

New Statewide Campaign Takes Steps Toward Ending HIV/AIDS Epidemic

(Jackson, Miss.) – The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) announced recently a new awareness campaign titled “Put Your Foot Down, Mississippi” to inspire Mississippians to join renewed efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Mississippi.

Contrary to public perception, HIV/AIDS is still a problem in the U.S. Approximately 1.2 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV and about 14 percent of them do not know it. In Mississippi, 19.2 out of every 100,000 adults and adolescents were diagnosed with HIV in 2018. Nationally, HIV is spreading fastest among young people, gay and bisexual men, African Americans, and Latinos. Young adults aged 20-29 are the leading age group for newly diagnosed cases.

The “Put Your Foot Down, Mississippi” campaign is a call to all Mississippians to take steps toward ending the misconceptions surrounding HIV/AIDS by educating themselves, getting tested in order to know their status,

protecting themselves proactively against HIV, and doing their part to stop the spread. The campaign focuses on encouraging people to engage with content that will help strengthen understanding about HIV/AIDS from a scientific perspective, how it spreads, and practical ways to protect themselves and loved ones.

The MSDH Office of STD/HIV and the DMH Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services have partnered to address ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Mississippi. DMH provides federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funding to the MSDH Office of STD/HIV to provide HIV testing in substance use treatment programs. Through this partnership, MSDH and DMH hope to increase public awareness of rapid HIV testing, including where to locate and how to access needed services, such as those available through county health departments.

In addition, the Put Your Foot Down, Mississippi campaign will provide helpful resources on prevention and self-care that encourage

Mississippians to create a stronger and healthier future for themselves, their partners, and their communities.

Put Your Foot Down, Mississippi is using a four-step approach to ending the HIV epidemic together. To achieve the nationwide goal of reducing new HIV infections in the United States by 75% by the year 2025 and 90% by the year 2030, the Center for Disease Control’s Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America focuses on four key strategies and steps that together can end the HIV epidemic in the U.S.

The four-step approach operates as follows:

- * Diagnose all individuals with HIV as early as possible after infection.

- * Treat people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression.

- * Prevent new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis and syringe services programs.

- * Respond quickly to potential HIV outbreaks to get prevention and treatment services to people who need them.

To learn more or to find a testing location nearest you, please visit the Put Your Foot Down, Mississippi website at www.putyourfoot-downms.com.

Mississippi State University graduation and deans’/ president’s lists released

Honor graduates include all bachelor-degree candidates with exceptional scholastic averages and at least half the total required course hours earned at MSU. Their specific levels of recognition and the minimum required averages for each, based on a 4.0 scale, include: summa cum laude, 3.80; magna cum laude, 3.60; and cum laude, 3.40.

The academic honors are recorded on the graduates’ diplomas and permanent records, as well as in the commencement program.

Graduation List

Denia D. Bates, Goodman, MS, College of Education, MATX; Amber Keshawna Ellis, Durant, MS, College of Arts & Sciences, BS; Emily Katherine Martin, Lexington, MS, College of Education, BS, Magna Cum Laude; Monique Shuntae Martin, Durant, MS, College of Education, MATX; Shickzney Tamara Mosley, Durant, MS, College of Ag. & Life Sciences, BS; John Ashton Simpson, Pickens, MS, Adkerson School of Accountancy, BACC, Cum Laude.

Below is the Mississippi State University Deans’/ President’s List for the

2021 spring semester for your county.

Students on the President’s List achieved a 3.80 or better grade-point average, based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of course work with no incomplete grades or grades lower than a C.

Deans’ List students achieved a grade-point

average between 3.5 and 3.79, based on a 4.0 scale, while completing at least 12 semester hours of course work with no incomplete grades or grades lower than a C.

Deans’ List

Kila T. Anderson, Lexington, MS and Adeline M. Garrett, Goodman, MS.

President’s List

James Thomas Feduccia, Pickens, MS; Emily Katherine Martin, Lexington, MS; Shickzney Tamara Mosley, Durant, MS; Sara B White, West, MS; Shandrea Marshae Whitt, Durant, MS.

Three students successfully complete Holmes Attala Center’s inaugural Professional Truck Driver Program



Pictured are Holmes Community College students (left to right): Maurice Riley of Kosciusko, Kamal Steel of Louisville and Sabrina Lewis of Durant. All three completed the Professional Truck Driver Program at the Holmes Attala Center in Kosciusko.

Three Holmes Community College students - Sabrina Lewis of Durant, Maurice Riley of Kosciusko and Kamal Steel of Louisville - completed the Professional Truck Driver Program held at the Attala Center in Kosciusko.

This was the first cohort for this program at the Attala Center, with just three participants allowed, and all of them successfully earned their commercial driver’s license and obtained multiple job offers upon completion of the program. The employ-

ment opportunities offered to students included: Averitt Transportation, Clark Beverages, Cooper Freight, CRST Transportation, Knight, Prairie Farms, Schneider and Total Transportation.

The eight-week course, which costs \$1450, covers: Transportation Technology, Preventive Maintenance & Servicing, Cargo Documentation, Vehicle Inspections, Recognizing & Reporting Malfunctions, Basic Shifting Exercises, Backing Exercises, Accident Procedures, Rural & City Driving, Motor

Carrier Atlas Review, Coupling/Uncoupling, Sliding Tandems, Pre-Trip & Post-Trip Inspections, Emergency Scenarios and Logbook Exercises. The requirements to participate in this program include: a CDL permit, a Department of Transportation (DOT) physical drug test, a DVR and a criminal background check.

The program runs Monday-Friday, from 8-3:30 p.m. Call (662) 290-0808 for more information about the trucking course and the next available cohort.

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