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Education Support Systems, Inc.

Newsletter

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CEO

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ESS Overview

Education Support Systems, Inc. (ESS) is a cutting-edge company with a national and international focus. It is designed to provide education and consultation services to students, school districts, and families in local communities nationwide and in the global community. Currently, ESS operates in five states: Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Wisconsin with an application pending in Texas. Our global project is with the island of Jamaica.

Services provided through ESS include *Supplemental Education Services (SES)*, *After-School Student Enrichment programs (21st Century Community Learning Centers-21stCCLC)*; *Early Childhood Consultation*, and *a Global Initiative*.

Supplemental Education Services (SES): (Through SES, ESS has experienced great success providing free tutoring to students who are struggling in school. We have accelerated the



“Impacting our Education System, one Student at a time.”

learning process by using a research based, mastery learning model tutoring program that combines computer-aided instruction with small group tutoring to help students acquire basic skills and raise their achievement

levels. ESS uses diagnostic assessment tools to pre- and post-assess students to determine their skill level and pinpoint their learning gaps, design personal learning programs for each student, and measure the level of achievement each student has made while in the program.

21st CCLC: ESS partners with the Leland School District to implement a *21st CCLC program (Community Learning Center)* for students attending Leland High School. Designed to help students increase their academic achievement, this program embraces a holistic perspective integrating the total Leland community including the Mayor’s office, law enforcement, faith community, parents and the Leland School District. Services provided include homework assistance, tutoring, character

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Leland Mayor Establishes Youth Advisory Committee

Mayor James Lowe of Leland, MS, who serves as a member of the 21st CCLC Advisory Committee, has established the **“Mayor’s Youth Advisory Committee”** in support of the 21stCCLC goals. Youth on this committee will, first and foremost, learn about the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor and Aldermen, become knowledgeable of the local political process, develop leader-

ship skills, and serve as a liaison between the Mayor’s office and Leland School Students. In their first meeting, Mayor Lowe told the students he wanted them to take an active role in bringing issues for discussion. Members of the **Mayor’s Student Advisory Committee** are: Kashundra Branch, Kabreshia Esters, Jared Estees, Brittany Harrell, Jordan Lakes, Keyanna Nealon, Mikeya Patterson,

Jessica Walker, Shaniqua McNeal and Davida White.



Mayor Lowe meets with Youth Advisors and Leland teacher, Ms. Dolores Smith (not shown) in his office.

21st CCLC: A Community Effort



21st CCLC Advisory Committee with Mayor James Lowe seated center. Other members consist of City Council members, Leland School District, Faith community, Parents, Law Enforcement, Community Reps, Business and youth.

Education Support Systems, Inc. and **Leland School District** have been awarded a 5-year State grant to implement a 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) program with students at Leland High School in Leland, MS. Under the leadership of School Superintendent, Dr. Janice Monroe, Leland High School students are striving to achieve their highest potential. Although the students are working hard, the average score for students on the ACT is 17 which is somewhat low. As

Leland School district strives for a higher level of excellence, our goal, states Dr. Smith-Carr (ESS), is to help raise the average ACT score to 20-24, move more students from basic to advanced on state tests, increase the number of students who enroll in and pass AP courses and develop higher thought processes and higher math skills among Leland students. To accomplish these goals, the following program com-

ponents are being implemented.

Homework: Each student will receive assistance needed with homework assignments.

Tutoring: A diagnostic assessment will be used to pre- and post-test each student to determine their skill level and learning gaps, design personal learning programs, and determine the level of achievement

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“The Most Important years of a child’s life are the early formative years”

Jean Piaget

ESS Overview (cont'd) from p.1

development, career and college readiness, entrepreneurial skills, community enhancement projects, and mentoring.

Early Childhood Consultation: ESS realizes that the most important years of a child’s life are the preschool years. It is during these early formative years that the foundation is laid for later learning and determines one’s productivity in society. With years of

experience and education in Early Childhood Education, ESS provides consultation to early childhood programs that are striving to prepare pre-kindergarten students for success in kindergarten and later school years. Working together we can ensure that no child is left behind.

Global Initiative: ESS is particularly excited about the global project that is being

implemented with Jamaica. We provide financial assistance to help Jamaican students from struggling families pay public school tuition so they can get an education and we help the school system pay for internet access in the high school. Internet access is critical in education and provides students with information that allows them to vicariously move beyond their immediate community and learn about the world system. See *Jamaican Article p.3.*

Miami: ESS Making a Difference

ESS
Miami
Students
working
in Lab



Staff in Miami realized that tutoring the students assigned to ESS would entail more than academics. Many of the students they encountered were disenfranchised with education because of constant failure and inability to grasp grade level concepts. Excellent tutors, under

the auspices of Ms. Valarie Ellis, purposed to make this program work. Each Saturday, these students were transported to the Betty Ferguson Recreational Complex, a brand new facility in Miami which was made totally available to Ms. Ellis and her team. The students, with the exception of 1,

had perfect attendance and were thrilled to be in this excellent environment. Parents were welcomed and did come and participate. Ms. Ellis and her staff instilled in the students that they should not allow any obstacle to stand in their way of achieving excellence. They helped students feel that the goals
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Memphis: ESS Students Soaring in SES - Elected Officials Give Awards



ESS provides tutoring at several schools in Memphis. Today we are spotlighting students tutored by Ms. Sharon Taylor, Ms. Cynthia Morgan (not pictured), and Ms. Alexandria Turner Roddy at Georgian Hills ES. These students have worked hard

and their hard work has paid off in higher post-test scores which means they have mastered skills and content.

Ms. Taylor (far left) & Ms. Roddy with some students who made progress. Pictured L-R: Davontay Eiland, Nija Swift, Shaniya Davidson, Fredtia Bills, Kobe Blue, Takyra Bradford, Dorien Edwards and

Amiyah Price. Not pictured: Jacqueline Davis, Dorien Edwards, Franzario Huggins, Frantiana Johnson, Kayla McCoy, Amiyah Price, Amber Smith, Janice Taylor, Darnell Barbee, Michelle Pratt, Latavious Conley.

Although this article spotlights students at Georgian Hills ES, students have made progress at each location in Memphis. At Frayser High, all students in ESS tutoring passed Gateway; a parent at Wooddale HS was so impressed with the academic and overall progress her

daughter made in tutoring that she wanted to pay so her daughter could continue in tutoring and maintain

progress she had made; a student at Hamilton HS was very elated and her confidence soared with her progress after she had initially stated she did not think she could master the assigned skills and students at other locations have made gains also. These are the rewards that give value to the work of ESS and the tutors working with our youth. This is the process by which **“ESS affects the education system, one student at a time”**.

A major “Thanks” to the Honorable Mayor Wharton, Senator Corker, Congressman Cohen and other elected officials who are giving Awards to ESS students for academic achievement in tutoring.

Chattanooga: East Ridge Students Excel by Dr. Bobe

At East Ridge Middle, we are concerned about our student population and the best ways to encourage and engage them in the learning process. As we began a new year of challenges, many tutoring programs were offered to us but ESS is the one that helped us realize the importance of seeing where we are, where we need to go and how to reach our goal. That’s what ESS has done for our students. We began the year with 30 students.

Each of them took the ESS challenge and realized they were not performing to the level they should. Although they were in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, many of them were performing 3 to 4 grades below their actual grade level. After 2 months of hard work and dedication by our tutors and students, students were post tested and demonstrated to themselves and others the results of their commitment. After taking the post test,

every student showed an increase of a minimum of 1 grade level and a maximum of 5. Rapidly, our student participation increased by 100%, from 30 students to 60 with ongoing increase. Administrators, teachers as well as parents began to see the great results of the program. Our students rapidly demonstrated their success and began to **“talk the talk and walk the walk”**. *Cont’d page 4*



Dr. Bobe giving Award for Achievement.

Global Initiative: Working with Jamaica

Jamaica, an island in the Caribbean Sea, is one of the global projects that ESS is supporting this year. We provide financial support to help pay public school tuition for students of struggling families and to help schools obtain internet access. Specifically, we support Bishop Gibson High School located in Mandeville, Jamaica with an enrollment of 600 students. A Pen Pal Program is being established

between the students in Jamaica and Leland which will enhance Reading/LA skills. Students in the 21st CCLC program will learn, first hand, about Jamaican government & politics, demographics, language, education, economy & sports. Math skills will be enhanced as students convert U.S. dollars to Jamaican currency and vice versa. Students learned that \$500 US dollars converts into \$42,878.76 Jamaican

dollars. By serving on the Mayor’s Advisory Committee, the youth will have a working knowledge of the political process in Leland which they will be able to share with their Jamaican counterparts. Finally, our goal is to institute a Summer Student Exchange program. If you would like to support any of these efforts, please **Donate on Page 1**.



Leland Students Planning Pen Pal Exchange with Jamaican Students under leadership of Ms. D. Smith.



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“Impacting Our Education System,
One Student At A Time”

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set for them based on their pre-test results were “reachable”. As a result, the students excelled and each student either met or exceeded each goal that was set for them based on their pre-test scores. **Kudos to Ms. Ellis** and her team of excellent tutors, **V. Vaker, J. Cunningham, J. James, L. Longley, P. Preston, and O. Symonette.**

Chattanooga Cont'd from p. 3

Student Examples: **Rivaldo Yoc Bamaca**, Hispanic descendent student increased 3 grade levels from his initial pre-test assessment. **Lurey Brock** stated he never realized that we was so behind and decided to step it up by performing 4 grade levels above his initial assessment. **Coynasha Sims**, an awesome afro-American student discovered that her test could not determine her future and with hard work and dedication escalated her post-test to 5 levels above her initial assessment.

Under the leadership of **Dr. Bobe and excellent tutors, K. Booker, S. Clinton, K. Daughtery, D. Johnson, A Hargrove, D. Cavitt, Sra. Patterson, Sra. Turmire and Sre. Hernandez**, many other students have demonstrated commitment and experienced success. Through the ESS program, many students can be led to success.



21st CCLC Cont'd from page 2

each student has made while in the tutoring program.

CharacterPlus, a nationally recognized research based program, will be used to help students develop leadership skills, autonomy, sense of belonging, and competency in their ability to affect and orchestrate meaningful change in their school and community. Students will participate in service learning projects, community enhancement and networking activities, relationship building where they will learn about work ethics, integrity, job responsibilities, local political process, entrepreneurialship, global relationships, and factors influencing the economy.

Mentoring: Individual and group mentoring activities will be provided.

Career Development: To help the students better determine their propensity post-high school towards *college, employment, or the military*, a career development program will be

implemented. Contingent on survey results and stated interests of the student, staff will help students prepare for their chosen career. Students will be made aware of the many varied options within each chosen career, *college, employment, or military*, and cultural features unique to each so they may maximize their potential.



Leland students planning Summer Service Project for Head Start students under leadership of Ms. Dolores Smith.

Student Representatives to 21st CCLC Advisory Board:

Blackmon, Marvin
Cannon, Carrie
Chillis, Shambria
Gillem, Eddreka
Gray, Royesia
Henderson, Mykesha
Jones, Tushara
Miller, Akelia
Reed, Kewanna

Superintendent's Advisory Board: Student Ambassadors:

Benavides, Maria
Capers, Quentin
Castle, Dyneisha
Harris, Camry
Jones, Oneisha
Kimber, Tukobiah
Knight, Jonesia
Redditt, Albane
Wheatley, Michel'le
Williams, Trevokius