



**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY™

Greetings from the John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development at Mississippi State University. As we enter the 2026 calendar year, the Stennis Institute remains committed to serving Mississippi as the state's premier university-based public service and applied research center.

Reflecting on 2025, we are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside 72 municipalities, 28 counties, the State of Mississippi, and numerous community organizations and residents across the state. These partnerships are at the heart of our mission to strengthen the effectiveness of state and local government, and they continue to inspire and guide our work each day.

This 2026 calendar offers a small window into the meaningful projects our faculty, staff, and students have undertaken over the past year. We are incredibly proud of their dedication, talent, and genuine passion for supporting Mississippi communities.

We hope you will call on us whenever we can be of service, and we extend our warmest wishes for a successful and blessed year ahead.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joseph "Dallas" Breen  
Stennis Institute Executive Director



FROM THE DESK OF THE *Director.*



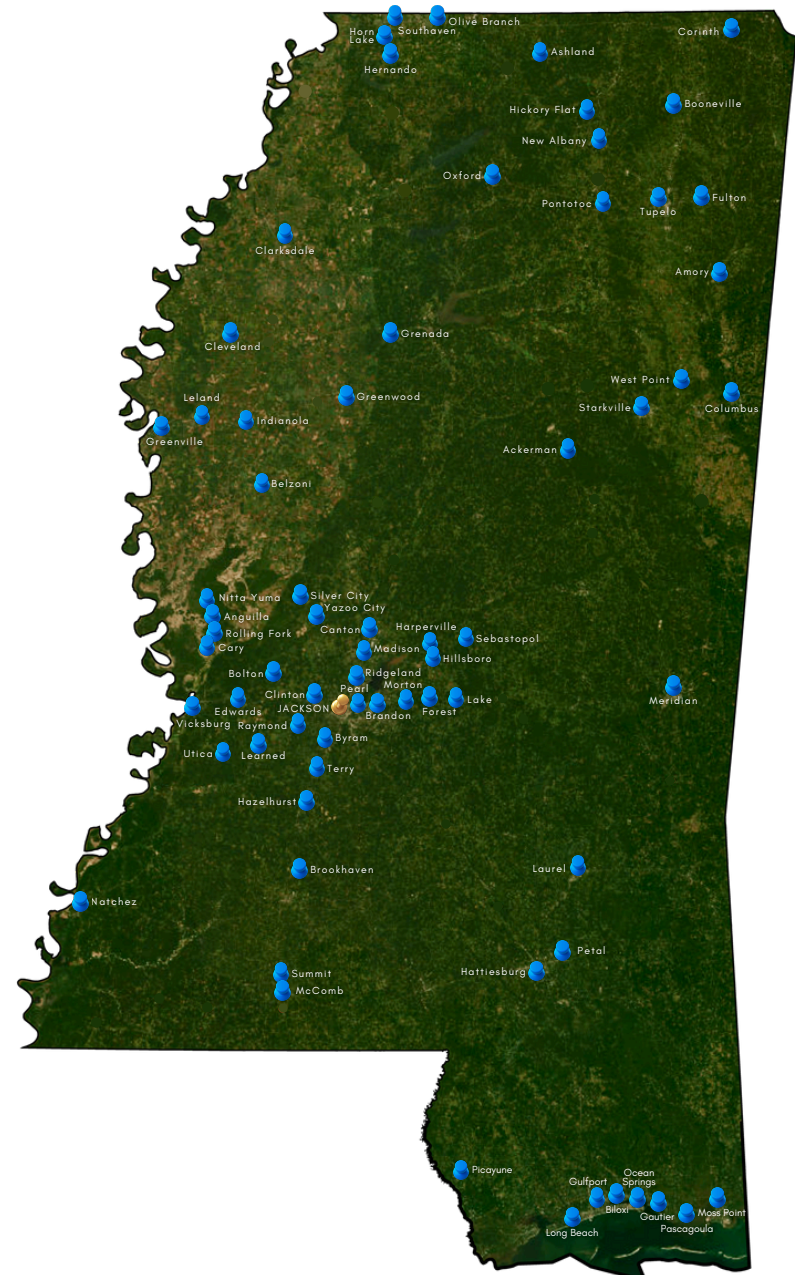
# 2025 STENNIS FOOTPRINT

The Stennis Institute traveled across the state, assisting

# 72 municipalities & 28 counties:

|         |           |            |          |
|---------|-----------|------------|----------|
| ADAMS   | HARRISON  | LAMAR      | NOXUBEE  |
| ALCORN  | HINDS     | LAUDERDALE | PONTOTOC |
| BENTON  | HUMPHREYS | LEE        | RANKIN   |
| CARROLL | ISSAQUENA | LEFLORE    | SCOTT    |
| COPIAH  | ITAWAMBA  | MADISON    | SHARKEY  |
| DESOTO  | JACKSON   | MONROE     | TATE     |
| GREENE  | KEMPER    | NEWTON     | UNION    |

with various projects, ranging from economic and workplace development, community outreach, employee recruitment and retention, disaster preparedness and mitigation, and other important areas.



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

# About the Institute

---

The John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development has served the state of Mississippi for **fifty years** providing research, service, and training!

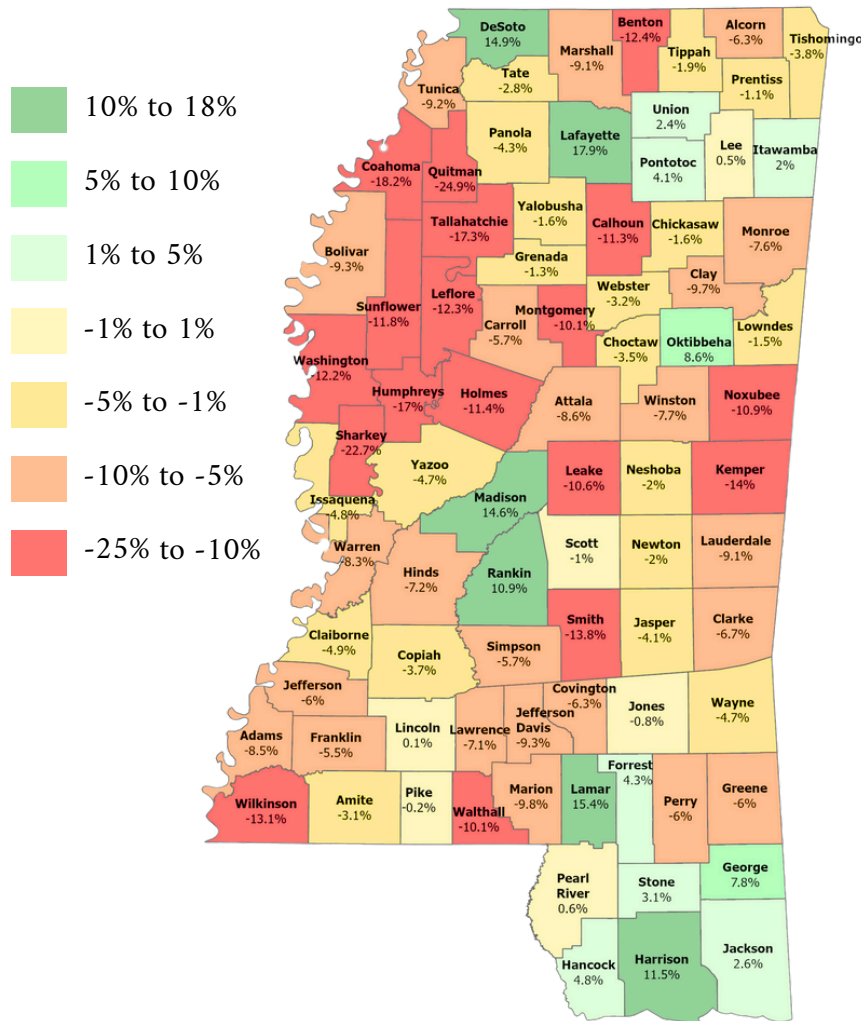
We aim to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of local and state governments, provide technical assistance to both rural and highly active communities in the southeastern United States, and promote civic education and citizen involvement in the political landscape.





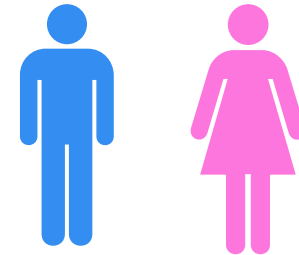
# MISSISSIPPI BY THE NUMBERS

## POPULATION PERCENT CHANGE



## DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL POPULATION: 2,961,279



48.5%

51.5%

Compare to the U.S. National Estimate:

50.8% Female

49.2% Male

Ages 1-18

29.7%

National Estimate:

29.3%

Ages 18-64

53.9%

National Estimate:

54.2%

Ages 65+

16.4%

National Estimate:

16.5%

All data sourced from the 2020 United States Census Bureau

# *Stennis-Capitol Press Forum*

Along with the Capitol Press Corps, the Stennis Institute of Government holds monthly press forums in Jackson, MS. These forums create an opportunity for both political and local leaders to provide commentary to the media and discuss their offices' work on policy issues and updates.

In 2025, The Stennis-Capitol Press Forum hosted a number of notable leaders and elected officials in the Mississippi political landscape including Former Governor Haley Barbour, Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann, Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce Andy Gipson, State Auditor Shad White, Speaker of the Mississippi House Jason White, Chair of the Mississippi House Ways and Means Committee Trey Lamar, and Entergy Mississippi CEO Haley Fisackerly.

 HAL & MAL'S

200 COMMERCE STREET  
JACKSON, MS 39201





# JANUARY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                              | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                                                    | THURSDAY            | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|----------|
| 28     | 29                                  | 30      | 31                                                                           | 1<br>NEW YEAR'S DAY | 2      | 3        |
| 4      | 5<br>STENNIS-CAPITOL<br>PRESS FORUM | 6       | 7                                                                            | 8                   | 9      | 10       |
| 11     | 12                                  | 13      | 14<br>SEDI<br>STATE EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE<br>SEDI NOMINATIONS OPEN | 15                  | 16     | 17       |
| 18     | 19<br>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.<br>DAY | 20      | 21                                                                           | 22                  | 23     | 24       |
| 25     | 26                                  | 27      | 28                                                                           | 29                  | 30     | 31       |

# *Celebrating Fifty Years!*

The John C. Stennis Institute of Government & Community Development at Mississippi State University is marking a milestone year as it celebrates fifty years of dedicated service to the state of Mississippi. Since its establishment, the Institute has fulfilled a mission to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of local and state governments through applied research, leadership training, community and economic development, and governmental services. Over the decades, it has become a trusted partner for communities, public officials, and citizens alike, helping to translate academic insight into real-world impact.



## STENNIS INSTITUTE



# FEBRUARY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                                                                                                           | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY     | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY              |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------|----------|--------|-----------------------|
| 1      | 2<br><br>JCLA APPLICATIONS OPEN | 3       | 4             | 5        | 6      | 7                     |
| 8      | 9<br>                           | 10      | 11            | 12       | 13     | 14<br>VALENTINE'S DAY |
| 15     | 16<br>PRESIDENTS' DAY                                                                                            | 17      | 18<br>RAMADAN | 19       | 20     | 21                    |
| 22     | 23                                                                                                               | 24      | 25            | 26       | 27     | 28                    |



# Stennis – Montgomery Association



The Stennis-Montgomery Association (SMA) is a student-led civic engagement organization at Mississippi State, housed by the Institute. Named after Senator John C. Stennis and Congressman G.V. Sonny Montgomery, SMA focuses on building leadership skills and promoting non-partisan civic involvement among students. Through voter registration drives, community service projects, meetings with state leaders, and an annual trip to Washington, D.C., SMA encourages members to actively participate in the democratic process.

CONNECT WITH US!



@MSU\_SMA



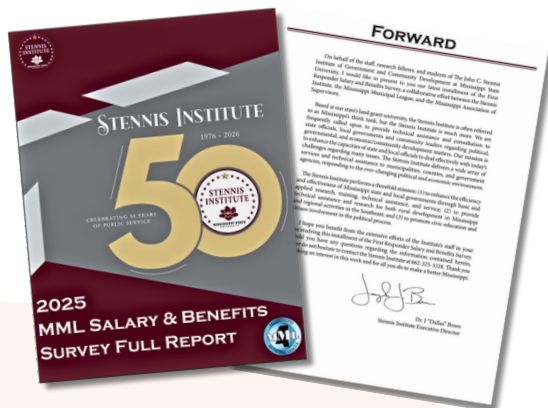
@SMAMSU

# MARCH

| SUNDAY                              | MONDAY | TUESDAY                 | WEDNESDAY                                                                                  | THURSDAY | FRIDAY                    | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1                                   | 2      | 3                       | 4<br>SEDI<br>STATE EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE<br>SEDI NOMINATIONS<br>CLOSE AT 5:00 PM | 5        | 6                         | 7        |
| 8<br>DAYLIGHT SAVING<br>TIME BEGINS | 9      | 10                      | 11                                                                                         | 12       | 13                        | 14       |
| 15                                  | 16     | 17<br>ST. PATRICK'S DAY | 18                                                                                         | 19       | 20<br>FIRST DAY OF SPRING | 21       |
| 22                                  | 23     | 24                      | 25                                                                                         | 26       | 27                        | 28       |
| 29<br>PALM SUNDAY                   | 30     | 31                      | 1                                                                                          | 2        | 3                         | 4        |

# Applied Research

## THE COMPENSATION & CLASSIFICATION LABORATORY



## AN INSIGHT INTO LAW ENFORCEMENT RETIREMENT SYSTEMS



## MISSISSIPPI OBSERVATIONAL CHILD RESTRAINT SURVEY REPORT



We are frequently called upon by state and local governments and Mississippi State University to provide technical assistance and consultation. These requests seek information regarding political, governmental, and economic and community development matters.

The Compensation and Classification Laboratory works with cities and counties across the state to provide insight into human resource processes and other applied research projects. Studies provide workforce and technical information and address compensation issues, including competitive pay, internal pay equity, and employee benefits. *The Mississippi Municipal Salaries and Benefits Survey* was published in Summer 2025!

In 2025, the Stennis Institute graduate research team completed *Insight Into Mississippi's Retirement System: A Comparison of Southeastern State Retirement Systems*.

Throughout 2026 the Stennis Institute, in collaboration with the Mississippi Development Authority, will be working on disaster mitigation and relief research.



# APRIL

| SUNDAY      | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------|--------|---------|------------------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| 29          | 30     | 31      | 1<br>APRIL FOOLS' DAY<br>PASSOVER BEGINS | 2        | 3      | 4        |
| 5<br>EASTER | 6      | 7       | 8                                        | 9        | 10     | 11       |
| 12          | 13     | 14      | 15<br>TAX DAY                            | 16       | 17     | 18       |
| 19          | 20     | 21      | 22<br>EARTH DAY                          | 23       | 24     | 25       |
| 26          | 27     | 28      | 29                                       | 30       | 1      | 2        |





Designed to assist mid- to senior-level state and local government executives become more efficient and effective leaders, The State Executive Development Institute offers courses such as leadership, management theory, conflict resolution, cybersecurity, and numerous other skills necessary for future leaders. The cohort meets for a week, and trainings are held on Mississippi State University's campus and differing locations in the state capitol of Jackson.

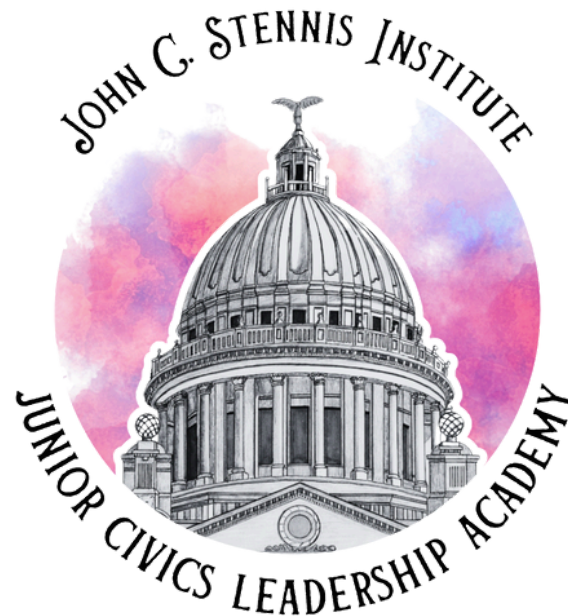
**Join us for SEDI 2026, May 17-22<sup>nd</sup>!**



# MAY

| SUNDAY             | MONDAY             | TUESDAY            | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY     | SATURDAY |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 26                 | 27                 | 28                 | 29         | 30         | 1          | 2        |
| 3                  | 4                  | 5<br>CINCO DE MAYO | 6          | 7          | 8          | 9        |
| 10<br>MOTHER'S DAY | 11                 | 12                 | 13         | 14         | 15         | 16       |
| 17<br>SEDI         | 18<br>SEDI         | 19<br>SEDI         | 20<br>SEDI | 21<br>SEDI | 22<br>SEDI | 23       |
| 24                 | 25<br>MEMORIAL DAY | 26                 | 27         | 28         | 29         | 30       |
| 31                 | 1                  | 2                  | 3          | 4          | 5          | 6        |





The Stennis Institute is excited to host the third annual Junior Civics Leadership Academy in 2026! JCLA is a week-long conference aimed at teaching 9th through 12th grade high school students about civics, levels of government, and community development. In 2025, our JCLA students got the chance to meet with local, state, and federally elected officials, tour Mississippi's capital, and get a first look into campus life at Mississippi State University all while earning three (3) hours of college elective credit.

**Join us for JCLA 2026, June 13-19th. Registration opens February 2<sup>nd</sup> on our website!**

**CONNECT  
WITH US!**



@JCLA.SIG



JUNIOR CIVICS  
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



# JUNE

| SUNDAY                                    | MONDAY     | TUESDAY    | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                   | SATURDAY   |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 31                                        | 1          | 2          | 3          | 4          | 5                        | 6          |
| 7                                         | 8          | 9          | 10         | 11         | 12                       | 13<br>JCLA |
| 14<br>FLAG DAY<br>JCLA                    | 15<br>JCLA | 16<br>JCLA | 17<br>JCLA | 18<br>JCLA | 19<br>JUNETEENTH<br>JCLA | 20         |
| 21<br>FATHER'S DAY<br>FIRST DAY OF SUMMER | 22         | 23         | 24         | 25         | 26                       | 27         |
| 28                                        | 29         | 30         | 1          | 2          | 3                        | 4          |



# CONFERENCES

---

In 2025, the Stennis Institute staff traveled across the state and region to present research, lead trainings, and participate in key professional gatherings. This year, the Institute was represented at the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA), the Mississippi Municipal League Annual Conference, and the Mississippi Municipal League Small Towns Conference.

We are also proud to note that our Executive Director, Dr. Dallas Breen, is currently serving as **President of SECoPA**, highlighting the Institute's leadership and continued commitment to advancing public administration!



# JULY

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY              |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------------------|
| 28     | 29     | 30      | 1         | 2        | 3      | 4<br>INDEPENDENCE DAY |
| 5      | 6      | 7       | 8         | 9        | 10     | 11                    |
| 12     | 13     | 14      | 15        | 16       | 17     | 18                    |
| 19     | 20     | 21      | 22        | 23       | 24     | 25                    |
| 26     | 27     | 28      | 29        | 30       | 31     | 1                     |





# *Student Experience*

The Stennis Institute provides its undergraduate and graduate student workers with a unique opportunity to gain hands-on professional experience. Students work closely with the faculty and staff on projects aligned with their fields of study, gaining exposure to best practices on a range of local and state issues. Additionally, students develop professional writing skills through contributions to various published projects. The Institute encourages students to integrate their interests with relevant policy areas while supporting and mentoring them in research initiatives led by Stennis Institute staff.

CHECK OUT OUR  
GRADUATE  
RESEARCH HERE





# AUGUST

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 26     | 27     | 28      | 29        | 30       | 31     | 1        |
| 2      | 3      | 4       | 5         | 6        | 7      | 8        |
| 9      | 10     | 11      | 12        | 13       | 14     | 15       |
| 16     | 17     | 18      | 19        | 20       | 21     | 22       |
| 23     | 24     | 25      | 26        | 27       | 28     | 29       |
| 30     | 31     | 1       | 2         | 3        | 4      | 5        |



The Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy was established in the spring of 2009 by the Mississippi Community College Foundation in collaboration with the Stennis Institute.

## MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

MCCLA is a year-long program that addresses projected needs for upper-level administration leadership in Mississippi's community college system. The classes and workshops are designed to prepare mid-level administrators to take on upper-level administrative roles.



# SEPTEMBER

| SUNDAY                  | MONDAY         | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                 | THURSDAY | FRIDAY                     | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------|---------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| 30                      | 31             | 1       | 2                         | 3        | 4                          | 5        |
| 6                       | 7<br>LABOR DAY | 8       | 9                         | 10       | 11<br>ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS | 12       |
| 13                      | 14             | 15      | 16                        | 17       | 18                         | 19       |
| 20<br>YOM KIPPUR BEGINS | 21             | 22      | 23<br>FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN | 24       | 25                         | 26       |
| 27                      | 28             | 29      | 30                        | 1        | 2                          | 3        |



# Community DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development team at the Stennis Institute actively engages municipalities and organizations across the state of Mississippi by providing programs and assistance. Their two main programs are First Impressions and Strategic Doing.



First Impressions allows a community to gain feedback from the perspective of a team of first-time visitors. These visitors go to the residential, retail, and industrial areas of a town, along with areas of interest or tourism.

Strategic Doing takes the planning process and combines it with the implementation to achieve organizational change. Our team works with municipalities, state agencies, businesses, and organizational pillars of a community.



# OCTOBER

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                                        | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 27     | 28                                            | 29      | 30        | 1        | 2      | 3        |
| 4      | 5                                             | 6       | 7         | 8        | 9      | 10       |
| 11     | 12<br>COLUMBUS DAY<br>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| 18     | 19                                            | 20      | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| 25     | 26                                            | 27      | 28        | 29       | 30     | 31       |



# PUBLIC POLICY & ADMINISTRATION CAPSTONE

Consistent with its founding principles and ongoing mission, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development is dedicated to promoting the preparation and training of students pursuing careers in public service. This commitment is reflected in the Institute's close collaboration with the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Mississippi State University, particularly through support of the Integrative Capstone Course.

The Capstone Course serves as the culminating academic requirement for students enrolled in the Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA) program. Institute scholars work alongside PSPA faculty to identify meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities and to support course implementation throughout the semester. Through this partnership, students gain practical experience in applied research, project management, and collaborative problem solving.

Faculty and staff at the Stennis Institute assist in guiding students as they analyze real-world policy challenges, assess community and organizational benefits, and deliver actionable results for public sector clients. These projects are conducted in direct partnership with local governments, nonprofit organizations, and state agencies, providing students with valuable exposure to the expectations, responsibilities, and professional standards of public service. Through this applied learning model, the Institute and the PSPA department jointly advance student learning, professional readiness, and long-term success in public service careers.



SCAN HERE!

---

Learn more about the Public Policy & Administration graduate programs at Mississippi State University.



# NOVEMBER

| SUNDAY                            | MONDAY | TUESDAY                   | WEDNESDAY          | THURSDAY           | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|----------|
| 1<br>DAYLIGHT SAVING<br>TIME ENDS | 2      | 3<br>VOTE<br>ELECTION DAY | 4                  | 5                  | 6      | 7        |
| 8                                 | 9      | 10                        | 11<br>VETERANS DAY | 12                 | 13     | 14       |
| 15                                | 16     | 17                        | 18                 | 19                 | 20     | 21       |
| 22                                | 23     | 24                        | 25                 | 26<br>THANKSGIVING | 27     | 28       |
| 29                                | 30     | 1                         | 2                  | 3                  | 4      | 5        |



# ASPIRE *Mississippi*



Through a collaboration with the Mississippi Development Authority, Aspire MS seeks to educate participants on building economic support networks and implementing community strategies. This year's cohort included **Scott, Carroll, and Leflore** counties. The cohort meets several times throughout the year to discuss tangible plans to benefit economic development in their counties. County leaders, state agency heads, and economic development experts come together at a symposium to showcase their efforts and community projects.



# DECEMBER

| SUNDAY | MONDAY                    | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY             | FRIDAY                              | SATURDAY             |
|--------|---------------------------|---------|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 29     | 30                        | 1       | 2         | 3                    | 4<br>HANUKKAH BEGINS                | 5                    |
| 6      | 7                         | 8       | 9         | 10                   | 11                                  | 12<br>HANUKKAH ENDS  |
| 13     | 14                        | 15      | 16        | 17                   | 18                                  | 19                   |
| 20     | 21<br>FIRST DAY OF WINTER | 22      | 23        | 24<br>CHRISTMAS EVE  | 25<br>CHRISTMAS                     | 26<br>KWANZAA BEGINS |
| 27     | 28                        | 29      | 30        | 31<br>NEW YEAR'S EVE | 1<br>KWANZAA ENDS<br>NEW YEAR'S DAY | 2                    |



---

# *Our Staff*

---

Dr. Dallas Breen  
Executive Director

David Parrish  
Senior Research Associate

Mac Hamilton  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Charlotte Allen  
Surveyor

Dr. Joe Fratesi  
Assistant Director for Comm. Development

Judith Phillips  
Research Associate III

Braydon Jakins  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Gary Andrews  
Surveyor

Dr. P. Edward French  
Professor & Public Service Fellow

Sarah Rendon  
Research Associate I

Alex Martin  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Mary Andrews  
Surveyor

LeeAnn Funderburg  
Business Manager

Kendall Sanders  
Project Coordinator

Holden Mattison  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Perry Brown  
Surveyor

Lauren Gardner  
Project Coordinator

Brady Bolling  
Graduate Research Assistant

Anne Preston McRae  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

James C. Carver  
Surveyor

Dr. John Harper  
Research Associate II

Susan Jessop  
Graduate Research Assistant

Ross Mitias  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Benjamin C. Carver  
Surveyor

Bonnie Hays  
Administrative Assistant

Miracle Ratliff  
Graduate Research Assistant

Peyton Seals  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Harley W. Meadows  
Surveyor

Brian Mathison  
Research Associate II

Kaylin Vollenweider  
Graduate Research Assistant

Joseph Slack  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Douglas Stewart  
Surveyor

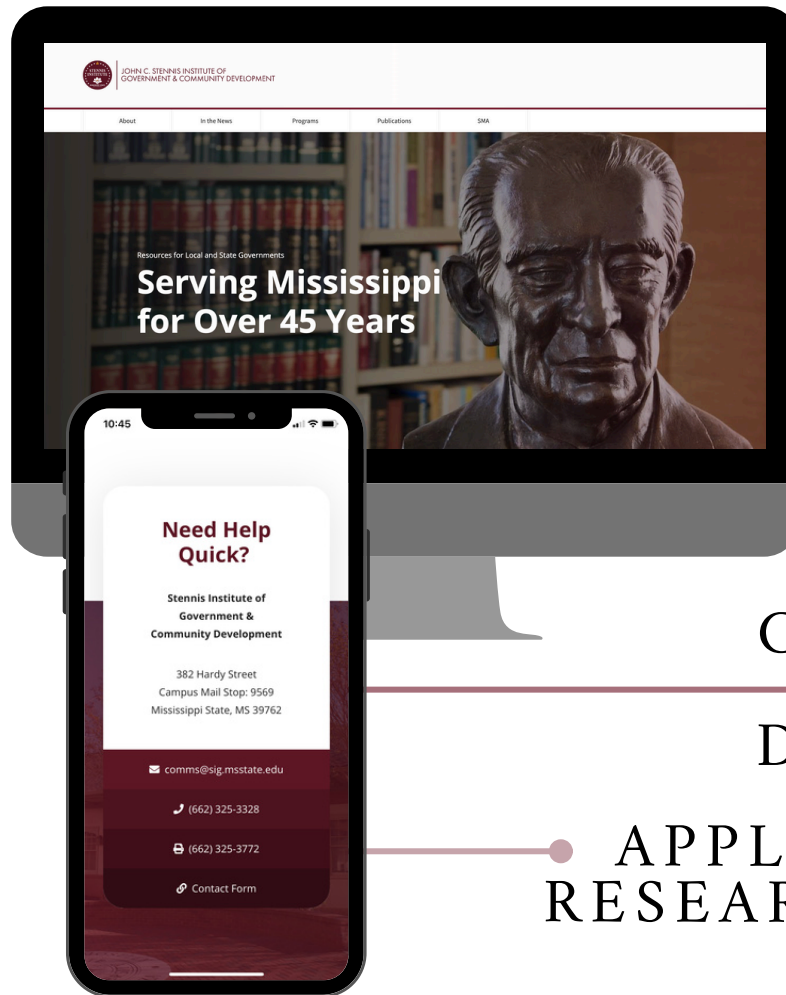
Chance McDavid  
Project Director

Alyssa Atkins  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Alexandra Williams  
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Anthony A. Varaksa  
Surveyor

---



LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING

GOVERNMENTAL  
SERVICES

COMMUNITY &  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

APPLIED  
RESEARCH

SIG.MSSTATE.EDU



John C. Stennis Institute  
of Government



@JCStennisInst



John C. Stennis Institute  
of Government



@StennisInstitute

<

# JOHN C. STENNIS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

*Executive Director: Dr. Joseph “Dallas” Breen*

P.O. DRAWER LV  
MISSISSIPPI STATE, MS 39762



[SIG.MSSTATE.EDU](http://SIG.MSSTATE.EDU)

[comms@sig.msstate.edu](mailto:comms@sig.msstate.edu) | 662-325-3328



**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY™