

Southern Echo, Inc.



20th Year Celebration

**Friday, December 10, 2010
Jackson, MS**

**Empowering
low-wealth grassroots communities
to become architects of public policy
rather than objects of public policy**



marguerite **casey** foundation

*Congratulates Southern Echo on
20 years of building voices*

Marguerite Casey Foundation exists to help low-income families strengthen their voice and mobilize their communities in order to achieve a more just and equitable society for all.





**Southern
Echo
Staff**

When we started the work of Southern Echo in 1990 we had no staff. When we raised our first resources in 1993 we hired Hollis, Leroy and Mike as the first staff.

Hollis came on staff in March, Leroy in April and Mike in June of 1993. We made a commitment to limit the size of the staff to seven, because our goal was to remain small – lean and mean – if you will. We did not envision a large, centralized organization. We saw the focus on building local, grassroots organizations, controlled locally, with independent resources, setting their own agendas, and accountable to local communities, not Southern Echo.

But, as the program of work increased dramatically within the State of Mississippi, and into the southern region, we could not spread ourselves out without our ability to support the work becoming too thin. We expanded the staff to four, then six, then seven, then nine, eventually reaching as high as sixteen. At present our staff size is twelve. This was not our vision, but it is our reality. We still have a lot to learn about how best to balance the size of staff with the breadth and depth of program.

What has sustained us through time is the extraordinary commitment and vitality of this staff of such diverse experience, background, gender, race and age. Our staff covers five decades in ages, from the twenties to the sixties. As intense as we can be, we know how to laugh, to cry and to support each other.

At the heart of the work of the staff is the active involvement in the training, technical and legal assistance which Echo shares with community people and public officials with whom it is working. The staff also engages in extensive road travel across the state throughout the year. In the past two decades, as the work of Echo expanded into the southern and southwest regions, and has also become recognized nationally, staff and community people have increasingly traveled to other states throughout the country.

The growth of the work has forced the staff to learn to “do everything” and at the same time to specialize. For example, **Asst. Dir. Brenda Hyde**, who provides training and technical assistance to organizations, has taken responsibility for managing Echo’s role as an Intermediary Support Organization. **Helen Johnson**, who sits on the Holmes County School Board, is Echo’s Education Coordinator and supports the work of the *MS Delta Catalyst Roundtable*. **Betty Petty**, former Indianola school board member, is on the front line of Echo’s program on Early Childhood Learning and Care in Sunflower County. **Marilyn Young** is working to creating a quality public education model in Tunica County, where she sits on the school board. **Dianna Freelon-Foster** is building a youth-based community organizing program in Grenada County while assisting other community organizations to grow. **Janas Saulsberry** works in Tallahatchie County to enable long-excluded voices to emerge so they can become architects rather than objects of local policy. **Constance Burwell**, our newest staff person, focuses on education policy and the legislative process. **Rachel Mayes**, who serves as Financial Coordinator and Office Manager, keeps the ship afloat, sails full and headed in the right direction. **Amelia Hunter**, our Resource Developer, provides training to local organizations on managing budgets and fundraising. **Pres. Hollis Watkins** travels across the nation providing training on community organizing tools and skills. **Exec. Dir. Leroy Johnson** oversees the administration of all aspects of Southern Echo and has responsibility for building relationships with funders, donors and contributors. **Mike Sayer** cranks out education materials to support the Echo program of work and works with the legislative process.

We honor our staff tonight for their commitment, hard work, diligence, persistence, good humor, mutual respect, and in recognition that we could not achieve our work without them.

Southern Echo Staff:

Constance Burwell
Dianna Freelon-Foster
Amelia Hunter

Brenda Hyde
Helen Johnson
Leroy Johnson

Rachel Mayes
Betty Petty
Janas Saulsberry

Mike Sayer
Hollis Watkins
Marilyn Young



Southern Echo Board of Directors

When Southern Echo was conceived, we determined that we needed to have a Board of Directors comprised of individuals who were actively engaged in real work in their communities. To the extent possible, we wanted the members of the Board also to be actively involved in the work of Southern Echo. Such a board, we thought, would be best able to set policy for the organization, and hold the staff accountable, because their understanding of the vision, strategies and program of work of the organization would grow out active involvement in the work.

As a result, every member of Echo's Board during the past two decades has come onto the Board because of the work they had been doing in the community. From time to time members have rotated off the Board because of changes in their circumstances, and have made room for new members to come onto to the Board who are actively involved in real work in their communities.

In the composition of the Board we sought to achieve diversity in experience, gender, generations, geography and organizational affiliation. At present, we have seven Board members, but will be building back to our norm of twelve. Our Board has three women and four men representing a span of six decades in ages, two of whom are in their early twenties. Every Board member is actively involved with at least one local community organization. Most are involved in several groups. All of the Board members have been actively involved in training, technical and legal assistance which Southern Echo has provided to the communities in which they work. Board members have been actively involved in raising funds for the organization and in the sessions in which Echo develops its strategies and programs of work each year in support of the vision of the organization.

We honor all of our Board members, past and present, for their dedicated service to and on behalf of Southern Echo, and their invaluable contributions to its development, success and survival.

Present Board members:

Oliver Rice
Chairperson
Adams County, MS

Clara Davis
Washington County, MS

Kimberlyn Galvin
Sunflower County, MS

Greg Johnson
Humphreys County, MS

Joyce Parker
Washington County, MS

Hollis Watkins
Hinds County, MS

Alfonzo White
Montgomery County, MS

Former Board Members:

Sulaimaan Abdullah
Lincoln County, MS

Ann Brown
Holmes County, MS

April Daniel
Sunflower County, MS

Mac Arthur Epps
Holmes County, MS

Richard Gardner
Tallahatchie County, MS

Carolynne Hawkins
Sunflower County, MS

Rosie Head
Holmes County, MS

Carmella Johnson
Holmes County

David Johnson
Sunflower County, MS

Tramaine Jones
Holmes County, MS

Annie Noel
Holmes County, MS

Kyrie Smith
Holmes County, MS

Melbah Smith
Rankin County, MS

Stephanie Parker-Weaver
Hinds County, MS

Marilyn Young
Tunica County, MS



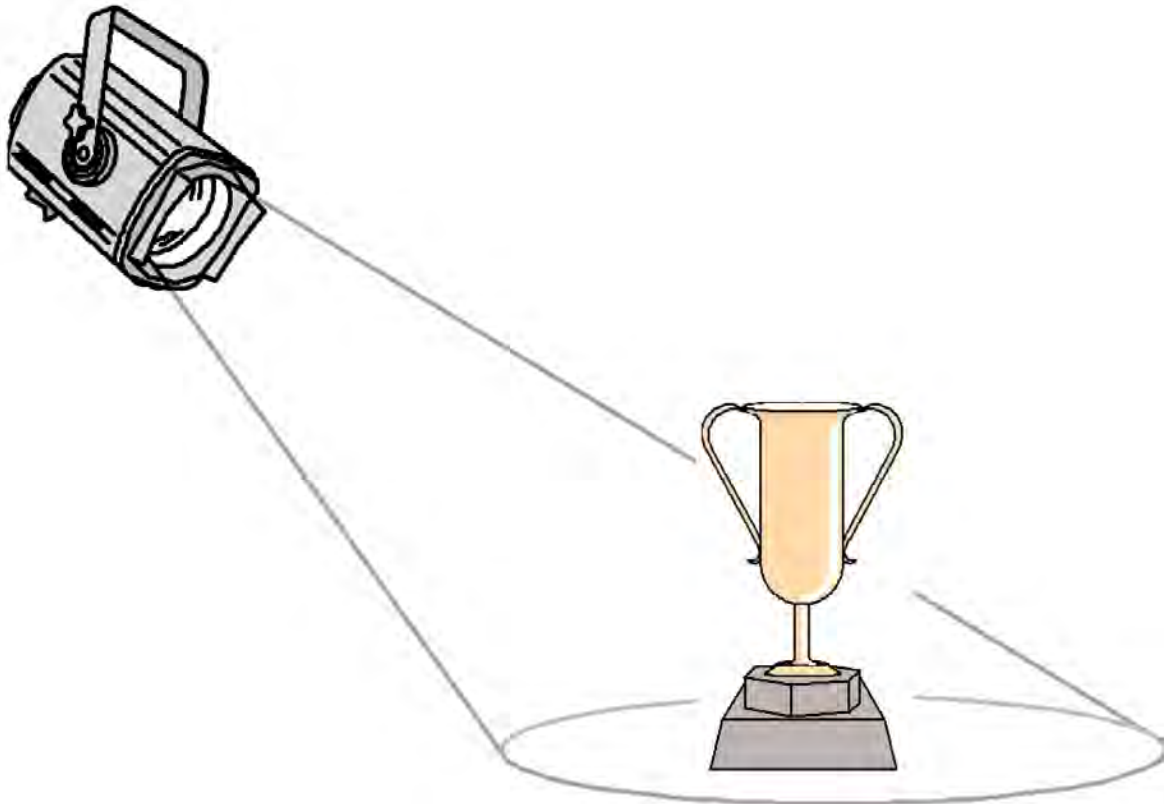
As part of Southern Echo's 20 year celebration, we feel that it is most important to recognize and pay homage to those who have made our creation, survival, growth and success possible.

Honors And Awards

It is not possible at a celebration such as this to lift up every person who has had a hand in our work and enabled the communities with which we work to make such big strides in so short a time.

Nevertheless, we seek tonight to honor some of the people whom we love and who have meant so much to us during the past decade since our 10 year celebration. To these individuals and organizations we extend our love, gratitude and sincerest wish that our relationship can continue to flourish. To anyone that we have not given an award tonight, we hope that you know and understand that your spirit and work continues to be essential to our past and a critical part of the foundation for our future.

We have set out below explanations of the categories of honors and awards to be presented at the banquet, and those who have been chosen as recipients.





The
Henry Kirksey Award
to
Brenda Oliver Hyde
Helen Johnson
and
Betty Petty

Ten years ago at our 10 year celebration we presented our 1st **Henry Kirksey Award**. It was given to the person for whom the award was named. Throughout his exemplary life in the struggle for human rights and freedom for all people Kirksey was a visionary who was penetrating in his analysis of the nature of the struggle and what needs to be done, relentless in the integrity of his pursuit of accountability, always absolutely fearless and ready to pick up the cudgel to do battle, and generous in spirit and ready to provide a helping hand to all. He built his extraordinary skills as a teacher, historian and demographer on a foundation of uncompromising commitment to the needs and interests of the people.

It is our privilege to present the 2nd **Henry Kirksey Award** to three extraordinary fighters who have built Southern Echo into the organization which it has become: **Brenda Oliver Hyde**, **Helen Johnson** and **Betty Petty**. These three Southern Echo veterans exemplify through their tireless work and relentless efforts to empower communities of color and of low-wealth what we mean by "commitment to the people". They are tough in will and clear in voice in the face of systemic resistance to change, while gracious and generous in spirit. They are hard-driving on behalf of their vision of struggle, determined to re-set the parameters of what it is possible to achieve, without losing in the process their humility, self-awareness, fulsome laughter or twinkle in the eye. Through years of struggle they have earned the respect and trust of their compatriots in states across the South and Southwest, and at the same time, from those who have opposed their efforts tooth and nail. They have shared their great talents to become venerable leaders who serve as models for organizers and leaders everywhere.

Brenda Oliver Hyde is the Assistant Director of Southern Echo. She began working with Southern Echo as an intern in 1994. She has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Jackson State University, but it was our good fortune that Brenda turned away from academia to get knee deep in the tangled thickets of grassroots community organizing. Early on it became clear that Brenda had the passion, insight, drive and commitment to take on the stress-filled burdens of organizational management. Early on Brenda assumed responsibility for Echo's youth leadership development program while providing training and technical assistance to grassroots communities in all parts of the state. Brenda has also become an accomplished political redistricting practitioner and trainer of community groups and public officials. Brenda later took on the position of Program Director and then the position of Assistant Director. As Assistant Director and a member of the Southern Echo Management Team, she has been absorbing all aspects of the Echo management process. Brenda also supervises Echo's role as an Intermediary Support Organization through which Echo re-grants foundation funds and provides training and technical assistance to emerging grassroots organizations in eight southern states that are working to empower their communities. In respect of her accomplishments Brenda serves on non-profit organization and foundation Boards.

Helen Johnson is one of the founders of *Nollie Jenkins Family Center*, located in Holmes County, and formerly known as *Citizens for Quality Education*. Helen is serving her second term on the Holmes County School Board where she works to open up the process so that parents and students can become the architects of education policy rather than merely the objects of education policy. She does battle with the Superintendent and the other Board members to model what it means to be a school board member who is accountable to community and to lift up for community and the Board a model of accountable governance. Helen campaigns for her vision of what constitutes a quality public education and the elements needed to create healthy schools in which a quality educational opportunity for students can flourish. Helen joined the Echo staff in 1997 and became its Education Coordinator. She and Betty Petty were instrumental in the formation of the MS Coalition for the Prevention of Schoolhouse to Jailhouse. Helen and her sister, Ellen Reddy, were honored with a Resolution of the MS State Legislature for their outstanding leadership that culminated in the passage of the 2004 Juvenile Justice Act that ended abuses and brought reforms to the incarceration of youth at the state's training schools.

Betty Petty is the founder and Director of *Sunflower County Parents & Students Organization* in Indianola, MS and a member of the Southern Echo Management Team. In 1994, while working full time as an administrator in a mental health center in Indianola, Betty organized the *Indianola Math Games League*, in which 5th and 6th graders learned the math skills to prepare them for algebra. Out of this process Betty worked with the students and parents to form the *Indianola Parent Student Group* to work on public education and environmental issues. The organization eventually became the *Sunflower County Parents & Students Organization*. Betty joined the Southern Echo staff as an organizer in 1995. She has been a tireless soldier on behalf of students with disabilities who have been denied their rights and services to which they are entitled. Betty served a term on the Indianola School Board where she fought relentlessly to make the work of the Board transparent to community and to be a voice for their needs and interests. She has also been a "go-to" person in communities across the Delta region when students and parents need representation when trying to hold school officials accountable in either administrative or disciplinary proceedings. Betty is a skilled organizer and trainer of parents and students and negotiator with educators and other public officials. She serves on a number of non-profit and quasi-governmental boards.



*Exemplary Leader
Award
to
Joyce Parker
and
Melvin Young*

We are so very proud to present the **Exemplary Leader Award** to **Joyce Parker**, of Greenville, MS and **Melvin Young**, of Tunica, MS.

The **Exemplary Leader Award** recognizes grassroots community leaders whose work exemplifies a model of what a movement leader needs to be:

- They are able to envision the “big picture”: understanding the long view of what is needed to empower African American communities, how best to proceed to get there, and learning and adapting from experience every step of the way;
- They are hard-working, relentless and accountable in their work to support community;
- They urgently provide training and technical assistance to other communities within Mississippi and in other states to assist them to build emerging, independent community-based organizations and new accountable leadership;
- They are undaunted by seemingly insurmountable obstacles: always finding a way to “made-do” with the resources available;
- They appreciate, respect and build upon the culture of community, with all of its strengths and limitations;
- They are always students eager to absorb all the information that impacts the needs and interests of community and the work that they are doing, and share their information with community; and
- Their work is rooted in “strategic patience”: pushing as hard as possible to achieve gains and changes, but patient enough to ensure that the community understands and is integrated within the process so as not to be left behind.

Joyce Parker had the vision and audacity 10 years ago to organize an effective, “boat-rocking” grassroots community organization in the Delta’s biggest city, Greenville, where most people believed it could not be done. Joyce understood that to make a serious challenge in this majority-black city to the domination and control of every aspect of life by the white community it would be necessary for the systematically marginalized, under-served and mis-educated working class black community to come onto the playing field in a strategic and organized way. Joyce built from scratch and has served as Director of *Concerned Citizens for a Better Greenville*, which is firmly rooted in the low-wealth parts of the community. As a result of her vigorous and sustained leadership *Concerned Citizens* has become an architect in the formation and implementation of education policy in the Greenville school system.

In the early 2000s Joyce insisted her way into the *MS Education Working Group*, a partnership of Delta grassroots community groups focused on education issues and eventually helped guide its transition into the *MS Delta Catalyst Roundtable*, which is now a larger configuration of organizations in the Delta region. In addition to being active locally and at the state legislature, she provides training and assistance to emerging grassroots organizations in many other counties in the Delta region, raises grant funds to support other organizations in addition to her own, builds youth participation in Mississippi and national workshops, conferences, the US Social Forum and advocacy opportunities, is a leader in the *Education Stakeholders Alliance*, the *MS Coalition for the Prevention of Schoolhouse to Jailhouse* and national *Dignity in Schools* campaign, is the Network Weaver for the *MS Delta Catalyst Roundtable* organizations participating in a special project to build bridges across race, ethnic and geographic boundaries funded by the *Marguerite Casey Foundation*, sits on the Steering Committee of the *South x Southwest Experiment* and on the Board of Directors of the *Pushback Network*.

Melvin Young has been the Executive Director of *Concerned Citizens for a Better Tunica County* for more than 15 years. Melvin led the 4-year battle to prevent the Tunica County plantation leadership, with the assistance of a state-appointed school conservator, the State Dept. of Education, and the state’s Attorney General from creating an all-white public elementary school in Tunica County in violation of federal court school desegregation orders. As a result of the intense community organizing training and civic engagement work within the county there is now an all-African American school board on which a majority of the members have come through the processes of *Concerned Citizens*. The Tunica County School Board has undertaken a 5-year experimental program designed to create a quality public education and which is intended to be a model process that other districts can consider. Melvin has enabled *Concerned Citizens* to assist emerging grassroots organizations in at least four other counties in the Delta in developing the skills and tools of community organizing, strategic planning and organizational development. Melvin is an active participant in the work of the *MS Delta Catalyst Roundtable*, the *Education Stakeholders Alliance*, the *MS Coalition for the Prevention of Schoolhouse to Jailhouse*, the *South x Southwest Experiment*, the *Pushback Network* and on the Board of the *Southeast Regional Economic Justice Network*.

In addition to his work on public education issues, Melvin has become an accomplished trainer of community organizations, leaders and public officials on how to draw political redistricting maps that create fair districts for African American communities and provides this training to communities across the Mississippi Delta.



Grassroots Community Organizations Award

From the outset Southern Echo has not seen itself as the primary instrument of change. Rather, in our vision it is the decentralized African American-based grassroots community organizations working separately in control of their own agendas to share their strengths and resources to enhance their work, but spider-webbed across Mississippi and the southern and southwest regions, that will ultimately transform the culture and empower their communities.

Tonight we honor with the **Grassroots Community Organizations Award** ten Mississippi organizations with which Southern Echo has been working during this past decade. These organizations have been chosen because:

- They are committed to the vision of empowerment of the African American, Latino and Native American communities and to hold public officials accountable to the needs and interests of communities of color;
- They are working to develop the tools and skills of community organizing as the essential means through which to build a democratically-based struggle;
- They focus their work with the grassroots communities with the least political and economic power, and the least educational opportunity, as the foundation of their base of support;
- They are committed to developing an intergenerational model of community organizing work to ensure that the efforts of the organization and the community can be sustained;
- They are actively pursuing the training, technical and legal assistance which they need to support their programs of work and are ensuring that a cross-section of the community participates in this part of the process;
- They are working to develop a new generation of accountable leaders;
- They are willing to take risks, and make great personal sacrifices to move the agenda of their organizations;
- They are willing to collaborate with others in their communities, and with other organizations outside of their communities, to assist others in their work, as well as to support their own programs of work; and
- They are willing to think outside the "box" in imaginative and creative ways to accomplish their goals.

These organizations have defied the skeptics in their communities who said this couldn't be done. They stood up to the white public officials and business leaders who told them that they were rocking the boat and that there would be consequences. They have faced down the pressure, the resistance, the threats, and the attacks coming from powerful white individuals and their gatekeeping allies in the black community.

Most important, they overcame their own fears and doubts whether they had the capacity to do this kind of work. They have proven to themselves that they can do it, and in the process have grown and transformed as individuals and as whole communities. They have also found each other, and have been collaborating together to assist each other in the work. Therefore, we honor:

ACTION COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION REFORM

Montgomery County, MS
Al White, Executive Director

ACTIVISTS WITH A PURPOSE

Grenada County, MS
Dianna Freelon-Foster, Executive Director

CITIZENS FOR EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS

Montgomery County, MS
Mary Young, Director

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR A BETTER GREENVILLE

Washington County, MS
Joyce Parker, Executive Director

CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR A BETTER TUNICA COUNTY

Tunica County, MS
Melvin Young, Executive Director

FANNIE LOU HAMER CENTER FOR CHANGE

Webster County, MS
Cherraye Oats, Director

FFIREDUDD

[Friends and Families Informed Resolutely Engaged
Determined United in Power with Purpose]
Tallahatchie County, MS
Genevia Wilson, Director

NOLLIE JENKINS FAMILY CENTER

Holmes County, MS
Ellen Reddy, Director

SUNFLOWER COUNTY PARENTS & STUDENTS ORG.

Sunflower County, MS
Betty Petty, Director

YOUTH INNOVATION MOVEMENT SOLUTIONS

Lee County, MS
Drustella Neely, Director



Lifetime Achievement Award

*to
Hollis Watkins
Leroy Johnson
and
Mike Sayer*

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** is intended to recognize persons who have devoted their life work to the struggle for human rights for all, empowerment of community, and the replacement of oppression and degradation with justice and fairness.

At Southern Echo we are graced with the opportunity to present this award to the three soldiers in the struggle, **Hollis Watkins, Leroy Johnson and Mike Sayer**. Hollis and Mike have each been active in the struggle for more than 50 years and Leroy for more than 35 years. In 1989 they began to pool their strengths and resources, tools and skills, to envision, create, build and nurture the framework for a sustainable Southern Echo, always balancing their breadth of imagination with their experience-based sense of reality.

Hollis, Leroy and Mike brought life to *Southern Echo* as an “experiment in struggle” never before undertaken in Mississippi. The goal was to build an African American based, African American led organization located in the heart of the disenfranchised, rural African American communities of Mississippi, and the southern region, committed to uprooting racism and empowering African American communities through effective grassroots community organizing.

In 1989 Hollis worked for the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives, Leroy was the Director of the Rural Organizing and Cultural Center in Holmes County, MS, and Mike was an attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights and later at Mississippi Action for Community Education. From these three separate bases, Hollis, Leroy and Mike began to work intensively with grassroots community people and black public officials to anchor the work of Southern Echo in the rural plantation communities of the Mississippi Delta, while protecting the embryonic Echo with a very low public profile.

In 1993, after three years of non-stop work, it became clear that Echo needed its own “above-the-radar” organizational identity, staff and financial resources. Hollis, Leroy and Mike left the organizations with which they had been working to become the original staff of Southern Echo. Hollis became President and Leroy and Mike became Co-Directors. Today Hollis remains President, Leroy has become Executive Director and Mike is Senior Organizer and Training Coordinator and also Staff Counsel. But their titles have not been important to them. Their individual varied strengths, joined together by the mortar of trust and commitment, became the building blocks for organizational development.

Hollis, Leroy and Mike brought different life road maps, experiences, training, skills and tools to support the vision to empower the African American community in Mississippi and the strategies for accomplishing it. Each of them started in the work of struggle as very young adults, at some point experimented with other paths, but came back to this struggle with a heightened understanding of and intensified commitment to this work that has guided their feet along this path for the remainder of their lives. They have:

- Devoted their lives to the struggle to end second class citizenship for African Americans in Mississippi;
- Provided leadership within communities when it meant taking the risk that the white community would identify them as a leader who dared to challenge existing conditions;
- Served as models hard work and focused vision on ending racist policies;
- Demonstrated by their courage and commitment that we, as a community, could overcome fear to work together to transform the culture;
- Helped to bring others within the community into the work to empower the community;
- Always shown respect for the people in the community who preferred to toil as one in the many, and reached out to them in building local organizations to strengthen the work;
- Been determined to learn as much as possible the tools and skills of effective organizing and to share them with others in the community to broaden the capacity of the community to engage in effective struggle;
- Not been afraid to confront white public officials, and their black gatekeeper allies to change public policies which negatively impacted the African American community; and
- Demonstrated by the longevity and diligence of their efforts that they have unselfishly devoted most of their lives to this effort, without concern for reward or recognition.

For this lifetime of commitment to the struggle and devotion to the people we are proud to present these **Lifetime Achievement Awards** to **Hollis Watkins, Leroy Johnson and Mike Sayer**.



*Technology Award
To
Gregory Johnson*

We are proud to present to **Gregory Johnson**, of Humphreys County, MS, the **Technology Award** for his invaluable insight, guidance, assistance and skill in supervising the wide-ranging technology needs of Southern Echo. Greg is also a long-serving member of the Southern Echo Board of Directors.

When Greg first became involved in the work in Humphreys and Holmes counties he was still in high school. When he attended Tougaloo College he became an intern with Southern Echo. When Greg worked in the Echo central office in Jackson he would shake his head with a knowing smile at the aging, often ill-matched and obviously out-dated equipment and software on which Echo relied to churn out a massive amount of time-sensitive information far less efficiently than it could if the organization had an orderly, up-to-date, well-maintained strategic plan for its equipment.

Greg's technology training and skills enabled Greg to take responsibility for upgrading the electronic and communications devices at the central office, troubleshooting problems with officer computers and software and with the staff's personal computers, providing training and assistance to community groups wanting to set up their own websites and troubleshooting their technology problems, and eventually taking over the management of Southern Echo's own website.

One of Greg's hallmarks is that he is undaunted by not knowing immediately the answer to a vexing problem: he researches the problem, identifies the necessary remedies, finds the computer code or electronic device needed, and sees to it that the problem is solved. He does not leave people "hanging". Another Greg hallmark is his easy smile, quick wit and hearty laughter, regardless of the difficulty of the problem.

Greg's quick and careful handling of the Echo website has enabled the website content to expand exponentially and to become a research source for students and faculty in public schools and universities and for activists and policy advocates seeking in-depth information about the work of Southern Echo or the public policy issues addressed on the website.

Although Greg is in law school, which is a demanding tour of duty, he has continued to supervise the technology needs of our organization.

Hoping never to lose his invaluable assistance, we present the **Technology Award to Gregory Johnson**.



*Geographic Information
Systems Trainer
Award
to
Brian Lipsett*

In 1990 Southern Echo began its first major effort around the redistricting of political districts at all levels of government in Mississippi. We understood that the white community, no longer able to keep black citizens from registering to vote and voting, saw the drawing of political districts as the modern device through which the white community could make it extremely difficult for accountable black candidates to win elections. Thereby, the white community reasoned, it could maintain exclusive control of the political and education systems.

Until 1990 this strategy had been effective to limit the extent of success of black candidates. But in 1990 the culture of redistricting was transformed. The Southern Echo leadership worked under the umbrellas of the Mississippi Redistricting Coalition and the Delta Redistricting Working Group to provide training, technical and legal assistance to grassroots communities. As a result, hundreds of black citizens became involved in the redistricting process, including participation in public hearings at the state, county and municipal levels, and in the drawing of plans which could give the black community a reasonable opportunity to elect candidates of their own choice who would be accountable to the needs and interests of the black community.

In the early 1990s there were no laptop computers and no computer software packages for redistricting readily available to and affordable by the general public. At that time the State of Mississippi had the only Geographic Information Systems (GIS) redistricting software with which to draw redistricting plans. On behalf of community, Southern Echo had to photocopies of maps, desk top computers for text, adding machines and hand-held calculators to run the numbers, white out correction fluid, magic markers, scissors, rubber cement and photocopiers as the tools for a snail pace tortuous "cut and paste" operation to create color-coded redistricting maps that fairly represented the needs and interests of the black community at all levels of government. It was not until 2001 that GIS software was available and affordable by community organizations. But Southern Echo needed someone to provide training and technical assistance.

Brian Lipsett We honor Brian Lipsett with the **Geographic Information Systems Trainer Award** because his work enabled us to avoid the abyss of technological incapacity and remain on the front lines of advanced redistricting work.

In 2001, with the assistance of the *Progressive Technology Project*, Southern Echo began a working relationship with Brian Lipsett, of Naples, ME, who became the GIS Trainer for Southern Echo. Brian has a Ph.D in statistics and is a veteran of the environmental justice movement who had worked for *Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste* and was on the Board of the *Environmental Background Information Center*. On behalf of Southern Echo, for the past decade Brian has toiled selflessly to provide GIS training, including GIS redistricting training, not only to Southern Echo staff and to the MS Demography Group, but to the staff other southern and southwestern states. As part of this process Brian has formatted for use with the GIS software a tremendous amount of critical demographic, economic and social data that would otherwise have been beyond the reach of grassroots community organizations. As a result of this process Southern Echo staff and the staff of other grassroots organizations in Mississippi created many redistricting plans in support of community demands for fair districts for the Congressional, county, municipal and school board jurisdictions.

The training and technical assistance which Brian has provided has been transformational for the following reasons:

- It provided to grassroots organizations the same tools and skills usable in the same time frame as are available to federal, state, county, municipal and school board agencies and private demographers and cartographers to draw political redistricting maps. Community does not have to be dependent on the analysis and contentions of the "experts" as to what is fair and what is possible because they have the tools and skills to be their own experts.
- The general training in GIS software skills and tools has enabled Southern Echo and other grassroots organizations to create a wide range of maps and charts through which parents, students, educators and public officials can visualize complex data about education issues. This data is usually made available to the public in complex, difficult to understand multi-page, multi-column tables, with column headings that require a de-coder tool. In contrast, maps can create a single comprehensive visual that enable people to comprehend the data and compare the impact of that data across an entire county, state or region. This has transformed the capacity of grassroots organizations to communicate complex policy issues to community, educator and public officials. These maps and charts have been used by many statewide organizations and public schools to inform their constituencies on key public policy issues.

It is with great pleasure that we present the **Geographic Information Systems Trainer Award** to **Brian Lipsett**.



*Accountable
Public Officials
Award*

From the outset of our work twenty years ago, building relationships with public officials was a critical objective. After all, public officials at the town, county, state and federal levels have a decisive impact on the formation and implementation of public policies which impact the grassroots African American communities across the state and the region.

Consequently, we also focused in our community organizing work on building organizations and leadership that could hold public officials accountable to the needs and interests of the African American community. We defined accountability as putting community interest over self-interest. We encouraged such individuals to aspire to public offices at all levels of government in Mississippi. In many of the towns and counties in which we were working, African Americans had never been permitted to run for such offices, not to mention actually win an election for such offices.

The individuals listed herein we honor for the courage to decide to run, campaign and actually win public offices in order to work for the empowerment of community and to be accountable to their needs and interests. We know that in many instances it represented great personal risk and danger for their families, intense personal sacrifice, and a commitment to press their way through doorways into the rooms where the formation of public policy had always taken place.

Some of the individuals we honor were groundbreakers in their own right before Southern Echo came into being. We honor them two-fold: for having paved the way and made it possible for those who came after them, and for relentlessly continuing their important work on behalf of their communities as a model for their younger compatriots. We also know that the work of Southern Echo to create and sustain an organized community to protect the emergence of our elected officials assisted in making it happen. We are so proud of our associations with them.

In this spirit we are pleased to honor these public officials:

Rep. CECIL BROWN, (House Dist. 66 – Hinds)

Rep. BRYANT W. CLARK, (House Dist. 47 – Attala, Holmes, Yazoo)

Rep. REECY L. DICKSON, (House Dist. 42 – Kemper, Lauderdale, Noxubee)

EARLINE HART, Holmes County Circuit Clerk

HELEN JOHNSON, Holmes County School Board

WILLIE MARCH, Sheriff of Holmes County

BETTY PETTY, Indianola School Board

HOWARD SANDERS, Ret. Superintendent, Holland School District

ALFONZO WHITE, Montgomery County School Board

MARILYN YOUNG, Tunica County School Board



*Higher Education
Collaborators
Award
to
Mississippi Valley
State University*

We are privileged to award the **Higher Education Collaborators Award** to **Mississippi Valley State University** for its extraordinary support for the work of Southern Echo, the MS Delta Catalyst Roundtable and the parents and students of the Mississippi Delta region.

MS Valley State University is the only historically black public university in the Mississippi Delta. From five years from 2004 through 2008 MS Valley State University partnered with Southern Echo and the MS State Department of Education to sponsor an annual major education stakeholders convening on the Valley campus entitled Dismantling the Student Achievement Gap. Each year the focus shifted to different

facets of the problems underlying the student achievement gap, such as:

- a. the urgency of full funding for the MS Adequate Education Program;
- b. the need for increased funding for children at-risk;
- c. how to end the pipeline from schoolhouse to jailhouse;
- d. the need to end abusive discipline policies and how positive behavior intervention strategies contribute to the creation of healthy schools;
- e. understanding how the state education budget works and how it is used to control and limit education policy;
- f. understanding charter schools as a strategy to divert public funds from public education to support privately-owned, private governed schools which increase race and class segregation among students;
- g. the need for community organizing to bring parents and students onto the policy playing field to impact education policy; and
- h. why school district consolidation policies would be counter-productive in Mississippi.

Each year MS Valley faculty and administrators representing various divisions and departments within the University, with support from the President of the University, contributed to making the convenings successful. The *Delta Research and Cultural Institute* of MS Valley State University played an especially consistent and important role in this process.

Each year the two-day proceedings were broadcast over the university broadcast system, meals were provided in their facilities, and we had access to the largest auditorium at the campus. The participation of students, parents, educators and public officials increased from 350 in the first year to over 500 in each of the last three years. In 2010 Southern Echo and the Delta Research and Cultural Institute partnered a one-day Achievement Gap convening at which more than 350 students, parents, educators and public officials attended.

In the context of Mississippi during this period the leadership of MS Valley State University, as a state-funded agency subject to the budget constraints set by the State Legislature, had taken a very courageous approach to hosting each year convenings which took direct aim at the failures, shortcomings and negative intent of major state policies and some state leaders. At the same time MS Valley provided a safe space where state education officials, state legislators, local superintendents, administrators and teachers could sit together with students and parents to learn from each other, shed critical light on cutting edge policy issues confronting the state, and share thinking on the remedies needed to bring about fundamental changes.

In our view this is what universities are supposed to be about and to do and MS Valley State University did it so well in support of the needs and interests of the communities of the Mississippi Delta. Out of this process grew deeper relationships between MS Valley and local school districts. A number of local programs initiated in school districts at the behest of grassroots community groups received substantial and effective technical assistance from the Delta Research and Cultural Institute and other Valley departments.

This is why we with great pride we present the **Higher Education Collaborators Award** to Mississippi Valley State University.



*Visionary Award
to
Alta Starr
New World Foundation
21st Century Foundation
and
Norman Foundation*

For the first three years of our intensive organizing work across the State of Mississippi around redistricting and education issues, Southern Echo had no funds of its own to support the work, nor any paid staff, offices, phones, or transportation of its own. Echo relied entirely on the volunteer efforts and contributions of Hollis, Leroy and Mike, and the in-kind contributions of others with whom they collaborated.

Starting late in 1992, picking up steam in 1993, and intensifying thereafter, **Alta Starr**, as an individual, and the **New World Foundation, 21st Century Foundation** and the **Norman Foundation**, as institutions, played an especially significant role in enabling Southern Echo to spring to life as an independent organization with its own resources which to carry on the struggle to empower the African American community in Mississippi and the southern region. These individuals understood the vision of the leadership of Southern Echo, and committed to assisting us to develop resources to nurture the work. For these reasons we present the **Visionary Award** to **Alta Starr** and the **New World, 21st Century** and **Norman** foundations.

Their support was so significant during this early period since the foundation world was largely skeptical about supporting community organizing work because they could not comprehend the value of organizing work. The foundations were largely skeptical about supporting grassroots organizations in the South because they did not see the region as having strategic importance. Last, but not least, the foundations were largely skeptical of supporting community organizations that were black-based and black-led because there was a persistent disbelief that such organizations could succeed.

Our honorees on this occasion took a remarkably different and visionary approach, comprehending the critical significance of enabling black-based, black-led grassroots community organization doing community organizing in the southern states to survive, grow and enable other grassroots organizations to come onto the playing field.

Our honorees did so much more than simply provide access to grants. They provided:

- especially important encouragement to us to be aggressive in moving the agenda of Echo and sought to validate the importance of the work;
- willingly gave wise counsel and shared thoughtful analysis as to how to develop resources in a sustaining way, assisted actively in helping us to make useful contacts, and opened the doors for us, at other foundations, and enabled us to meet the key people who guided them; and
- built a recognition throughout the progressive funding world of the importance of supporting with meaningful resources community based, African American led grassroots organizations across the south.

They taught us, so that we could teach others, that real work rather than idle rhetoric is what gets support from foundations and individuals that are eager to support the empowerment of grassroots communities.

They took their measure of us, believed in us and supported us when we had nothing but the relationships we had built with people in grassroots communities and the work we had done together with them. As a result, others were willing to risk supporting us, too. Further, their support enabled us to hire more staff, create a central office and satellite home/offices, develop the technological and transportation support needed to make the work happen, and to open the doors to local organizations to begin to raise their own funds to support locally developed and controlled agendas.

For these reasons, and so much more, we present the **Visionary Award** to **Alta Starr, New World Foundation, 21st Century Foundation** and **Norman Foundation**.



Sustainability Award

We are honored to present the **Sustainability Award** to the following foundations for their long-standing, consistent and absolutely critical support that enabled Southern Echo and so many other grassroots community organizations in the southern and southwest regions to sustain their work:

- **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**
- **Charles Stewart Mott Foundation**
- **Edward W. Hazen Foundation**
- **Ford Foundation**
- **French American Charitable Trust**
- **Marguerite Casey Foundation**
- **Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock.**

The creative, imaginative and visionary programs of work of grassroots community organizations cannot be implemented without sufficient resources to fund their budgets. For many organizations foundation grants are a primary source of funding for their budgets. The philosophy and vision, experience and priorities, relationships and commitments of foundations have a major impact on their decisions as to which organizations to fund and the size of such grant awards.

These foundations have demonstrated through their sustained support for the work of Southern Echo a serious commitment to the empowerment of African American and other communities of color in Mississippi and the regions of the south and southwest. They have taken great risks in supporting us and we have worked so very hard to vindicate their respect and trust in us. Their risk-taking has helped to transform the culture of philanthropy during this period and has generated a framework of new and extended support from the progressive and mainstream foundations. This development is extremely important to the creation and sustenance of experimental efforts within Mississippi and across the southern and southwest regions.

The sustained support from these foundations has helped us to generate a level of experience within communities of color, and the development of new leadership and organizations, that is absolutely essential to the unfolding empowerment process. While not every organizational effort will ultimately success in its goals, the trial and error enabled by the funding from these foundations is essential to the development of a generation of new leaders, younger and older, armed with the self-confidence to figure out how to do it well enough to impact the formation and implementation of public policy at all levels of government.

We salute these foundations for their support to us and others, and honor them with the **Sustainability Award** in recognition of the invaluable role which they have played in our growth, development, and such success as we have achieved:

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

FRENCH AMERICAN CHARITABLE TRUST

CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION

MARGUERITE CASEY FOUNDATION

EDWARD W. HAZEN FOUNDATION

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST VEATCH
PROGRAM AT SHELTER ROCK**

FORD FOUNDATION

Southern Echo, Inc.

20th Anniversary Celebration

Program

Reception

Invocation

Hollis Watkins, President

*Occasion, Historical Overview, Introduction of Board
and Southern Echo Staff*

Brenda O. Hyde, Assistant Director

Dinner

Awards

Leroy Johnson, Executive Director

Brenda O. Hyde, Assistant Director

Closing Remarks

Christmas Party

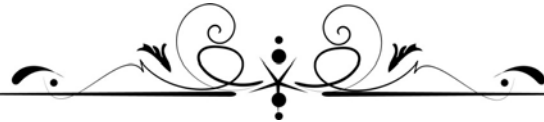
Adjournment

Southern Echo, Inc.

Southern Echo, Inc. wishes to thank the following

SPONSORS

of our 20th Anniversary Celebration.



VISIONARY LEVEL SPONSOR

Marguerite Casey Foundation

“change is possible”

WARRIOR LEVEL SPONSOR

Concerned Citizens for a Better Greenville

SUPPORTER LEVEL SPONSOR

Barbara Meyer

FRIEND LEVEL SUPPORTER

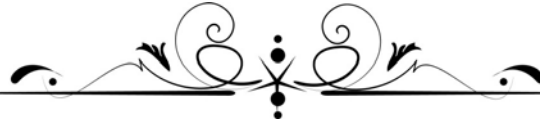
Amelia Hunter

Constance & James Burwell

20th Anniversary Celebration

Southern Echo, Inc.'s 20th Anniversary

AWARD RECIPIENTS



Henry Kirksey Award

Brenda Oliver Hyde

Helen Johnson

Betty Petty

GIS Trainer Award

Brian Lipsett

Outstanding Youth Leadership Award - GIS Technology

Kahlil Johnson

Demetrius Petty

Technology Award

Gregory Johnson

Accountable Public Officials Award

The Honorable Bryant Clark, MS State House of Representatives

The Honorable Reecy Dickson, MS State House of Representatives

The Honorable Cecil Brown, MS State House of Representatives

Sheriff Willie March

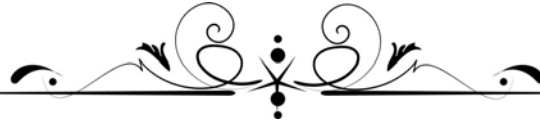
Marilyn Young – Tunica County School Board

Helen Johnson – Holmes County School Board

Al White – Montgomery County School Board

Southern Echo, Inc.'s 20th Anniversary

AWARD RECIPIENTS



Accountable Public Officials Award

Betty Petty – Indianola School Board

Earline Hart – Holmes County Circuit Clerk

Howard Sanders – Ret. Supt. Hollandale School District

Higher Education Collaborators Award

Mississippi Valley State University

Dr. Marvin Haire, MVSU - Delta Research and Cultural Institute

Dr. Mack Jones, MVSU - Delta Research and Cultural Institute

Grassroots Community Organizations Award

Concerned Citizens for A Better Tunica County

Concerned Citizens for A Better Greenville

Nollie Jenkins Family Center

Sunflower County Parents and Students Organization

Citizens for Educational Awareness

Activists With A Purpose

Youth Innovation Movement Solutions

Action Communication and Education Reform

FFIREDUPP

Fannie Lou Hamer Center for Change

Southern Echo, Inc.'s 20th Anniversary

AWARDS RECIPIENTS



Visionary Award

Alta Starr

New World Foundation

21st Century Foundation

Norman Foundation

Sustainability Award

Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock

French American Charitable Trust

Edward Hazen Foundation

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Ford Foundation

Marguerite Casey Foundation

Exemplary Leader Award

Joyce Parker

Melvin Young

Lifetime Achievement Award

Leroy Johnson

Mike Sayer

Hollis Watkins



Kentuckians For The Commonwealth applauds our sister in the struggle, **Southern Echo**, for 20 years of dedicated and determined organizing for social justice.

You've played a critical role in the movement and we look forward to 20 more years of working together for new power in the South and beyond!



**KENTUCKIANS FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH**

www.kftc.org

*SUNFLOWER COUNTY PARENTS
AND
STUDENTS ORGANIZATION*



CONGRATULATIONS TO SOUTHERN ECHO, INC.
FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE
WORKING TO EMPOWER GRASSROOTS COMMUNITIES
THROUGHOUT MISSISSIPPI AND THE SOUTHERN REGION.

WE APPLAUD YOUR VISION AND EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AND
SUSTAIN GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY- BASED ORGANIZATIONS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH YOU TO
BRING ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE IN OUR CITIES, COUNTIES,
STATES AND COUNTRY.

SUNFLOWER COUNTY PARENTS AND STUDENTS ORGANIZATION
612 SUNFLOWER AVENUE EXTENDED, STE 18-A
INDIANOLA, MS 38751
662-887-4232 (OFFICE)
662-887-8060 (FAX)

**Congratulations SOUTHERN ECHO
Happy 20th Anniversary !!!!**

&

Thank you for believing in Us

Citizens for a Better Greenville

Joyce Parker, Director
Tinsa Hall, Youth Organizer

Founded in 2001 and organized to address growing concerns about the Greenville public school system, economic development and environmental concerns in the Mississippi Delta city of Greenville. CBG envisions strengthening existing standards of living for all citizens, using an intergenerational model to ensure that they receive a quality education, maintain a healthy environment, achieve community revitalization, promote cultural awareness and enjoy socio-economic development by channeling the impact of community organizing to empower positive change.



Citizens for a Better Greenville is a multi-issue organizing effort. Our primary focus has always been on increasing equity and quality in the city's public schools.

Address: P.O.Box 673 Greenville, MS 38703

Phone: 662.332.4497

Email: jparker2@bellsouth.net

DRCI
**DELTA RESEARCH &
CULTURAL INSTITUTE**

The mission of Mississippi Valley State University's Delta Research And Cultural Institute (DRCI) is to promote enlightened development to facilitate the University's community outreach and service learning through a model of participatory action research that supports community leadership, socio-economic development, and the promotion and safeguarding of the Delta's cultural heritage & dignity.

Contact Information:

MARVIN HAIRE, PH.D.,
Director of DRCI
(662) 254-3853

PAMELA FORREST
Director of University Partnerships
(662) 254-3001

GLENDAL NEAL
Administrative Assistant
(662) 254-2794

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
14000 HIGHWAY 32 WEST
P.O BOX 7232
ITTA BENA, MS 38941



CONCERNED CITIZENS

Robert Hall
President

For a Better Tunica County, Inc.
PO BOX 2249
1028 Prichard Road, Suite #201
Tunica, MS 38676
Tel. Office 662-363-1228
Fax 662-357-0412
Email: concernedcitizen@gmi.net
www.tunicateensinaction.org

Melvin Young
Executive Director

Congratulations to

Southern Echo, Inc.

For 20 years of commitment and dedication to the struggle!

Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County Tunica Teens In Action

supports your goal to empower local communities through effective community organizing work, in order to create a process through which community people can build the broad-based organizations necessary to hold the political, economic, educational, and environmental systems accountable to the needs and interests of the African-American community.

Tunica
Teens
In
Action

Est. 1999

Parents
Teachers
Community
Students

Aa Bb Cc Dd

Tunica
Teens In
Action

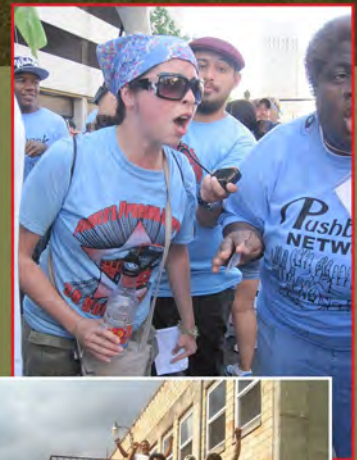
"Concerned Citizens For A Better Tunica County, Inc!"

CONGRATULATIONS SOUTHERN ECHO

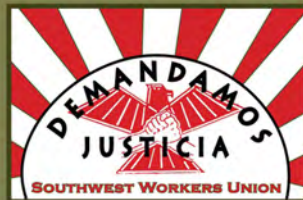


A Nuestr@s Compañer@s en Lucha To Our Sisters & Brothers in Struggle

We celebrate an amazing 20 years. Celebramos 20 años increíbles. FELICIDADES!!



Much Love,
La Gente de
SWU





Southern Echo, Activists With A Purpose salutes you for 20 years of committed action throughout the Delta Communities and across the state of Mississippi. Your goal of assisting in the building of sustainable organizations to hold political, education, and other systems accountable to the needs of the African-American community has been far-reaching. Many local organizations have benefited from your tireless leadership, excellent trainings and financial resources.

Many thanks from the members of our board and our constituency. A special thanks from the youth of our organization now in college who have reaped the rewards of a wonderful learning experience, traveled many places and gained the knowledge to keep moving forward and changing their communities.

Activist With A Purpose
136 Green Street
Grenada, MS 38901
662-809-0113
kiamshi@bellsouth.net

Dianna Freelon-Foster, Director

Board Members

Walter Bennett
Ausheyia Cunningham
Bernita Cox
Drustella Neely
Jeremy Pittman
Glenda Smith
Minnie Travis

CONGRATULATIONS SOUTHERN ECHO

Action Communication and Education Reform, Inc.



**..bringing about positive
social change thru**

United Concerned Citizens

civic participation

drop-out prevention planning

Teens in Action

youth leadership development

Annual Summer Youth Camp

Project CAM

intergenerational technology, community, and

culture education awareness program

Annual Grassroots Blues Festival

T/TA

providing training and technical assistance

307 Main Street

Duck Hill, MS 38925

(662)565-2478

Al White, Executive Director

Board of Directors:

Janice Magee, Doris Johnson, Lula Brown, Willie Farmer,

Michael Allen, Robert Cathey, and Anderson Everett

www.acerms.org



Nollie Jenkins Family Center
P.O. Box 276 | Lexington, MS 39095 | 662.834.0089 |
www.nolliejenkinsfamilycenter.org

Congratulations
On Your 20th Anniversary



From the Board & Staff of Nollie's

Nollie Jenkins Family Center was founded in 1996 in Lexington, MS as a grassroots organization. NJFC visualizes a community where all people, young and old, are valued, nurtured and supported as we work together to build and sustain communities that improves our educational and political environment as well as our economic standing.

Congratulation Southern Echo On Your 20th Anniversary

The Right Flight Project

**Landing January
2011**



**Mississippi's 1st
Community School
Dropout Prevention
Clinic**

Flight 911

Destination: Graduation

Community "School Dropout Prevention Program" Empowering Community, Family, School, and Church



**YOUTH INNOVATION
MOVEMENT SOLU-
TIONS, INC.
1315 NORTH GREEN
STREET
TUPELO, MS 38804
662-809-7001 or 662-**

Staff

**Drustella Neely
Shernell Everett
Annette Singthong
Pasty Jackson
Fred Taylor**

Community is always a smart investment.



Clarrissa Hickmon

Edith Kennedy

David Johnson, Sr.

Debra McGee

Marcia Reed

Kimberly Keen

Mark Ouellette

The BankPlus office on Dalton Street is more than bricks and mortar. It's our commitment to strengthening one of the most important communities in Metro Jackson. At our 912 Dalton Street office, adjacent to the JSU campus, you'll find BankPlus employees who are experts at affordable housing initiatives, small business development, fixed-rate mortgages, credit counseling and more.

For more information, contact one of our Dalton Street officers at 601-944-4600. Or visit us online at www.BankPlus.net.



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www.swop.net

Congratulations
Southern Echo on
20 years fighting for
equality and justice!

¡Felicidades a
Southern Echo
para sus 20 años
luchando por
justicia!

¡Hasta la
victoria siempre!



TO **southern Echo**

congratulations

with respect gratitude and love from

MIRA

www.yourmira.org

Civic Engagement Day January 12

no

Say

to legislative white supremacy.

Call MIRA 601 968-5182 10 am orientation. Noon lunch. 1-5 meet with your legislators.



**Pushback
NETWORK**

All. Together. Now.

***Congratulations
Southern Echo, Inc.***

***On your
20th Anniversary!***

**Congratulations
to Southern Echo
on your 20th
Anniversary!**



ACLU

**AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of MISSISSIPPI**

WWW.ACLU-MS.ORG • 601-502-5520

CONGRATULATIONS!

To our Father Hollis Muhammad (Watkins)
Founder & President of Southern Echo

FROM YOUR CHILDREN:

**DARA
DEBRA
DENISE
JAMES
KIMBERLY
STACY
JOHN
HOLLIS JR.**

**IN MEMORY OF
MEKYE**

Southern Echo,

Congratulations on another milestone - 20 years.

I am so pleased and proud of what has been accomplished. My very best to you and all the fine people who make Southern Echo such a fine organization.

All Best Wishes,
Dennis Scully



J. Dennis Scully
REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE

22 Landmark
Northfield, IL 60093
P: 312-504-3833

dscully@essexsecurities.com

Securities Offered Through
Essex Securities, LLC - Member FINRA/SIPC
168 Centre Street, Danvers, MA 01923
Telephone (800) 377-7964

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
SOUTHERN ECHO, Inc.
on Your 20th Anniversary!**

**CHARLES WELLS
BROKER**

4842 N State Street
Jackson, MS 39206

Cell: 601-720-3417

Email: Skyline.Realty@att.net

CONGRATULATIONS SOUTHERN ECHO !!
ON YOUR
20TH ANNIVERSARY...
OF COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

YOUR PARTNER IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA CATALYST
ROUNDTABLE

FFIRED UPP
EMPOWERING AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LOW-WEALTH FAMILIES IN
TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY, THROUGH GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY
ORGANIZING

P. O. BOX 87
CHARLESTON, MS 38921
601 942-4004

**Congratulations Southern Echo on
your 20th Anniversary. We greatly and
gladly support you.**

~~~~~

**THE FANNIE LOU HAMER  
CENTER FOR CHANGE  
BOARD and STAFF  
1485 Adams Ave.  
Eupora, MS 39744**

**Citizens for Educational Awareness  
503 Guinea Tom Ave, POB 12  
Kilmichael, MS 39747  
662-310-2930**

~~~~~

*Congratulations to Southern Echo
on it's
20th Year Anniversary*

Southern Echo, Inc.

20th Anniversary Celebration

Southern Partners Fund is proud to support
Southern Echo's 20th Anniversary Celebration.

Congratulations Southern Echo for 20 years of service!



Our mission is to support Southern communities and organizations seeking social, economic, and environmental justice by providing them with financial resources, technical assistance, training, and access to systems of information and power.

www.spfund.org