



**Mississippi
Arts+
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Local Students Attend Inaugural Write for Success Literature Program at The MAX

MERIDIAN, Miss. (August 11, 2022) — Seven high school students attended the first Write for Success immersive literature program at The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience in Meridian, MS in July. Local educators recommended outstanding students with a knack for literature and writing to attend this week-long experience that introduced them to influential and award-winning professionals in the field who provided them with invaluable insights and advice for their future endeavors.

One of the main purposes of the Success programs is to introduce young people to the expansive variety of career paths available to them in their chosen fields. The Write for Success students spoke with Norma Barksdale, literary agent and editor; Kiese Laymon, award-winning author of *Heavy: An American Memoir* and other titles; Jessica Russell, Director of the Eudora Welty House & Garden; Catherine Pierce, Mississippi's Poet Laureate; W. Ralph Eubanks, accomplished author of *A Place Like Mississippi: A Journey Through a Real and Imagined Literary Landscape* and other titles, and other teachers, students, college representatives, and writers throughout the week.

One of the students happily shared, "I go home every day and tell my parents and grandparents about all the amazing people we met. I've also put together a huge list of books I just have to buy now!"

In addition to gaining insight into the field, students also benefited from interacting with other like-minded and driven young people from their area. One participant commented, "I can talk to my friends about books and writing, but they don't 'get it' the way these girls do."

The intention behind these and all The MAX's Success programs is that students use the knowledge they gain for further inspiration and drive to reach their full creative potential.

The inaugural class of The MAX's Write for Success program are:

- Christiarya Boyd – Northeast Lauderdale High School
- Carrie Campbell – Clarkdale High School
- Mary Emma Honeycutt – Lamar High School
- Corey Kingery – Russell Christian Academy

- Alyssa Lanier – Meridian High School
- Caroline Nelson – Russell Christian Academy
- Kadejah Whitted – Southeast High School



From left to right: Kadejah Whitted (Southeast High School), Christiarya Boyd (Northeast High School), Corey Kingery (Russell Christian Academy), Caroline Nelson (Russell Christian Academy), Mary Emma Honeycutt (Lamar High School), Carrie Campbell (Clarkdale High School), Alyssa Lanier (Meridian High School).

About The MAX

The Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (The MAX) explores the state’s creative legacies in one immersive attraction. Come discover the Mississippi roots of some of the world’s arts and entertainment icons – Elvis Presley, Oprah Winfrey, B.B. King, Faith Hill, Sela Ward, Margaret Walker, Eudora Welty, and Jim Henson, to name just a few.

The MAX is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The museum is located at the corner of Sela Ward Parkway (22nd Avenue) and Front Street, overlooking the railroad at the edge of Meridian’s historic downtown. Street parking is available, with shops and restaurants

within walking distance.

For more info, call 601.581.1550, visit msarts.org or scan QR code.



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