

## LCSD receives \$35K contribution from Alliance Health Center, Inc.

COLUMBUS -- The Lowndes County School District's Pre-Kindergarten program received a \$35,000 contribution from Alliance Health Center, Inc. on Nov. 19.

Dr. Kristie Jones, the LCSD director of Federal Programs, thanked Alliance Health Center, Inc. for its contribution and said the money will be used to help meet the needs of the district's students.

"Lowndes County School District is committed to building a strong foundation for all students to be successful learners," Jones said. "Our mission is to provide a superior educational system that challenges students to attain their greatest intellectual, social and personal potential. "We believe this starts with a vibrant Pre-K program. Community partners such as Alliance Health aid us in transforming this vision to reality. This is the second-consecutive year Alliance Health has contributed to the success of our Early Learning Collaborative (ELC)."

The ELC is a partnership between the LCSD and Coleman Head Start. The program, which is funded through the Mississippi Legislature, provides an opportunity to expand the Pre-K program to more students in Lowndes County. The program currently serve 230 Pre-K students.

Now in its third year, the ELC has received \$50,000 in grants and donations. Jones said the financial contributions are crucial because Pre-K is the beginning of influencing effective, positive change in a community. As a result, she said there is now a national focus on reaching more students through Pre-K programs.

LCSD Superintendent Dr. Sam Allison praised Alliance Health for its generosity in helping students realize their true potential.

"We sincerely appreciate Alliance Health's investment in the Lowndes County School District's Pre-K program," Allison said. "This generous support will enable the district to continue providing an affordable and effective Pre-K option for the students of Lowndes County within our elementary schools."

If you are interested in contributing to the Pre-K program, donations will receive a dollar for dollar MS State Tax Credit. Jones said the district's goal is to provide a highly effective and affordable Pre-K option for students in Lowndes County.

Alliance Health Center started as St. Joseph's Hospital in 1961. In 1977, Hospital Corporation of America leased the hospital and changed its name to Meridian (MS) Regional Hospital. For more than 40 years, the

hospital has provided psychiatric and drug/alcohol treatment to individuals in the states of Alabama and Mississippi.

For more information, contact LCSD Public Information Officer Adam Minichino at 662-244-5002 or 662-251-0459 or email him at: <a href="mailto:Adam.Minichino@lowndes.k12.ms.us">Adam.Minichino@lowndes.k12.ms.us</a>