

# MISSISSIPPI NEWSLETTER



QUARTER 3 - OCTOBER 2023

## Early Childhood Investment Council

The Early Childhood Investment Council (ECIC) is comprised of prominent business leaders across Mississippi and organized by ReadyNation Mississippi in partnership with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The influence of this group, as individual business leaders and as a collective, positively impacts policies and programs to help Mississippi's children succeed, especially those who are most vulnerable. In turn, this success helps ensure more students develop the skills they need to pursue a degree or credential of value and secure a good-paying job, increasing the ability of businesses to attract and retain the talent they need to thrive.

**The Mississippi Early Childhood Investment Council  
Welcomed 5 New Members for 2023!**



**Evelyn Cayson**

Market President,  
MS & AL, Aledade,  
Inc.



**Jasmin O.  
Chapman, DDS**

CEO, Jackson Hinds  
Comprehensive  
Health Center



**Lydia Irby**

Assistant Group  
Manager, Human  
Resources Toyota  
Mississippi



**Alan Lovelace**

VP of Development,  
Technology, &  
Strategy, RPM  
Pizza, LLC



**C. D. Smith**

Regional Director,  
AT&T Mississippi

## Brain Science Speakers Bureau

MS doctor joins the Brain Science Speaker's Bureau!

**Dr. Susan Buttross**

ReadyNation Brain  
Science Speaker



Dr. Susan Buttross, a Mississippi native, has over 35 years of experience as a physician and educator specializing in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. After graduation from Mississippi State University, then medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), she completed her residency in pediatrics at UMMC and the University of Texas, Galveston Branch. She is a Professor of Pediatrics at UMMC and served as Chief of the Division of Child Development for 28 years and Medical Director of the Center for the Advancement of Youth. She presently is the Director of the Child Health and Development Project.

She has recently been elected as the National AAP District VII Vice-Chair on the Developmental Behavioral Pediatric Prep Editorial Board and the AAP Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Task Force.

For the last 12 years, she has hosted Southern Remedy's Relatively Speaking, a weekly radio show on family and child issues, for Mississippi Public Radio. She is married to Robert Riddell, a retired Landscape Architect and Developer, and has five children and 11 grandchildren.

## 4th Annual MS ECIC Convening

### Highlights!

Senior business leaders came together from across the state to reconnect, discuss 2024 legislative priorities, and jump-start state and local initiatives to support greater successes for pre-K children.

The business leaders heard an address from the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Susan Buttross, and more. We enjoyed the beautiful sounds of the pre-k choir from Van Winkle Elementary School in Jackson, MS. President and CEO of Council for a Strong America, Barry Ford, and WKKF Program Officer, Todd Klunk, presented and showed their support for the work happening in Mississippi.





ECIC Members



Seth Assink, Vice President/SBA Business Development Officer, Peoples Bank  
 C. Jerome Brown, Executive Vice President, The First Bank  
 Wade Broyles, Regional Vice President- Central US, Oracle Cloud Infrastructure  
 Evelyn Cayson, Market President; MS & AL, Aledade, Inc.  
 Jasmin O. Chapman, DDS, CEO, Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health Center  
 Ralph Clark, Vice President and Commercial Relationship Manager II, Trustmark - Metro  
 General Augustus "Leon" Collins, CEO, MINACT Inc.  
 John Damon, Ph.D., CEO, Canopy Children's Solutions  
 Jason Dean, Senior Vice President, PATH Company  
 Jason Duren, Senior Vice President, Cadence Bank  
 Joey Garner, President & CEO, TEC  
 Will Garner, Vice President/ Shareholder, Ross & Yerger  
 Jeff Good, President, Mangia Bene Restaurant Management Group  
 David Gray, Vice President & CFO, Consolidated Catfish Producers (Delta Pride Catfish)  
 Charles Hall, Vice President of Power Generation, Entergy  
 David Henry, CEO, Merit Health Central  
 Neil Henry, Regional President, Citizens National Bank  
 John Payton Hood, Vice President of Commercial Banking, Hancock Whitney  
 Maury Hull, Vice President of Human Resources, Hol-Mac Corporation  
 Lydia Irby, Assistant Group Manager, Human Resources Toyota Mississippi  
 Susan Jacobs, Vice President of Human Resources & Administration, Ingalls Shipbuilding  
 Brian K. Johnson, Executive Vice President, Fisher Brown Bottrell Insurance  
 Jonathan Jones, Senior Vice President & General Manager, Harrah's Gulf Coast  
 Willie Jones, President & CEO, Dependable Source  
 Kirk Lewis, Chairman & President, Blue Springs Metals  
 Alan Lovelace, Vice President of Development, Technology, & Strategy, RPM Pizza, LLC  
 Latasha D. McCullar, Vice President of Operations, Blacklidge Emulsions, Inc.  
 Debra McGee, Senior Vice President & Director of Minority Business Development, BankPlus  
 Paula McNair, Vice President of Finance, Atmos Energy  
 Jack Reed, Jr., Chairman, R. W. Reed Company  
 Jordan Robinson, First Vice President & COO, Mississippi Center for Advanced Medicine  
 C.D. Smith, Regional Director, AT&T Mississippi  
 Iris Stacker, Interim CEO, Delta Health: The Medical Center  
 Nicole Stubbs, Vice President of Performance Improvement, Greenwood-Leflore Hospital  
 Alan Sudduth, Manager of Government Affairs, Chevron  
 Christie Vance, VP of Operations & COO, Mississippi Methodist Senior Services, Inc.  
 Charles D. Watson II, Senior Vice President of Network Operations, C Spire  
 Tim Weston, Vice President, JESCO, Inc.  
 Ashley Willson, Office Managing Partner, KPMG LLP  
 Matt Wilson, Vice President of Operations, Newk's Eatery

## Get Connected

As we continue to spread the message about the vital importance of child care, we encourage everyone to join the conversation on social media by following ReadyNation [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#). For regular LinkedIn users, we also encourage you to add your affiliation with ReadyNation under the "volunteer experience" section.

**Questions:** For more information about the ECIC or our work in Mississippi, please contact Tonya Ware at [tware@readynation.org](mailto:tware@readynation.org).

Thank you for your support this year!



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