The new book, THE FUTURE EMERGES FROM THE PAST: Celebrating 200 Years of Alabama African-American History and Culture is an exhaustive look at the history, people, events, institutions, and movements that contributed to the Great State of Alabama, the nation, and world over the past 200 years. In conjunction with the Bicentennial celebration marking Alabama’s 200th year as a state, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission worked with staff from the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and the African-American Heritage Committee to create a 244-page hardcover publication dedicated to various aspects of Alabama history.

The book, made possible through generous corporate sponsorship from AT&T, explores everything from Alabama and its roots in slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction/Post-Reconstruction, and segregation, to the modern Civil Rights movement, African-American contributions in the United States Armed Forces, colleges and universities, and the new frontier – modern day history and history makers.

An overview of the book can be seen here: https://alafricanamerican.com/

“The Future Emerges from the Past” book is available for purchase at $19.95 per copy (plus shipping and handling) and can be ordered HERE!
SkillsUSA Week February 2-8

SkillsUSA chapters throughout Alabama celebrated the importance of America’s next generation as they prepare for opportunities in the workforce.

This annual celebration represents over 360,000 SkillsUSA members nationwide and promotes the benefits of our nation’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. This weeklong event will also highlight the benefits of Alabama’s SkillsUSA programs.

The primary focus of SkillsUSA is to empower all students to become world-class professionals, community leaders, and responsible citizens. See more about SkillsUSA Week 2020 at https://www.skillsusa.org/events-training/skillsusa-week/.

Alabama SkillsUSA student officers will preside over the state’s upcoming week of celebration activities. This group of talented young people will also assist in developing leadership workshops for upcoming state- and district-level conferences. Alabama’s student officers are:

Matthew Gamez  
President

Alex Godwin  
Vice President

Allen Banks  
Central District Vice President

Seth Mahfouz  
South District Vice President

Patrick Moore  
Secretary

Hunter Howell  
Reporter

To learn more about the Alabama SkillsUSA organization, contact Alabama State Department of Education Coordinator Tessa Brown at 334-694-4923, or visit our state’s SkillsUSA website at https://alskillsusa.org/.

Spotlight on Alabama SkillsUSA:

An Interview with Joe Hendrix, Kamtek Inc. – “ Inspiring the Next Generation of Professionals”

During a recent visit to the multi-million-dollar Kamtek, Inc. facility in Birmingham, staff members from the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) had the experience of a lifetime. These professionals had the great opportunity to analyze and discuss national workforce trends with veteran career development administrator Joe Hendrix.

One ALSDE staff member who attended this special event and industry tour said, “We arrived early and Mr. Hendrix graciously sat with us as we waited for the rest of our team to arrive. I observed Mr. Hendrix interact with several employees and business executives as we waited – you could tell there was a team focus and bond. Our tour was so fascinating! We were motivated by his personal commitment to K-12 student achievement and success. His dedication to inspiring both high school and college students through local career development initiatives and Alabama SkillsUSA truly is commendable.”

Tell us about your role with Kamtek, Inc.?

“I am the Training Area Leader. My responsibilities include managing training for all employees, with a concentration on our apprenticeship program. I am also heavily involved with recruitment for Kamtek, specifically in the skilled trades areas.”

Why are you still so passionate about supporting SkillsUSA today?

“Schools that are active in the SkillsUSA contests seem to push their students harder to achieve more. This brings out the best in people and, hopefully, they can continue that great attitude and work ethic throughout their entire career – so they can reach their highest potential.”

Is SkillsUSA just as relevant for students today as it was in the past?

“Absolutely! Today, more than ever, many companies are having difficulty finding people with great technical and communication skills. SkillsUSA is truly promoting both and so much more.”
Local Educator Earns National New Teacher Award

Alabama Educator Beth Brumley Named 2020 National Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) New Teacher of the Year

It has been estimated that more than two million new medical professionals will be needed nationwide by 2025, including registered nurses, physicians, occupational therapists, dental hygienists, and other top medical career opportunities.

Alabama educators have focused their efforts and resources on helping students achieve their aspirations of pursuing in demand and high wage-earning careers in the future.

Realizing the importance of community partnerships, Brumley also began involving representatives from Alabama’s healthcare industry. These partners now provide invaluable guidance and assistance to Colbert County’s Health Science intern program.

Top physicians, nurse practitioners, and other Alabama healthcare professionals serve as program evaluators. Students work hard to participate in the competitive senior internships.

This year, Brumley was one of five finalists selected for this award. She officially received this national honor at the 2020 ACTE Awards Gala in Anaheim, California.

The strong and generous support by the Colbert County community has allowed this innovative program to offer classes in several areas including Foundations of Health Science, Medical Terminology, and Sports Medicine.

The program also offers a Health Science Internship with Certified Nursing Assistant and Certified Patient Care credentialing.

Students from local schools travel daily to Colbert Heights High School to participate in this program. A total of 60 students has already earned national Nursing Assistant Certification. Last year, ten students also earned professional credentials in Certified Patient Care.

ACTE is one of America’s largest associations focused on student and adult career success. This organization represents CTE educators, administrators, researchers, school counselors, and business and industry leaders who are committed to developing student achievement.

The Colbert County School System offers a variety of CTE programs and student organizations. The goal is to prepare all students for a lifetime of success.

Learn more about Alabama’s nationally recognized CTE programs.
State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit on Display at State Capitol

The award-winning students and their visual arts instructors were recognized during a celebratory luncheon following the February 13, 2020, Alabama State Board of Education meeting.

The annual exhibit was on display through February 21, 2020, in the Old Supreme Court Library in the Alabama State Capitol.

The 2020 Best of Show winner is Kendall Moore, Guntersville City Schools, and her instructor is Val Jones. Her winning submission “My Brushes” is shown at right.

In addition to the Best of Show awardee, First-, Second-, and Third-Place divisional winners were selected for Category I (two-dimensional work) and Category II (photography or computer-generated work). Sponsors of the State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit include the Alabama State Department of Education, Alabama Arts Alliance, Alabama Arts License Tag Grant, and the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts.
Students Lindsey Wood, 17, of Thorsby and Brooke Bennett, 12, of Montgomery have been named Alabama’s top youth volunteers of 2020 by the Prudential’s National Spirit of Community Awards. This is a highly respected national program, which honors young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. As State Honorees, Lindsey and Brooke each will receive $1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense-paid trip this May to Washington, D.C., where they will join other honorees from across the U.S. During this special trip, 10 students will be named America’s top youth volunteers of 2020.

High School State Honoree: Lindsey Wood - Nominated by Thorsby High School
Lindsey, a junior at Thorsby High School, has made and sold more than 10,000 hair bows over the past seven years, providing over $7,000 worth of essential items to children entering foster care. Lindsey was inspired to create “Bows That Bless” by her best friend, who was adopted after being in foster care. From conversations with her friend and her adoptive mother, Lindsey said she learned that “when children enter foster care, they usually have nothing more than the clothes on their backs.” Coincidentally, at about the same time, Lindsey learned how to sew hair bows and realized that she could help foster kids by selling her creations.

With the money she raises, Lindsey fills backpacks or diaper bags with items such as clothing, pajamas, bottles, blankets and stuffed animals, and donates them to agencies that place children with foster parents. In addition, she helps organize countywide clothing drives and speaks at schools to advocate on behalf of foster children.

Middle-Level State Honoree: Brooke Bennett - Nominated by Saint James School
Brooke, a seventh-grader at Saint James School, has worked with her twin, Breanna, to assemble and distribute approximately 200 bags of feminine hygiene products and toiletries every month to girls who may not be able to afford to purchase these essential personal care items. Their mother used to work at a school in a lower income area and often bought personal care items because many girls there could not buy their own. “I thought that girls at other schools must be having the same problem,” said Brooke. “People often think this is a problem that affects only poor girls in Africa, Asia, and South America,” said Brooke. “However, girls right here … suffer, too.”

Each month, the sisters assemble kits that include sanitary napkins, tampons, wet wipes, lotion, deodorant and other toiletries, which are then distributed to girls in need. An important component of their project is education, so they also include information from the Alabama Department of Health.

Alabama’s Distinguished Finalists
The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is also recognizing four other Alabama students as Distinguished Finalists. Each will receive an engraved bronze medallion:

- Anna Lee (17) of Saraland
- Anushka Sikdar (17) of Mobile
- Chayce Pyfrom (17) of Huntsville
- Anna Wilkes (18) of Pelham

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards represents the United States’ largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteer service.

For information on all of this year’s Prudential Spirit of Community State Honorees and Distinguished Finalists, visit http://spirit.prudential.com or www.nassp.org/spirit.
The care, time, energy, and passion teachers pour into their profession can’t be calculated … but it can be told.

SHARE THE GOOD! in Alabama Public Education is an opportunity to highlight some of the amazing ways educators have impacted the lives of students – and the impact students make on educators as well.

In your spare time (of which we know teachers seldom have enough of), please consider taking a moment to send an email to sharethegood@alsde.edu and tell us about how your relationship with a student(s) impacted either of you or the community. In your email, include your name, title, your years of experience, and a brief summary of your amazing interaction with a student and SHARE THE GOOD!

The Communications staff will select various submissions to share publicly, featured in our online newsletter, ALSDE website, social media, or in some cases, we will send a videographer to you in order to capture your story. A collection of these powerful stories will be displayed on the Alabama State Department of Education’s website and social media pages.

For further information about how you can SHARE THE GOOD! in Alabama Public Education, contact Michael O. Sibley, Ed.D., Director of Communications at (334) 694-4687 or msibley@alsde.edu.
In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Alabama Public Television is producing Unstoppable: The Road to Women’s Rights. This interactive live-streamed educational event will focus on the women’s suffrage movement, the struggle for women’s equality and the role of women in politics today. Unstoppable will bring the history of the women’s suffrage movement and its impact on resulting legislation to the classroom. Join us as we chart the path from the hundreds of women that tried casting votes before it was legal to the hundreds of women that make up the most diverse Congress ever elected.

Reserve your spot NOW!

aptv.org/unstoppable
#weareunstoppable
Alabama State Board of Education

January Meeting Recap

After approval of the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting, the following new business was discussed:

- Resolution Honoring Alabama Milken Educator, Ms. Raisa Eady, Recipient of the 2019 Milken Educator Award
- Resolution Honoring Cyndi Townley Selected as the “Barbara Fannin Memorial Employee of the Quarter” for January-March
- Resolution to Authorize Review of Educator Preparation Programs, Spring Hill University
- Resolution to Authorize Review of an Educator Preparation Program, University of West Alabama
- Adopt New Alabama Administrative Code, Rule 290-3-2 -.37, Pertaining to Dyslexia Therapist Endorsement
- Announce Intent to Amend Alabama Administrative Code, Rule 290-3-3-.01, Pertaining to Academic Major
- Alabama Public Charter School Commission Nominees

Alabama State Board of Education

February Meeting Recap

After approval of the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting, the following new business was discussed:

- Resolution in Recognition of Kendall Moore, Guntersville High School, Guntersville City School System, 2020 Best of Show State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit
- Resolution in Support of Congratulating The Alabama Microsoft Imagine Academy on Exceeding 100,000 Certifications
- Resolution in Recognition of the 2020 Annual State Superintendent’s Visual Arts Exhibit
- Resolution in Recognition of March 2020 as “Arts Education Month” in Alabama Schools
- Resolution Proclaiming February 1-29, 2020, as Alabama Career and Technical Education Month
- Resolution in Recognition of March 2-6, 2020, as “School Breakfast Week” in Alabama Schools
- Resolution to Authorize Review of Educator Preparation Programs, Athens State University
- Resolution to Authorize Review of Educator Preparation Programs, University of South Alabama
- Selection of Alabama State Board of Education Member to Serve on the Alabama Teacher of the Year Committee for State Judging

Visit the Board Meeting flickr page for more meeting photos.