The Mississippi Learning Institute (MLI) is an innovative collaboration between Jackson State University, local school districts, America Reads Mississippi-AmeriCorps, Clemson University and W.K. Kellogg Foundation. MLI serves as the catalyst to improving instruction for positive outcomes in the lives of children and their families. The focus is to improve teaching and learning, community engagement, build capacity while improving support networks, and family engagement.

Using synergy, MLI works with Jackson State University through the College of Education and Human Development to assist faculty and pre-service teachers to maintain the most viable methodologies for transitioning from theory to practice. In the local school districts, MLI engages and empowers teachers and pupils by providing assistance that ensures capacity building that results in improved student learning with specific emphasis on young males of color.

The 2015 activities are implemented to establish and maintain a framework for productive family-school partnerships that translate to educationally and economically sound communities in Mississippi. Through funding from W.K. Kellogg Foundation, MLI supports numerous Young Males of Color initiatives such as Call Me MISTER, College Bound Scholars and S.T.A.R.S.

MECA Conference 2015

“Connecting the Dots in the Classroom”

- MLI and Childcare Director’s Network are designed for collaboration; taking pleasure in assisting with the delivery of professional development training that informs, motivates, and provides certification requirements for caregivers, teachers and administrators. We are pleased to have distinguished and nationally renowned consultants, educators, literacy specialists, and community activists to present the most current and innovative strategies in an interactive platform. The sessions given this year are provided to increase wealth of knowledge as educators community members and families are preparing to connect the dots in the classroom.

- $20 Early Registration - Ends 1/30
- On-site Registration - $25
- Cash & Money Orders Only
- (No Checks accepted)
- Registration forms available at www.jsu.edu/mli

S.T.A.R.S.
- Raising Him Alone

- S.T.A.R.S. “Sistas” Teaching And Raising Sons - Goal: Empower single mothers to provide equitable outcomes for their sons through school readiness, early literacy, and positive self-concept activities. As a community based engagement project, S.T.A.R.S. will create a support system to address education support and advocacy, social and emotional wellness, and financial literacy. Monthly support and engagement meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday night of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Sally Barksdale Resource Center for Single Black Moms with sons ages 0-6 years old.
- During the 2015 MECA conference, our Single Black Moms (S.T.A.R.S.) will be participating in an interactive learning seminar with David Miller, author of bestseller, Raising Him Alone. He will be sharing positive information and reviewing principles on successfully diminishing the obstacles that hinder progress for families and young males of color.

College Bound Scholars
- New Beginnings

- The College Bound Scholars Project is designed to address the academic and social needs of males of color enrolled in middle schools. It examines the cultural, social and emotional variables to redirect the overwhelming disparities males of color encounter in their formal and informal environments. Mr. Antonius Caldwell, the Young Males of Color Coordinator, leads the charge and intense interaction with young males of color in their formal and informal environments. Mr. Caldwell’s expertise, passion and enthusiasm for the multi-layered mentoring process that the YMOC initiative requires.

- Mr. Caldwell is a true believer in the power of education. He feels that any and every person can benefit from a true understanding of respect for authority, along with an appreciation for education. He strongly believes that self-awareness development is the key to properly addressing the achievement gap experienced by most males of color.

“Knowing where you want to go or what you want to be starts with knowing who you are and where you are right now!”

- Mr. Caldwell
Jackson State University is leading the way in recruiting more African American male teachers for Mississippi classrooms as home to the only Call Me MISTER program in the state. Launched in 2012 with a five-student cohort, the program is designed to provide a pipeline of African-American male teachers, mentors, and role models to Mississippi’s public schools and communities.

As an effort to build rapport with other JSU students in the College of Education, the men of the “Call Me MISTER” program in collaboration with the College of Education Ambassadors, sponsored their first Education Relations Mixer. Enjoying food, music and laughter, the attendees of this event were able to meet the “Call Me MISTER cohorts and COEHD Ambassadors, discuss pressing issues facing educators today and build stronger bonds as future educators.

Get Involved with MLI

The Mississippi Learning Institute takes pride when engaging in community involvement projects and events. When attending events we strive to educate the community on the various programs we offer as well as recruiting Single Blacks Moms for our S.T.A.R.S group and African American male high school seniors for our Call Me MISTER program. If your organization would like MLI to attend an event and set up a booth with informational resources contact us with the following information:

- Name (Organization)
- Date of Event
- Time of Event
- Event Location
- Target Audience
- Estimated Count of Attendees
- Booth fee (if any)

From left to right: Jordan Seals, Fredderick Murray, D’Andréx Woot, Markoith Dosencott, Larry Strickland (President), Deon Holder, Edward Williams, Corey Share, Everett Anderson

America Reads Mississippi

For information concerning America Reads Mississippi contact ARM Regional Coordinator, Della Archie at 601-979-1474 or via email at delar.archie@jsu.edu

America Reads Mississippi