

RISE, Inc.  
Regional Initiatives for  
Sustainable Education

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Learn about our mission to conquer poverty in the  
Mississippi Delta.

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# Organizational Overview

RISE, which stands for **R**egional **I**nitiatives for **S**ustainable **E**ducation, is comprised of a diverse group of grassroots educators and stakeholders with a passionate belief in the educability of all children. By closing the current educational achievement gaps, we believe that we will positively impact the economic stability and future progress of the state of Mississippi.

Where do we begin? We are focused on **ROOT CAUSES**. At this time, our major educational goal is to increase teacher capacity and the number of certified teachers in high poverty communities. Many of us associated with RISE, know firsthand, the depths of the need for certified, high quality teachers and the difference they can make for both students and communities. In order to reach their highest potential, these teachers must be knowledgeable of the latest educational trends and strategies for educating the “whole student.”

Our purpose is to connect community partners in the execution of unified efforts to improve the educational and economic conditions in high poverty areas by eliminating current academic achievement gaps.

## Mission and Vision

- We, at RISE, envision a Mississippi where education is equitable and effective for ALL children regardless of economic status.
- Our mission is to conquer poverty by connecting communities in educational enhancement efforts.

# Our Team

# Board of Directors

- Latonja Stone,, President
- Kacie Neville, Treasurer
- Gussie Farris, Board Member
- Marquita Perry, Board Member
- Steven Richardson, Board Member
- Tiffany Jones, Board Member



# Board of Directors (continued)



KACIE NEVILLE



STEVEN RICHARDSON



TIFFANY JONES

# Meet Our Executive Director

Adrienne White Hudson is a proud native of Clarksdale, MS. After graduating from Coahoma County High School, she attended Alcorn State University where she received a Bachelors of Arts degree in English and Masters of Science degrees in Guidance Education and Reading. In 2013, she received an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership and became an administrator at her alma mater Coahoma County High School. Over the last decade, she has dedicated her life to educating children and impacting education in the Mississippi Delta region. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree at Delta State University, and serves as the Chief Academic Officer for the Clarksdale Municipal School District. She is married to Abe Hudson, Jr. and they have one daughter, Abee Miranda.





Our Focus: Root Causes

# Teacher Recruitment and Retention



Want to be a  
**TEACHER?**

WE WANT TO  
**HELP!**

## LEARN MORE

Wednesday 6/6 Clarksdale Cultural Arts Center at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday 6/7 Facebook Live - @risems at 4:00 p.m.

Friday 6/8 Friars Point Elementary School at 10:00 a.m.

## **RISE is seeking 20 candidates to participate in our pilot Teacher Certification Cohort.**

The cohort includes a full year of certification support (includes INTENSIVE preparation during the summer) with a goal of full licensure by June 2019. We will provide a customized tutorial schedule to meet your academic needs, test preparation supplies, and some financial support for testing fees.

Interviews -  
June 13th and 14th  
Preparation begins  
June 18th!

### **Candidate Requirements**

- Professional, Personable & Passionate about Children
- Bachelors degree completed by December 2018
- 17 or above on ACT OR Within 10pts of passing Praxis Core in ALL areas OR Passed 2 of the 3 areas of Praxis Core
- Willing to work in any of the (3) school districts in Coahoma County for 2018-2019 school year
- Dedicated to getting certified!

APPLY BY  
**JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>**

*"Rising Together"*  
Helping ALL schools WIN

This is a pilot program funded by the Walton Family Foundation.

# SE=SS Teacher Certification Cohort

The SE=SS (Successful Educators = Successful Students) program, piloted with funds from the Walton Family Foundation, was the beginning of a large-scale effort to drastically impact education in the Mississippi Delta in a positive manner from the ground up. Specifically, SE=SS addressed the critical teacher shortage with a Grow Your Own approach that involved supporting members of the community in the certification process through a Teacher Certification Cohort. The SE=SS pilot program focused on increasing the number of certified teachers in the four (4) public school districts in Coahoma County; however, with its success, RISE hopes to expand to neighboring counties.

During the duration of the cohort, participants received FREE test preparation for any portions of the Praxis requirements, Pearson assessment, and/or ACT. With a collaborative network of colleagues aiming for the same goal of certification, it was our vision to see at least fifteen (15) certified candidates by the end of one year.

The SE=SS program also includes a community engagement effort to increase support of local schools and their recruitment efforts and technical support for local high school Educators Rising programs.





SUCCESSFUL EDUCATORS = SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

### Certification

- ACT Prep Sessions
- Praxis CORE (Reading, Math and Writing) Test Prep Sessions
- Praxis Elementary Education: Content Knowledge Test Prep Sessions
- Foundations of Reading Test Prep Sessions
- Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge Test Prep Sessions

### Pipeline

- RISE Certification Cohort
- Educators Rising Support (High School Students)
- Professional Development for Current Teachers

### Narrative

- "Tea Time" Chats
- "Big Apple" Campaign
- Social Media Campaign
- Professional Development for Current Teachers

# The Importance of SE=SS



# SE=SS Teacher Certification Cohort



New Teacher Professional Development Event, Ridgeland, MS

"RISE is an exceptional initiative. It's the most flexible, comprehensive, and well-constructed teacher certification preparation program I have seen. The sessions are very engaging and tailored to each participant's need. The staff go above and beyond to ensure that everyone is successful, all while remaining confident in themselves. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in the program and achieve my goal within three months of enrolling. I recommend RISE to all individuals who can commit to the process."

David Tanner, M.Ed.

Special Education Teacher



David Tanner, RISER 2018

# Teacher Academy

RISE has committed to increasing the teacher pipeline through multiple means, including supporting and aiding in the establishment of local Teacher Academy programs.



Clarksdale Career and Technical Center  
Teacher Academy- Educator Rising Induction Ceremony

# Enhancing Teacher Quality and Effectiveness



# iRISE Education Conference (2018 Overview)

For the past two years, RISE has hosted its annual iRISE Educational Conference. Those in attendance include: principals, assistant principals, teachers, and instructional support staff. The topics discussed have been chosen strategically to impact the educational needs of schools in high poverty and teacher shortage areas across the state. The goal is to not only improve the overall educational know-how for those in attendance and better prepare them for the upcoming year, but to also motivate and show appreciation to teachers.





# Education Conference



# Annual Novice Teacher Summit



The RISE Annual Novice Teacher Conference is a cornerstone initiative designed to empower educators in the nascent stages of their careers. Focused on teachers with 0-3 years of experience, this conference offers a diverse array of strategies and insights aimed at enhancing teaching effectiveness and nurturing professional growth. Covering a wide range of topics, the conference provides attendees with the tools and knowledge necessary to excel in their pivotal early years of teaching.

What sets this conference apart is its commitment to accessibility; all sessions and resources are offered at no cost to participants. This approach ensures that every novice teacher has the opportunity to benefit from the wealth of experience and expertise shared during the event.

Over the past five years, the RISE Annual Novice Teacher Conference has consistently received outstanding reviews, a testament to its impact and the quality of its programming. Through this initiative, RISE continues to build the capacity of new teachers, fostering a generation of educators who are well-equipped to inspire and lead in the classroom.

The central graphic features a stylized globe with the text "iRISE" overlaid. Below the globe is a pyramid shape composed of several smaller images showing people in various settings, including a classroom and a meeting. The background is split into blue and orange sections.

**iRISE**

*"Rising Together"*  
Helping ALL schools WIN

[www.risems.org](http://www.risems.org)



# Community Enhancement

# Tea Time Chat Series

The Tea Time Chat Series was created with the idea that sometimes the necessary **HELP** for change is as simple as having a heartfelt conversation. Being aware and understanding what is occurring in our schools is the first step in improving student outcomes. With this in mind, RISE created the Tea Time Chat Series.

Tea Time Conversations are videoed interviews with educators and stakeholders from the region. The topics are always centered on a particular "TEA" or "TY" such as **RESPONSIBILITY**, **QUALITY**, and **SUSTAINABILITY**. Tea Time is available in an open forum to the community in the form of Tea Time Chats. These chats are solution-based with the goal of helping area schools be as successful as possible.

# Tea Time with John Howard- Episode 1

## RESPONSIBILITY

The first episode of Tea Time Chat was released on December 19, 2018. In this episode, Executive Director Adrienne Hudson and former Assistant Principal and RISE team member John Howard discuss the responsibility of schools, parents and the community in education.



# Tea Time with Amanda Johnson - Episode 2

## QUALITY

In episode two of the Tea Time Chat Series, which was released January 1, 2019, Executive Director Adrienne Hudson interviews Amanda Johnson of Clarksdale Collegiate Public Charter School. Together they discuss high quality education in Mississippi and the establishment of Clarksdale Collegiate.

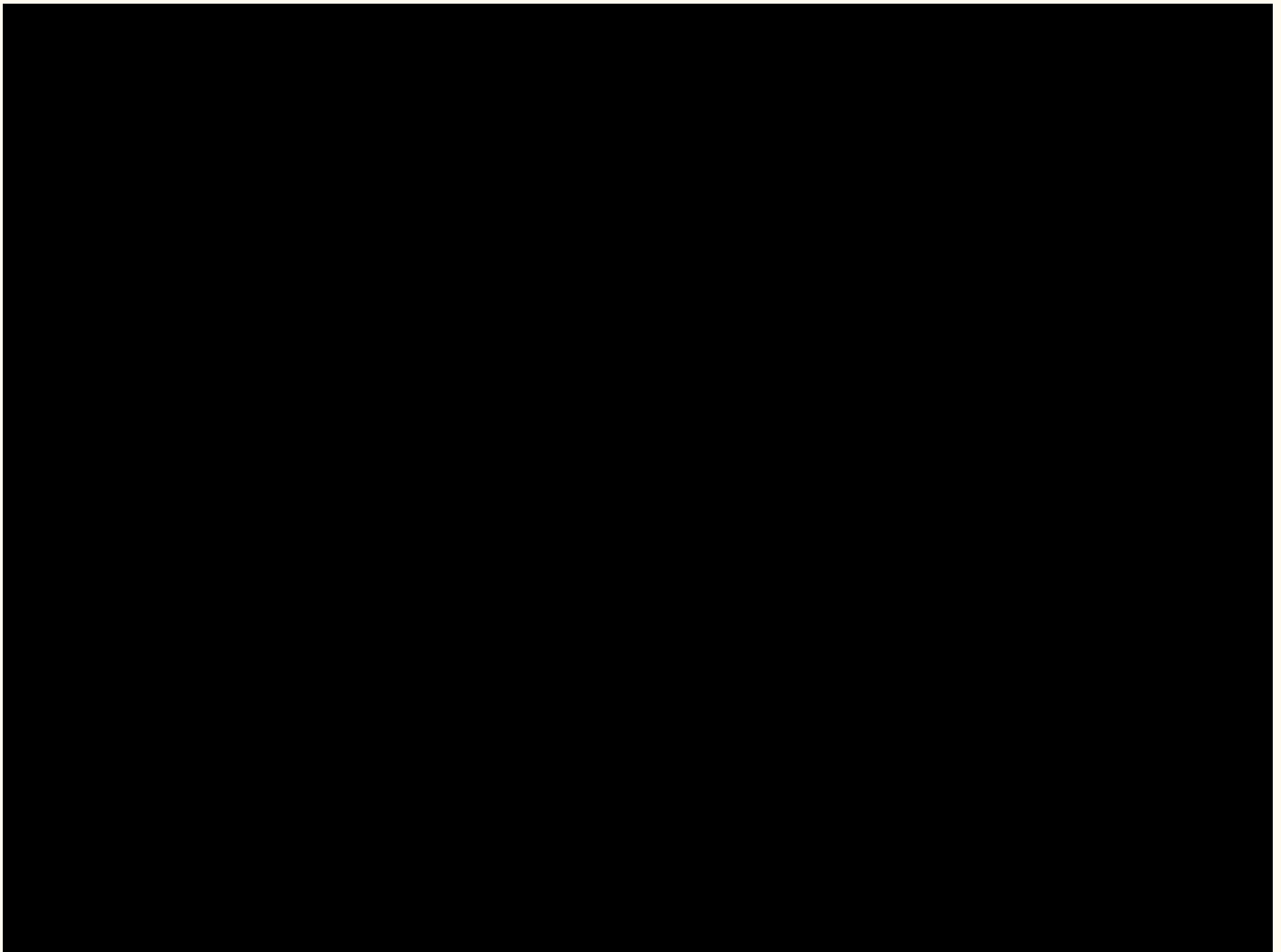




# Tea Time with Suzanne Walton - Episode 3

## SUSTAINABILITY

The third Tea Time Chat features Principal Suzanne Walton of Clarksdale Municipal School District. In this episode, Director Hudson and Principal Walton converse about the success of Kirkpatrick Health & Medical Science Magnet Elementary School in Clarksdale, MS and the difference sustainability and **TEACHERS** are making in the progress of the school.



# Big Apple Campaign

The Big Apple Campaign was designed to help showcase community appreciation and support for teachers, which, according to research, increases teacher retention. Therefore, RISE took on the task of asking all businesses in Coahoma County to **HELP** support teachers by joining as a partner in the Big Apple Campaign. Any business could join by committing to offer a teacher discount or merchandise of their choice.

As a partner, a businesses would receive a RISE Big Apple decal that can be proudly displayed in business windows and publication of the business and the chosen incentive in the “Big Apple” teacher appreciation publication. At the initiation of this campaign, there was only one business in Clarksdale with a publicized educator discount. Now, our list is growing weekly.



**Teachers Love Teaching, and we LOVE  
Them!**



THEIR **BIG** IMPACT DESERVES A  
APPLE

Support  
Teachers



## JOIN THE BIG APPLE CAMPAIGN

**STEP  
01**

Commit to a discount or donation of your choice.

Visit [www.risems.org](http://www.risems.org) Or call 662.721.RISE to register.

**STEP  
02**

**STEP  
03**

Make a tax-deductible donation of \$25 and receive your decal.

**STEP  
04**

Welcome teachers with a smile.

Sponsored by our community and RISE, Inc. a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to conquering poverty by connecting communities in educational enhancement efforts.

### CROSSROADS FURNITURE

819 Desoto Ave  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
(662) 627-2114  
10% off any furniture purchase

### DAYLIGHT DONUTS

521 N State St  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
(662) 624-6610  
5% discount on purchases Sundays and Mondays

### DELTA CREATIONS

243 Delta Ave  
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614  
(662) 647-7797  
10% off all items daily

### DELTA MUFFLER

525 Third Street  
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614  
(662) 627-7871  
20% off services daily

### EXQUISITE HAIR DESIGN

101 Madison Ave  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
(662) 351-8032  
\$20 Wash and Set daily

### GRANDMA'S HOUSE OF PANCAKES

115 Third Street  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
(662) 592-5290  
20% off purchases daily



### MERAKI ROASTING CO.

282 Sunflower Ave  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
(662) 351-2233  
Ask for details at time of purchase

### RANCHERO RESTAURANT

1907 N State St  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
(662) 624-9768  
Enjoy the Wednesday night Teacher Dinner Special which includes a half-priced entree, one side, and bread. (Please call ahead to order)

### SHERMAN'S FASHION

239 Yazoo Ave  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
(662) 627-7103  
10% off purchases daily  
(Excludes all cosmetics purchases)

### STONE PONY

226 Delta Ave  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
(662) 624-7669  
Enjoy half-price appetizers every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### THREE E EVENT PLANNING

331 C Desoto Ave  
Clarksdale, MS 38614  
(662) 313-6235  
Discounts available for school event decoration

Don't forget your School ID!

Revised 12/17/18

# Teacher Night Out

On December 19, 2018, RISE decided to put a spin on its traditional Tea Time and turn it into a special teacher edition. Teachers all of over were invited to a night a fun and uplifting teacher conversation.

DECEMBER  
**19<sup>th</sup>**  
5:30 P.M.

**SPECIAL TEACHERS EDITION**  
Teachers, in appreciation of your hard work, we would like to invite you to a night of fun and fellowship.

*tea*  
**TIME**

CLARKSDALE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER  
332 Delta Ave. | Clarksdale, MS

Refreshments, Fun, Networking, Gifts



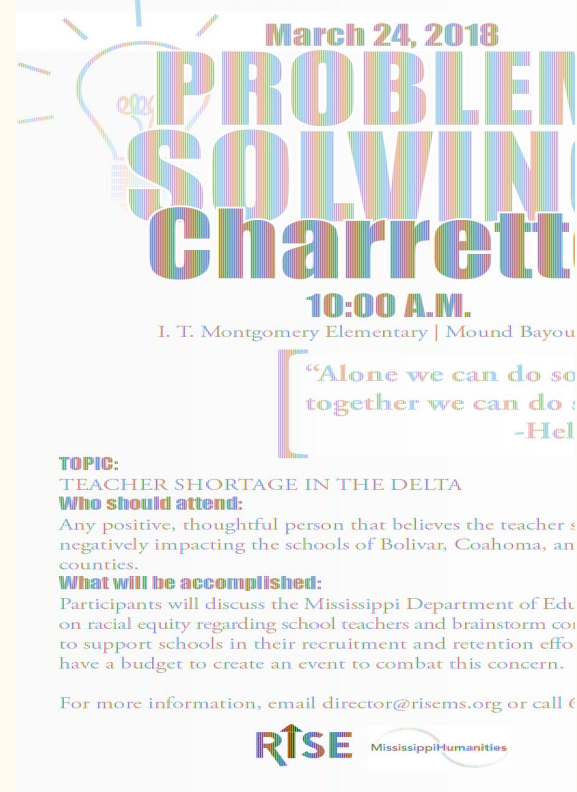
RISE



to a TIME

# Other RISE Initiatives

# Problem Solving Charrette

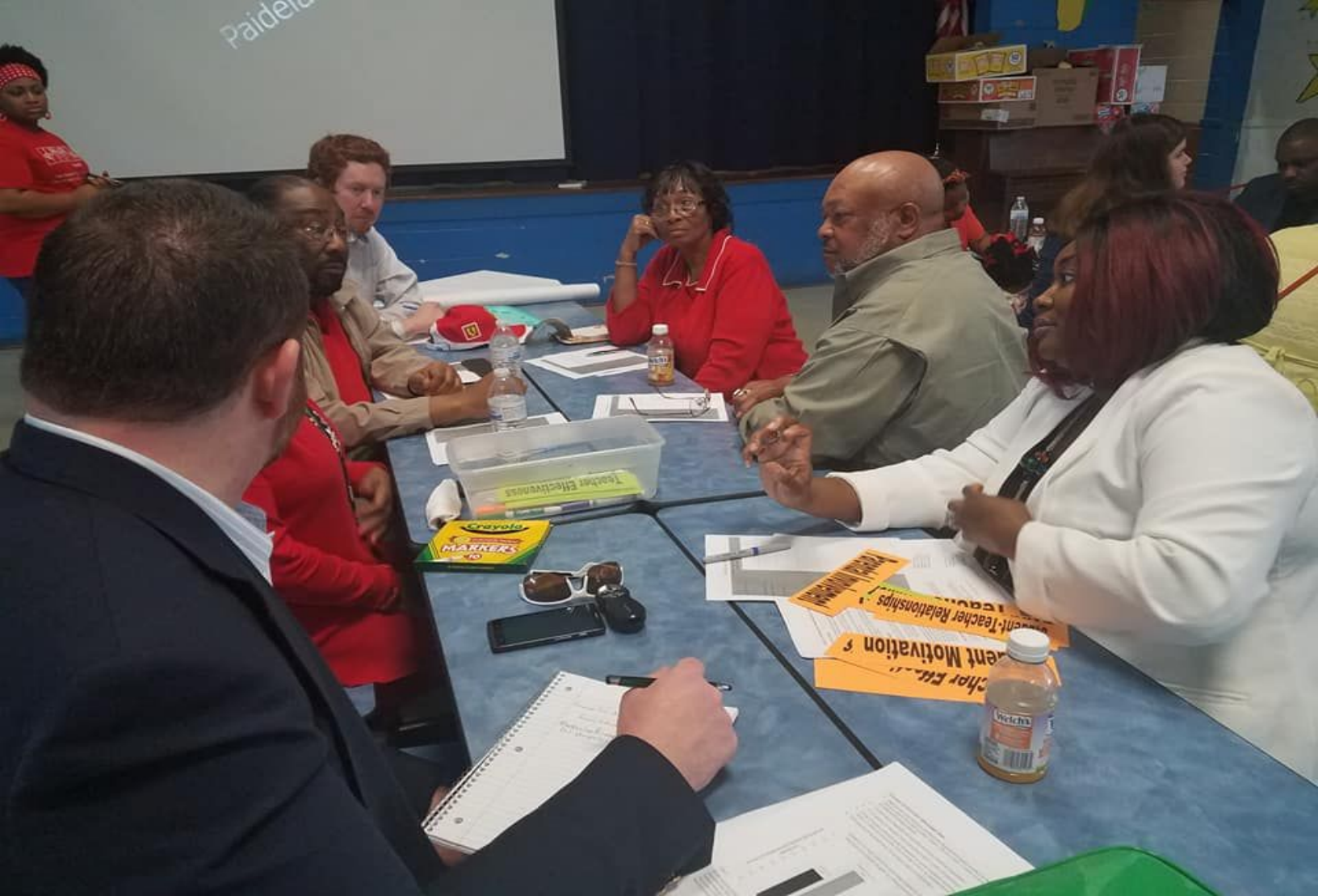
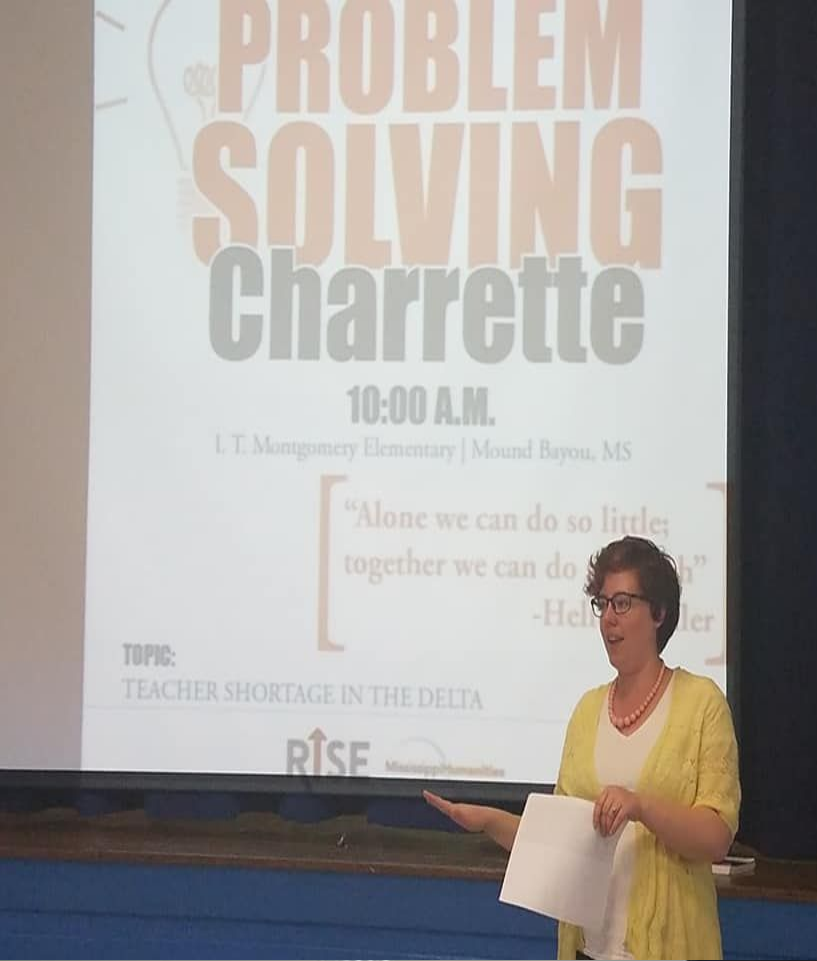


On March 24, 2018, RISE hosted its first Problem Solving Charrette in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. The charrette was designed to discuss the Mississippi Department of Education's reports regarding racial inequity in schools in disadvantaged communities. During this event, stakeholders from Bolivar, Coahoma, and Sunflower counties shared concerns and strategies to improve the teacher shortage crisis. With the aid of a mini-grant through the Mississippi Humanities Council, those concerns morphed into strategies for combating this dilemma that has been plaguing the Mississippi Delta region for the last two decades.

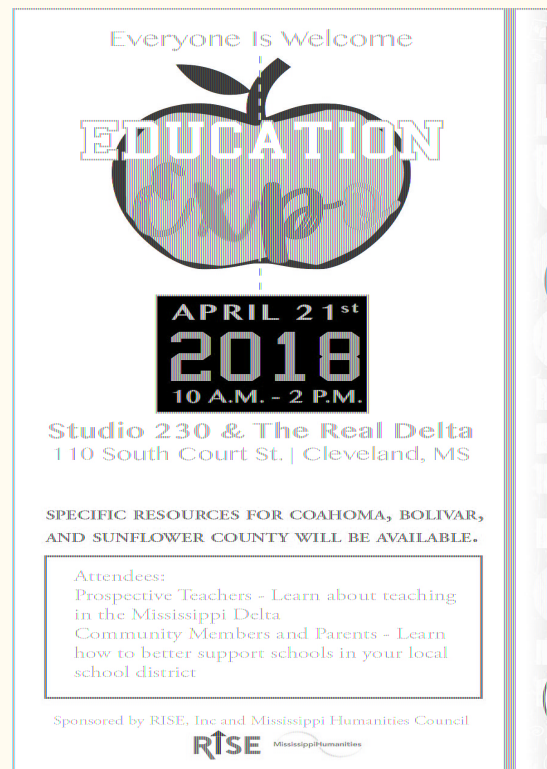
After discussing the key ideas of the documents and suggested solutions by MDE, stakeholders divided into groups to create action plans surrounding the available resources and needs of individual communities. With the help of facilitators, group members created a list of viable solutions and devised an idea to share with peers regarding attacking this issue collaboratively. Each group used a \$1000 budget to create an event to bring awareness to the racial inequity in Mississippi, and specific efforts to improve these rates in Coahoma, Bolivar, and Sunflower counties.

Each group shared their results which will be combined to create a collaborative effort to address the issue of inequitable access to educators in high-poverty communities. The decided event would be held the following month.





# Education Expo



As a result of the conversation and presentations from the Problem Solving Charrette, the participants decided to create an Education Expo to address the teacher shortage and the lack of equality in access to excellent educators in Bolivar, Coahoma, and Sunflower counties.

The event was held on April 21, 2018 in Cleveland, MS. This event included booths on various topics and guest speakers at the top of every hour. The discussion topics included: Alternate Route Certification, Praxis preparation, how to better support your local school district (advocating, teacher appreciation, volunteering, donating, etc.), New Teacher Tips, and more.

Perspective teachers in attendance could learn about teaching in the Mississippi Delta. In addition, community members and parents learned how to better support schools your local school district.

This event in conjunction with the Problem Solving Charrette was sponsored by RISE, Inc. and Mississippi Humanities Council to combat racial inequity in Mississippi.

# PUBLICATIONS

# Clarion Ledger

On November 13, 2018, RISE was featured in an article by the Clarion Ledger entitled [“Mississippi teacher Shortage Sparks a New Change in Licensing some Educators”](#)



EDUCATION

# Mississippi Today

This [article](#), Part 3 of a 3-part series, discussing the dire situation surrounding the teacher shortage crisis in the Mississippi Delta features the RISE organization and its efforts. Although the efforts began only three years ago, extraordinary work has been done to vocalize the need for collaborative, concerted efforts to eliminate the teacher shortage and provide equitable access to excellent educators in the Mississippi Delta. RISE believes that the most viable solution is to recruit and retain excellent educators in our community to create a sustainable teacher workforce. However, this is not enough. We must also create, what we have coined as, "ed-friendly" communities. Yes, teachers and school leaders are essential, but the success of schools also lies within our communities. We each have an important role in changing this teacher shortage narrative.



# Mississippi Today

On April 15, 2019, RISE was featured in an article by Mississippi entitled, [“State-run Achievement School District ready to launch, will take over two Delta districts.”](#)



EDUCATION

# Mississippi Today

On February 5, 2018, RISE was featured in an article entitled, [“Clarksdale feels impact of teacher shortage on student achievement.”](#)



EDUCATION

# Hechinger Report

Clarksdale Collegiate [article](#) featured an interview from Executive Director, Adrienne Hudson.

A row of ten white wooden blocks with black letters spelling out the word "EDUCATION" is arranged on a wooden desk. In the background, several books are stacked, and a teal-colored object is visible. The image is slightly blurred, focusing on the blocks in the foreground.

EDUCATION



# Walton Family Foundation

In November 2019, RISE was featured in an article entitled, “[Building a Pipeline of Great Teachers in Rural Mississippi.](#)”



EDUCATION

# Mississippi Today

Partnership of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

## Think, Speak, Act Event Article

Let's Talk

EDUCATION

**PART TWO**

Information - Collaboration - Solutions

Join us for an evening of elevating education in Coahoma County

**"Think, Speak, Act" Tank**

Crossroads Cultural Arts Center  
332 Delta Avenue - Clarksdale, MS  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019  
5:30 P.M.

*Sponsored by the Clarksdale-Marks Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc.  
Lashasa Griffin, President*

For additional information, please contact [clarksdalemarkscs@gmail.com](mailto:clarksdalemarkscs@gmail.com).

# Mississippi Today

Missing teacher shortage data is greatly needed. Read Executive Director, Adrienne Hudson's opinion of the subject [HERE](#).

## Teacher shortage: State education officials, citing lack of data, don't know true teaching vacancy numbers

BY **KELSEY DAVIS** | DECEMBER 23, 2019



SHARE



TWEET



EMAIL



PRINT



SHARE



MORE



# RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

# Community Trailblazer Award

On March 30, 2019, Executive Director, Adrienne Hudson, was awarded the Community Trailblazer Award on behalf of RISE's efforts to improve education across the state, specifically in the Mississippi Delta by the ladies of the Bolivar County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is featured in photo one with the sorority's former National President and Keynote Speaker, Cynthia Butler-McIntyre. The final photo showcases the smiles of RISE's Program Manager, Sonya Kennedy and Executive Assistant, Jasonya Harris. Together, they have worked diligently to help our students and educators reach success.



# Young, Gifted, and Empowered Educator of the Year



Adrienne Hudson, an esteemed advocate for educational excellence, has been recognized as the 2022 recipient of the prestigious "Young, Gifted, and Empowered Award" in acknowledgment of her remarkable contributions to education. As the driving force behind RISE, Adrienne has dedicated herself to fostering an environment where young minds can thrive, especially in underserved communities. Her tireless work and innovative approaches to overcoming educational barriers have not only elevated the quality of education but have also inspired countless others to strive for excellence.

In 2022, this dedication was celebrated when Adrienne was honored with the "Educator of the Year" award, a testament to her impactful leadership and unwavering commitment to empowering the next generation. Through her visionary guidance, RISE has become a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change, transforming the educational landscape and setting new standards of achievement.

# Rural Leader Magazine Recognizes Director Hudson



2023

*Celebrating The Women*

OF

SMALL TOWN  
AMERICA

*Honoree*



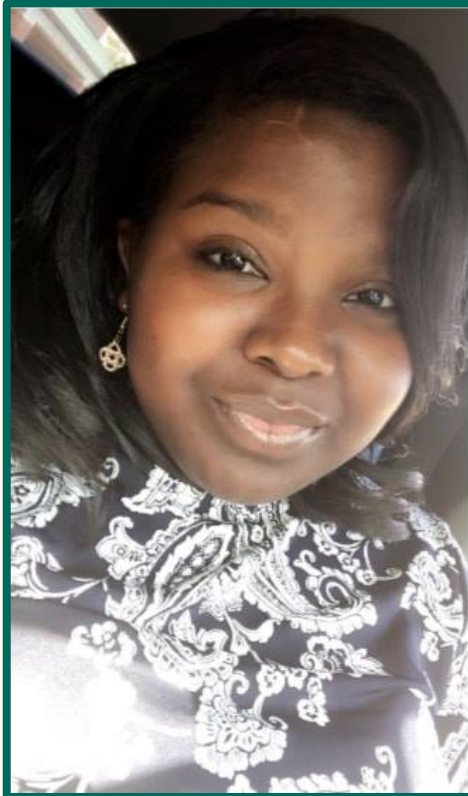
**Adrienne White Hudson**  
Director and Founder of RISE

*What You Do Matters.*

RURALLEADERMAG.COM



# Recognition from Past Participants



"Rise has helped me tremendously. They've helped me pass tests, so I can receive a certification in teaching. They've helped me receive my first teacher's position at a great school. I am learning so much from all of the sessions; they always find the best trainings and conferences to better their teachers. The accomplishments I have completed wouldn't have happened without them. Rise wants the best for the Delta, so they make sure that their teachers have what they need to help rise the delta. I'm very grateful, and this is just a glimpse of what Rise has done for me."

-K. Saddler, Mathematics Teacher

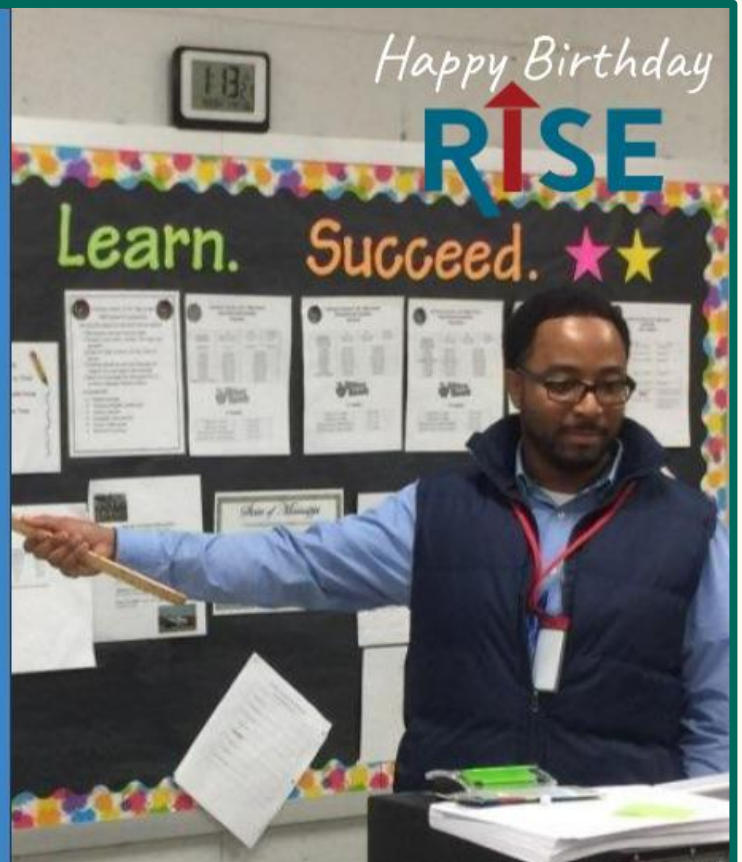
*Happy Birthday*

**RISE**

"RISE is an exceptional initiative. It's the most flexible, comprehensive, and well-constructed teacher certification preparation program I have seen. The sessions are very engaging and tailored to each participant's need. The staff go above and beyond to ensure that everyone is successful, all while remaining confident in themselves. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in the program and achieve my goal within three months of enrolling. I recommend RISE to all individuals who can commit to the process."

David Tanner, M.Ed.

Special Education Teacher







# SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS



**RISE**

Regional Initiatives for Sustainable Education



SUCCESSFUL EDUCATORS = SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

*Follow Us!*

 @risems

 @risemsteachers

 [www.risems.org](http://www.risems.org)

Contact Us: [director@risems.org](mailto:director@risems.org) | (662) 336-5865

