



# Mississippi Council for the Social Studies

MCSS Newsletter:  
Melissa Baneck

November 2015

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## Dr. Michael Vinson Williams to Highlight MCSS Conference Awards Luncheon

Dr. Michael Vinson Williams, Professor of History at Tougaloo College and author of *Medgar Evers: Mississippi Martyr*, will be the guest author and give the keynote address during the 2015 MCSS Conference Award Luncheon.

Publishers Weekly called Williams' work "an important and readable study of this seminal leader and the history of the civil rights movement," and Neil McMillen, author of *Dark Journey: Black Mississippians in the Age of Jim Crow*, called the book "a well-grounded inquiry into Mississippi's heart of darkness, ... an essential reading of the short life and tragic times of Medgar Evers." John Dittmer, author of *Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi*, said, "Williams captures Medgar Evers in all his complexity in this well-written, solidly researched, important book."

Dr. Vinson Williams will speak at the Awards Luncheon of the MCSS annual conference Thursday, November 5 at 12:00. He also will be available to sign copies of his new book and copies of the book will be available for purchase.



"We are pleased to have such an accomplished Mississippi scholar joining us for the conference this year," said MCSS President Chuck Yarborough. "Dr. Vinson Williams's work offers Social Studies teachers across our state and region valuable resources for classroom use. To have him interact directly with our conference attendees is absolutely fantastic."

In addition to his most recent book, Dr. Vinson Williams has also authored multiple articles and papers that have been published in journals across the United States. He has also participated in interviews broadcast by the BBC, National Public Radio, and numerous regional and local media outlets.

## MCSS FALL CONFERENCE- November 5, 2015

**"Social Studies in Mississippi: College, Career, and Civic Life (C3)"**

**Location:** Old Capitol Museum  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History,  
Jackson, MS

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

MCSS will offer a variety of professional development sessions for elementary, middle, and secondary teachers.

Sessions will focus on how to use the NCSS's College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies Standards to help implement Common Core State Standards.

**.8 CEUS will be offered through Mississippi State University**

Participants must register for CEUs online through [ce.msucare.com](http://ce.msucare.com)

For more information see p.3

Please visit the MCSS website at [mcss.org.msstate.edu](http://mcss.org.msstate.edu)

MCSS President:  
Chuck Yarborough

**Register for the MCSS Fall Conference Online at [www.eventbrite.com/e/mississippi-council-for-the-social-studies-fall-conference-2015-tickets-18556262280](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/mississippi-council-for-the-social-studies-fall-conference-2015-tickets-18556262280)**

## Conference Schedule

8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration (Old Capitol) and refreshments

9:00-9:50 a.m. General Session

10:00-10:50 a.m. Concurrent session 1

11:00-11:50 a.m. Concurrent session 2

12:00-1:30 p.m. Awards Luncheon – Old Capitol Inn Grande Ballroom

1:30-2:20 p.m. Concurrent session 3

2:30-3:20 p.m. Concurrent session 4

3:30-5:00 p.m. **Field Trips: Margaret Walker Center, Jackson, MS or cofo Civil Rights**

### Education Center

5:30 p.m. Closing session and reception, Sponsored by the Mississippi Geographic

Alliance

### Other Confirmed Speakers

Dr. Alberta Yeboah, Jackson State University

Dr. Otis Pickett, Mississippi College

Mr. Chuck Yarborough, Mississippi School for Math and Science

Mr. Steven White, Pearl High School, Pearl, MS

Dr. Ellen Foster, University of Mississippi

Mrs. Alice Carolus, Amanda Elzy High Schol, Greenwood, MS

The conference is followed by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Social Studies Teachers Workshop on Friday, November 6, 2015 at the Old Capitol Museum for information please visit: <http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/events/social-studies-teachers-workshop/>

**NOTE: Registration for the MDAH Social Studies Teachers Workshop is separate from the MCSS Conference. Register for the MCSS Fall Conference at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mississippi-council-for-the-social-studies-fall-conference-2015-tickets-18556262280>**

## Continuing Education Registration

Participants must register for CEUs online through [ce.msucare.com](http://ce.msucare.com). Below is the information needed to register for CEUs.

Course Number: CEUS082501

Course Title: Mississippi Council for the Social Studies Fall Conference 2015

Course Dates: November 5, 2015 (Registration begins on the last day of the course.)

Registration Deadline: November 19, 2015 (Last day to register for CEUs. Certificates will not be issued until after the registration deadline.)

CEUS Awarded: 0.8

Coordinator: Kenneth Anthony

In order to register for and obtain your CEUs for this course, you will need to follow these instructions:

1. Please have your card in hand before beginning the registration process. You will not be able to register and make an online payment in separate transactions. Please do not continue if you do not have your payment information.
2. Go to [ce.msucare.com](http://ce.msucare.com)
3. Choose the Catalog tab.
4. You will then see the categories of our course catalog. You will choose CEU Registration.
5. The current course listings will appear. Choose the Course Title that is listed above.
6. This screen shows each section of the course that was offered. Using the Course Number listed above, choose the correct section of your course. Make sure you register for correct course number.
7. Choose Add to Cart. (Do not add to cart if you are not ready to pay. You cannot go back and pay later.)
8. You will now either Create New Account or Sign in to Existing Account.

We suggest that when creating an account, you use an email address that will not likely change.

9. Once you have created or signed in to your account, you will be directed to your Shopping Cart. After checking your order for accuracy, you will choose Check Out.

10. Once you select your Payment Method and enter your information, you will be led to a confirmation page. You will also receive an email stating the status of your order. Once your payment is verified, you will receive an additional email. In order to receive CEU credit participants must attend all sessions and sign the attendance roster. The Mississippi Council for the Social Studies is a state affiliate of the National Council for the Social Studies. The purpose of this organization is to promote social studies as the key subject in developing good citizenship, to provide a like among educators interested in social studies, and to aid the development of social studies educators professionally.

**Mississippi Council for the Social Studies**

**The Jesse Palmer Social Studies**

**Educator of the Year Award**

The Mississippi Council for the Social Studies invites nominations of educators to be considered for the 2015 Jesse Palmer Social Studies Educator of the Year Award. Established in memory of Dr. Jesse Palmer, this award is given each year to an educator who demonstrates exemplary knowledge, skills, and dispositions in promoting quality social studies education in Mississippi schools.

To be considered for this award, an educator must have at least three years teaching experience, be currently involved in a social studies related profession, and submit an application packet that includes the following:

**I. Vitae**

- A. Name and current information (address, phone number, e-mail)
- B. Current and past education related employment
- C. Educational background (degrees, specialized training, other)
- D. Positions of leadership held (professional, civic, other)
- E. Honors and awards received
- F. Participation in professional organizations (memberships, service, other)
- G. Workshops, seminars, professional development of note
- H. Other relevant information as deemed appropriate

**II. Questionnaire** (Answer each of the following in a paragraph or more)

- A. Why did you choose to become a professional educator?
- B. What is your philosophy of teaching?
- C. What is your approach to social studies education?
- D. In what ways do you go "above and beyond" to be the best professional you can be?

**III. Supporting documentation**

- A. Letter of recommendation from a current supervisor
- B. Letter of recommendation from a current colleague
- C. Letter of recommendation from a current or former student

To be considered as an award recipient for this calendar year, application packets must be emailed to Steven White at [srwhite38@hotmail.com](mailto:srwhite38@hotmail.com).

**2014 Social Studies Hall of Fame**



2014 Mississippi Social Studies Educator's Hall of Fame Inductees Award Winners: Jim Johnson, Bettye Chamberlain, Mary Jane Jackson, Steven White, and Valerie Hardy

**Board Members**

President: Chuck Yarborough  
 Vice President and current President  
 Elect: Otis Pickett  
 Secretary: Gayle Greene-Aguirre  
 Treasurer: Marlo Hendrix  
 District 1 Representative: Tracy Aldridge  
 District 2 Representative: Claire Gwaltney  
 District 3 Representative: Alice Carolus  
 District 4 open  
 Representative at Large Bert Nokes

**Board Nominations**

**The following positions will be voted on and are available for nomination:**

Vice President, District 1 Representative, District 2 Representative, District 3 Representative, District 4 Representative, and At-large Representative

**At the 2014 MCSS Conference, Dr. Alberta Yeboah of Jackson State University was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Social Studies Education Award on the College Level.**



### Using Primary Sources in the classroom

**Dr. Kenneth V. Anthony, Mississippi State University**

Primary sources can be powerful tools to help teachers make history come alive in their classrooms. As the Library of Congress explains, "Primary sources are the raw materials of history" and when we use them students can learn how history is written. Primary sources also allow students to do history. Students can use as set of primary sources to study an event in depth and create their own historical narratives. Additionally, students can use primary sources to help extend their understanding of a particular event, individual, or group in history. Primary sources can help make historical events and figures real to our students. I often use primary sources from Abraham Lincoln's life to make him a real person. We often think of Lincoln as a larger than life individual, but reading his letters and speeches allows students to see elements of his personality that are often missing from textbook accounts including compassion and humor. The good news is that there are many websites teachers can use to find primary sources and sample lesson plans they can modify for their individual classrooms. I have listed a few of my favorites below.

Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/>

National Archives <http://www.archives.gov/education/>

Newseum <http://www.newseum.org/education/>

Mississippi Department of Archives and History:

<http://mdah.state.ms.us/new/>

Famous Trials: <http://www.umkc.edu/famoustrials/>

University of Southern Mississippi Civil Rights Digital Archive: <http://digilib.usm.edu/crmda.php> U.S.

Grant Presidential Library <http://www.usgrantlibrary.org/>

### Heroes for character education

**Melissa Baneck, Mississippi State University**

Heroes can be a successful tool for teaching character education. The National Council for Social Studies identifies ten themes, one of them being Individual Development and Identity. The NCSS standards state that, "Through this theme, students examine the factors that influence an individual's personal identity, development, and actions." To use heroes to meet the goals of this theme, a definition of heroes must be decided on with students. A suggested definition could include the following components: a hero's acts are brave, or great, for the time in which they occurred. These acts inspire others to achieve the great acts they feel are necessary to better the world they live in. Additionally, their acts benefit their society.

Determining what figures to use in a study of heroes can be difficult, but it is important to include male and female figures from different backgrounds and races. This becomes difficult when teachers discredit certain individuals for perceived "flaws"; however, those flaws are most often taken out of context from the time in which the individuals lived. Teachers serve as "gatekeepers" to the implementation of curriculum in their classroom (Thornton, 2005). Take for example, Thomas Jefferson. He owned slaves, but he also played a huge part in our nation's history, does this mean he should not be included in the study? While it is up to a teacher what knowledge comes through the gate, discrediting people for flaws excludes students from learning about a variety of heroic actions. Actions, good and bad, should be discussed with students. Identifying what qualifies and disqualifies a person as a hero allows students more opportunities to learn about and develop character. Below are a few websites that can help a teacher get started using heroes and heroines in the classroom.

Heroes Webquest: <http://www.cesa8.k12.wi.us/teares/math/it/webquests/Heroism/Heroes/index.HTM>

Heroes and Heroines in the Family: <http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1993/2/93.02.03.x.html>

Unsung Heroes by Howard Zinn: <http://zinnedproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/unsung-heroes1.pdf>

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