

AUGUST 2025 EDITION

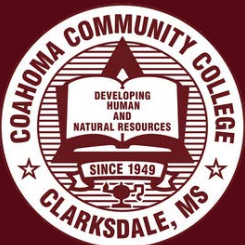
# THE TIGER NEWSLETTER



## Coahoma Community College Kicks Off Fall Semester with Week of Welcome 2025

Coahoma Community College welcomed students back last week with its annual Week of Welcome (WOW), a series of events designed to help students transition to campus life and connect with resources. WOW 2025, themed “We Are Family,” featured activities including First Day Fest, a Splash Bash, Tiger Fun Day, Talent Night, Fits and Chics with Fried Chicken Wednesday, Meet the Tigers, and a Campus Service Day.

Students met campus organizations, engaged in games and entertainment, and participated in community service projects. Karen Woods-Done, director of Student Engagement, said the week sets the tone for the semester. “It’s about making sure our students feel connected, supported, and part of a larger family,” she said. The event continues to be a highlight of Coahoma’s calendar, promoting engagement, community, and Tiger pride.



## August Quote of the Month

**“Give a man a fish and  
you feed him for a day;  
teach a man to fish and  
you feed him for a  
lifetime.” —Maimonides**

# NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO OUR

## Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to the official Coahoma Community College Monthly Newsletter – your go-to source for the latest campus highlights, student achievements, faculty features, and community engagement updates.

This publication serves as a vibrant platform to showcase the impactful programs, academic excellence, and Tiger pride that define the Coahoma experience. As champions of education, leadership, and service, we continue to uphold our mission of transforming lives and building stronger communities throughout the Mississippi Delta and beyond.

Through this newsletter, we aim to keep you informed, connected, and inspired as we celebrate our growth and continue striving toward excellence.

Thank you for being a part of the CCC family. Let's continue roaring forward – together!

With Tiger Pride,  
Office of Communications & Marketing  
Coahoma Community College



In this newsletter you will find:

Latest events, campus news, resources, and more.



# Coahoma's Pre-School Conference Addresses Educator Burnout with Keynote by Dr. Jackson



Faculty and staff at Coahoma Community College were welcomed back for the new academic year during the school's annual Pre-School Conference on Aug. 6, where keynote speaker Dr. Patrice Buckner Jackson focused on the realities of burnout in education.

Jackson, widely known as Dr. PBJ, told employees that while their work is meaningful, it should not come at the expense of their health and well-being. With nearly 25 years of experience in education and leadership coaching, she encouraged attendees to rediscover their purpose and embrace strategies for balance and sustainability.

A former higher education administrator, Jackson now leads EduCare Training and Consulting, LLC, hosts the Disrupting Burnout podcast and is the author of *Disrupting Burnout: The Professional Woman's Lifeline to Finding Purpose*. Her message resonated as Coahoma employees prepared for the start of the 2025-26 school year. The Pre-School Conference is an annual tradition that offers professional development, connection and renewal for Coahoma's faculty and staff.



## Mississippi Students Compete at National SkillsUSA Conference in Atlanta



Career and technical education students from Mississippi traveled to Atlanta this summer to compete in the 2025 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, held June 23–27 at the Georgia World Congress Center. The event, one of the nation’s largest hands-on workforce development gatherings, brought together more than 6,700 state champions from across the United States competing in 114 contests. Mississippi was represented by carpentry students Michael McLaurin of Mound Bayou, Joshua Wilson of Cleveland, Josepha Eskridge of Lyon, and Donald Harrington of Clarksdale in the Residential Carpentry TeamWorks competition, along with Jatavian Williams of Clarksdale in Automotive Refinishing.

The students advanced to nationals after earning first place at the state conference in Jackson. While it was the first national competition for three carpentry students, Williams returned for his second appearance. In addition to the contests, participants took part in networking, professional development, and SkillsUSA traditions such as state pin trading.

Mississippi’s state pin, designed by one of the carpentry students, was also featured after winning the state design contest earlier this year. Instructors Carlos Pelaez and Etavious Johnson said they were proud to see their students advance to nationals for a second consecutive year. Although the group did not earn national titles, they highlighted the value of the experience and the opportunity to connect with peers from across the country.



## Coahoma Tigers Host First Home Game of the Season

The Coahoma Community College Tigers will take the field for their first home football game of the 2025 season tonight at James E. Miller Stadium. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. as the Tigers face off against Jones College's Bobcats.

Under the leadership of new head coach Larry Williams, the team is ready to showcase their talent and determination in front of a home crowd. Fans are encouraged to come out and support the Tigers in person or watch the game online at <https://coahomasports.com/watch/>



# SPOTLIGHT

## Coahoma's McKee Selected for SASFAA Leadership Symposium

Joseph McKee, director of financial aid at Coahoma Community College, has been selected by the Mississippi Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA) to participate in the 2025–2026 Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA) Leadership Symposium.

The program is designed to develop the next generation of leaders in student financial aid and higher education. Each year, only a select number of professionals from across the South are chosen to participate.

Members of the 2025–2026 cohort will begin their leadership journey Oct. 6–8 at the SASFAA Leadership Symposium in Charlotte, N.C.

Monthly sessions will continue through June 2026, offering participants leadership training, mentorship from senior administrators, and opportunities to observe higher education governance through state association board meetings.

For Coahoma Community College, McKee's selection highlights both the caliber of its staff and the institution's focus on developing leaders who can shape the future of higher education.

"This is a tremendous honor, not only for me personally, but for Coahoma as well," McKee said. "Being selected for this symposium gives me the opportunity to represent Coahoma on a larger stage, collaborate with colleagues across the South, and bring back innovative ideas that will strengthen our services and support for students."

Coahoma President Valmadge Towner praised McKee's recognition, calling it a reflection of his professional excellence and dedication to student success. "Opportunities like this not only elevate the individual but also benefit our entire institution as we continue to prioritize innovation, access and support for our students," Towner said. The SASFAA Leadership Symposium is fully funded, covering travel, registration and lodging expenses at no cost to the college.



# WELCOME #FALL2025 BACK

*Tiger Scholars!*

