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Holmes' Nikki Boutwell graduates from MCCLA



Nikki Boutwell is pictured with Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey during the graduation ceremony for MCCLA on May 5.

Nikki Merchant Boutwell, recruiting specialist on the Goodman Campus at Holmes Community College, was recognized May 5 as a graduate of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy...

In her role at Holmes, Boutwell supervises Ambassador student recruiters, teaches Leadership and Communication Skills courses and serves as a liaison between business and industry leaders...

Established in 2009, MCCLA is a selective (Continued on page 8.)

MSU students showcase projects at Undergraduate Research Symposium



Jazmaree Rich

MISSISSIPPI STATE, MS - Mississippi State University's Undergraduate Research Symposium engages students in showcasing their faculty-guided research and creative activity.

The following local students were this spring's

symposium participants:

Jazmaree Rich, a senior computer science major from Durant, MS, presented "Modernizing Autonomous Vehicle Path Planning Through MATLAB-to-Python Translation" in the Engineering category.

Toni Woodberry, a sophomore computer engineering major from Pickens, MS, presented "Design and Integration of a Map-Based Planning Framework in ROS for Enhanced Global and Local Path Planning in Autonomous Vehicle Systems" in the Engineering category.

Holmes' Harris named 2026 Moody Institute Fellow



Katrena Harris

Katrena Harris, instructor for the Criminal Justice program at Holmes Community College, has been selected as a 2026 Moody Institute Fellow.

Harris was chosen by the Moody Institute Trust Fund Board following a competitive review of faculty enrichment proposals submitted by faculty members

from Mississippi's public community and junior colleges. Her proposal was selected as one of the approved projects for the 2026 fellowship cycle.

As part of the fellowship, Harris will receive funding to support a professional enrichment experience focused on advancing teaching effectiveness and opportunities in criminal instructional development. The Moody Institute Trust Fund was established in 1990 in honor of Dr. George V. Moody...

Harris has taught criminal justice at Holmes for the past 11 years after transitioning from a career as a

full-time 911 operator while earning her master's degree and raising three children. Her children include a police detective and a captain in the United States Army. Although she originally planned to attend law school, Harris discovered a passion for teaching after being encouraged to pursue teaching effectiveness and opportunities in criminal justice education.

Since joining Holmes on the Goodman Campus, Harris has taught students online and on the Grenada and Ridgeland campuses. In addition to her role as an educator, she is also a certified life coach and minister.

Harris is recognized for creating engaging, hands-on learning opportunities for students, including leading the Criminal Justice (Continued on page 11.)

John F. McGee 2026 scholarship recipient



Mrs. Daisye McGee, widow, and Gavin Howard

Gavin Latrell Howard, a Goodman resident and son of Rodney and Gwendolyn Howard, has been named the 2026 recipient of the John F. McGee Continuing Education Scholarship. The award, valued at \$1,000, is presented annually to recognize an individual dedicated to furthering their education and making a positive impact on their community.

The scholarship honors the life and legacy of John F. McGee, a dedicated educator who gave many years of service to the students and families of the east side of Holmes County. Mr. McGee served as principal of (Continued on page 8.)

\$1.00 Single Copy



Weather forecast table with columns for Thursday through Wednesday, including icons for sun, clouds, and rain, and precipitation chances.

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