

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

Welcome to Our New Teacher Leaders

We are thrilled to welcome our new teacher leaders to the team! As you step into this new role, know that you are not alone—you're now part of the Educator Prep family.

We're excited to see the impact you'll make and the leadership you'll bring to your classrooms and beyond. Welcome to the family—we're so glad you're here!

Starkville High School
Kathy McGill

Franklin County CTC
Bobbie Kelly

Pearl River Central
Joni Miller

Tupelo High School
Rai-Sonju Witherspoon

Winona-Montgomery CTC
Amber Austin

Pelahatchie High School
Deanna Knowles

Richland High School
Kelsey Dryden



Membership & Recruitment

We're excited to announce that membership and recruitment for Educators Rising begins August 1st! Last year, we proudly surpassed our previous membership numbers, and with your continued enthusiasm and support, we're aiming even higher this year. Let's keep the momentum going by encouraging new students to join, reconnecting with returning members, and spreading the word about the incredible opportunities Educators Rising offers for aspiring educators. Together, we can make this our most impactful year yet!

MISSISSIPPI EDUCATORS RISING



Mississippi Shines at Educators Rising National Conference



Ninety-six Mississippi Educators Rising students were among the 3,500 attendees at the National Conference in Orlando, Florida this June. We are incredibly proud of #TeamMississippi for not only excelling in competitive events but also demonstrating outstanding leadership throughout the week. Our students took part in a variety of workshops and engaged in the ever-popular pin-trading tradition—and yes, Mississippi's pin was the most sought-after this year! We are thrilled to share that 24 Mississippi students placed in the Top 10 nationally—an amazing accomplishment that reflects their hard work and dedication. We're so proud of each and every student who represented our state with excellence, and we can't wait to see an even larger group of Mississippi students at the 2026 National Conference in Portland, Oregon!

Now Booking School Recruitment Site Visits – Let's Connect!

I'm currently booking my calendar for upcoming school recruitment site visits and would love the opportunity to visit your classroom this year!

I'm especially focusing on connecting with new schools and new advisors, so if we haven't worked together before, this is a perfect time to get something scheduled.

If you're interested in learning more or would like to reserve a visit, feel free to contact me to set up a time. I'm looking forward to the chance to support your students and share more about our opportunities.



Let the Games Begin: Rise. Compete. Teach.

Join us on Monday, September 23rd at the Brandon Civic Center in Brandon, MS, for the Educators Rising Fall Leadership Conference! This high-energy, game show-style event will feature fun and engaging activities like Competitive Event Jeopardy, Educators Rising Family Feud, Deal or No Deal, and more—all designed to inspire and prepare future educators.

Registration is just \$20 per student, with lunch on your own. The deadline to register is September 15, and membership is not required to attend.

Don't miss this exciting day of leadership, learning, and laughter. Let the Games Begin!

Start Planning Now for Your Competitive Events!

The road to state conference starts now! Whether you're new to Educators Rising or a returning member, it's never too early to begin preparing for your competitive events. Explore categories that match your strengths—from Children's Literature and Lesson Planning to Public Speaking, Job Interview, and more.

Talk to your chapter advisor, review the event guidelines, and set goals early. Success begins with preparation—and you could be one of the next Top 10 finalists representing Mississippi in Portland, Oregon at the 2026 National Conference!



STATE LEADER: KIMBERLY USRY

Advisor Tip: Kick Off with Connection

Welcome students back and introduce them to Educators Rising. Host an interest meeting, showcase last year's highlights, and invite students to explore their passion for teaching. Building excitement now sets the tone for a strong chapter.

Building Tomorrow's Leaders Starts Today

Building Tomorrow's Leaders Starts Today Educators Rising isn't just about preparing to teach—it's about preparing to lead. Whether you're organizing a chapter meeting, volunteering in your community, or helping plan a school event, every opportunity you take to get involved builds your leadership skills.

This year, challenge yourself to step out of your comfort zone. Run for a chapter office, lead a discussion, mentor a younger member, or present during a meeting. These experiences will not only boost your confidence, but also help you discover your voice and your value as a future educator. Leadership is more than a title—it's the everyday choices you make to learn, grow, and inspire those around you. Let this month be the start of something great!

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