

THE SPEAKERS

RICHARD BLACKBOURN, ED.D., is dean of the College of Education at Mississippi State University.

RICHARD N. BRANDON PH.D., directs the Human Services Policy Center at the University of Washington as well as the project Washington Kids Count.

AUGUSTA A. CLARK, PH.D. is dean of the College of Education at Mississippi Valley State University.

THE HON. ROBERT G. CLARK of Pickens, Mississippi, is chairman of the Mississippi Delta Revitalization Task Force. He was the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Mississippi House of Representatives for 12 years and a member of the House for 36 years. He is the subject of a biography, *Robert G. Clark's Journey to the House; A Black Politician's Story*, by Will D. Campbell (University Press of Mississippi, 2003).

MEGAN COYLE is a program specialist for the Arkansas Better Chance Program in the Division for Child Care and Early Childhood Education of the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services.

OLETA GARRETT FITZGERALD is the regional director for the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice, which operates in 77 counties across the Black Belt in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. The initiative is a program of the Children's Defense Fund.

CATHY GRACE, ED.D., is a professor of curriculum and instruction and director of the Early Childhood Institute and the National Center for Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives at Mississippi State University.

LAURA BETH HEBBLER is director of the Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Office.

PAT LEVITT, PH.D., is a professor of pharmacology and the Annette Schaffer Eskind Chair and Director of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

CAROLYN YOUNG MARSH, M.S., is the founding administrator of Kids First, a network of full-day, full-year treatment centers for young children with special health and developmental needs. Kids First is a program of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

LESTER C. NEWMAN, PH.D. is the president of Mississippi Valley State University.

ELIZABETH F. SHORES, M.A.P.H., is the associate director for research, communications, and national initiatives for the Early Childhood Institute at Mississippi State University.

JULIA TODD is director of the Office for Children and Youth of the Mississippi Department of Human Services.


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THE RURAL EARLY CHILDHOOD FORUM ON YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

May 30, 2007

Mississippi Valley State University

Itta Bena, Mississippi

Convened by the Mississippi Delta Revitalization Task Force

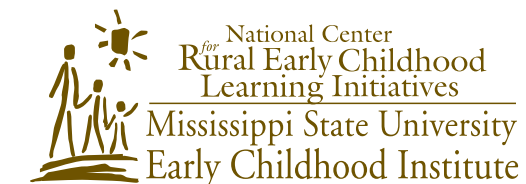
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The Delta Revitalization Task Force



THE DELTA REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE

The Hon. Robert G. Clark, Chairman

Mr. Robert Avant Crenshaw, Miss.	Senator David L. Jordan Greenwood, Miss.
The Hon. Clara Henderson Burnette Tunica, Miss.	The Hon. John Mayo Clarksdale, Miss.
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Mr. Larry "Kite" Johnson Greenwood, Miss.	Senator Johnnie E. Walls, Jr. Greenville, Miss.
Mr. Clifton Johnson Tunica, Miss.	

AGENDA

9:00 A.M.	COFFEE
9:30 A.M.	CONVENE
	<i>Welcome</i> Lester C. Newman, Ph.D.
	<i>Opening Remarks</i> Introductions: Cathy Grace, Ed.D. The Honorable Robert G. Clark Augusta A. Clark, Ph.D. Richard Blackburn, Ed.D.
10:00 A.M.	<i>"The Children of the Mississippi Delta"</i> Introduction of Speaker: Laura Beth Hebbler Oleta Fitzgerald
10:30 A.M.	<i>"Promoting the Health and Education of Young Children"</i> Introduction of Speaker: Dean Blackburn Pat Levitt, Ph.D.
11:30 A.M.	BREAK
11:45 A.M.	LUNCH <i>"Investing in Early Learning in Mississippi"</i> Introduction of Speaker: Dean Clark Richard N. Brandon, Ph.D.
1:30 P.M.	<i>"The Arkansas Example"</i> Introduction of Speakers: Julia Todd Megan Coyle Carolyn Y. Marsh
2:30 P.M.	PANEL DISCUSSION WITH AUDIENCE Facilitators: Dr. Grace and Elizabeth F. Shores, M.A.P.H.
3:30 P.M.	<i>Concluding Remarks</i> Chairman Clark
3:45 P.M.	ADJOURN