

## Inauguration set for Mississippi College President Dr. Blake Thompson, March 29

*Special to The Clinton Courier*

Clinton's Brick Streets sit just a few feet away from the Mississippi College campus. Practically neighbors, Clinton and the MC family forged partnerships spanning many generations.

So it's no surprise that Clinton residents will play a vital role in the week of inauguration activities for Dr. Blake Thompson. Events run from March 24 through March 29 to celebrate the installation of MC's 20th president at the Baptist-affiliated institution chartered in 1826.

Members of the MC family will join with state and national leaders for a week of special events culminating in an inaugural ceremony on the historic Quad on Friday, March 29, at 4 p.m.

Activities begin Sunday, March 24, and, over the course of the week, MC's commitment to academic excellence and the cause of Christ will be on full display. The week begins with a community-wide worship service, features a scholarly academic symposium, engages the city through service projects, and includes a concert on Olde Towne Clinton's red brick streets.

Inaugural ceremonies rarely happen



*Dr. Blake Thompson, twentieth president of Mississippi College*

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at MC. With its charter established in 1826, Mississippi College is America's second oldest Baptist college and the state of Mississippi's oldest institution of higher learning. Dr. Lee Royce was the last MC president, inaugurated more than sixteen years ago.

Inauguration activities will see higher education leaders join university supporters for a celebration that's both meaningful and memorable in the life

of the institution.

"Inauguration offers an important time for us to pause for a moment and reflect on the institution's rich history. It also offers us a chance to dream about MC's bright future," President Blake Thompson said.

The week begins with a community-wide worship service 6 p.m. Sunday, March 24 at First Baptist Church Clinton.

Members of the MC community are invited to a service at Provine Chapel on Tuesday, March 26. It begins at 10:50 a.m. and features an address by President Thompson.

Community service projects are set for MC's hometown in the City of Clinton and in Jackson. Projects touch on topics such as church planting, food insecurity, as well as adoption and foster care.

Other pieces of inauguration week include an academic symposium at 3 p.m. on March 28 in Swor Auditorium. The symposium is open to the public. A dinner and concert in Olde Towne Clinton will occur later that Thursday at 5 p.m. (and conclude at 9 p.m.)

Other notable public events include the March 29 dedication of the beautiful sculpture "Christ in Gethsemane" crafted by internationally celebrated artist Sam Gore of Clinton. The Friday event is set for 10 a.m. at the Rhoda Royce Prayer Garden.

The 4 p.m. Friday inauguration ceremony in the Quad is followed by a community reception at the Piazza and Jennings Courtyard. Both events are open to the public.

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## Continental's Clinton plant marks 100<sup>th</sup> employee milestone

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Continental's Clinton plant recently marked an important milestone with the addition of its 100<sup>th</sup> employee. The growing team consists of professionals in production, engineering, human resources, quality, finance, information technology and communications.

"We are 100 strong," said Michael Egner, Clinton Plant Manager. "With this team and our core values as the foundation - passion to win, trust, for one another and freedom to act - the future of our workforce looks promising."

The training center has been the hub for team building, new hire orientation and training for employees. Additionally, the first

group of production employees are currently at Continental locations in the U.S., Slovakia and Czech Republic. They will train for the next three months remotely before returning to Clinton.

Continental is also investing in the development of new talent with local programs. Continental's Maintenance Technician Program offers Hinds Community College students a nine-week, paid internship at Continental's Mt. Vernon, Illinois, plant. The Global Trainee Program offers local college graduates expert training at Continental locations



*Clinton's new Continental tire plant recently celebrated the hiring of their 100th employee.*

across the world for two years before beginning their careers in Clinton.

The future truck tire plant will create 2,500 positions by the end of 2028.

To apply for positions with Continental, search for opportunities in Clinton at [www.continental-jobs.com](http://www.continental-jobs.com).

**ROBERT BOYD AND ASSOCIATES**  
LAW FIRM P.L.L.C.  
103 Woodchase Park Drive  
Clinton, Mississippi 39056  
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