Student Essay Contest Winners**

9:00 AM

General Session Speaker — *Judy Newman, Chief Impact Officer, Scholastic*

10:15 AM

Break

10:45 AM

Student Voices in Leadership: Insights from Student Board and Advisory Council Members

Lathan Lewis, Senior, Pass Christian High School, Pass Christian Public School District; Crosby Parker, Junior, Gulfport High School, Gulfport School District; Kate Riddle, Senior, Lafayette High School, Lafayette County School District; Amaya Whigham, Senior, Hattiesburg High School, Hattiesburg Public School District; and Kenai Williamson, Senior, Independence High School, Tate County School District

11:45 AM

Lunch Break

1:00 PM

Superintendent Evaluation: A Governance Tool for Student Success — *Dr. Denotris Jackson, MSBA Executive Director; and Dr. Tommye Henderson, MSBA Superintendent Search Manager*

Executive Director; and Dr. Tommye Henderson, MSBA Superintendent Search Manager

2:15 PM

Open Meetings & Ethics: Foundations for Transparent Governance — *Tom Hood, Esq., Executive Director & Chief Counsel, Mississippi Ethics Commission*

3:15 PM

Break

3:30 PM

Policy Jeopardy: Test Your Policy Knowledge!
Austin Gilbert, Esq., Policy & Legislative Manager, Mississippi School Boards Association

5:00 PM — 6:30 PM

School Board Member Recognition Week Reception
Featuring the Germantown High School Legacy Choir, Madison County School District

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:00 AM

General Session

- **Welcome** — *Dr. Denotris Jackson, MSBA
Executive Director; and Sondra Odom, MSBA
Vice-President*
- **Musical Presentation** — *Pearl Madrigals,
Pearl Public School District*
- **Recognition of Sponsors** — *American Fidelity
and Scholastic*
- **Recognition of Retiring Directors**
- **Presentation of MSBA Student Essay
Contest Winners**
- **General Session Speaker** — *James Pond,
President & CEO, Governor's Early Literacy
Foundation (Scholastic)*

10:00 AM

Break

10:30 AM

Avoiding Liability Through Effective Policy Implementation

Anissa Young, MSBA Insurance Program Manager

11:45 AM

Celebration Luncheon; Door Prizes

1:15 PM

Adjourn

Agenda subject to change.