

MURC Education Forum



The JSU Mississippi Urban Research Center (MURC) hosted an education forum on Mississippi's accountability system after findings released from the center showed the percentage of students receiving free or reduce lunch predicted 60% of the accountability score. The forum, titled "Accountability Grades: What Do They Really Measure?" was held at the JSU Downtown Campus on October 25, 2017.

The two-hour forum brought together researchers, education officials, policymakers, and community members to stimulate discussion regarding Mississippi's current accountability system. Dr. Daniel Watkins, Dean of JSU's College of Education and Human Development served as forum moderator. Panel members included Senator Norwood (Mississippi Legislative); Kenneth Thrasher (President of Hazlehurst City School District); Ms. Rosaline McCoy (President of Jackson Council); and Dr. Earl Watkins (Leadership Consultant).

The forum allowed panelists and audience members to share their perspectives about the accountability system. The major theme of the forum was the accountability system does not account for the impact of poverty in low-income districts. At the closing of the forum, guests were invited to join an education committee whose goal is to prepare recommendations for a more fair way of measuring academic performance.