

## SPONSORS

### Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC)

Mission – To operate safe and secure prisons and provide effective community supervision in order to enhance public safety.

The Department of Correction has implemented the mandates of the Public Safety Act of 2016 to enhance public safety by applying a more strategic approach to corrections. It continues to engage its partners in the criminal justice system, as well as empower its staff to keep our communities safe. [tn.gov/correction.html](http://tn.gov/correction.html)

### Public Safety Institute at the University of Memphis

The Public Safety Institute (PSI) at the University of Memphis is an interdisciplinary part of the University community committed to identifying and advancing best practices in the field of public safety. It is funded initially through the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a 50-member board of directors that serves as a leadership team for reducing crime in Memphis and Shelby County.

Under the partnership with the Crime Commission, the PSI is charged with spearheading evaluation of the local Operation: Safe Community crime plan. The Institute also conducts research independent of the Crime Commission agenda. [memphis.edu/psi/](http://memphis.edu/psi/)

### Memphis Shelby Crime Commission

The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission seeks to improve public safety in the Memphis and Shelby County community by identifying and promoting evidence-based and evidence-informed best practices. [memphiscrime.org/](http://memphiscrime.org/)

The University of Memphis is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University.  
It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.  
UOM892-1718-2C



*presents*

# HELPING OTHERS HELPS YOUR COMPANY

A Symposium On Enhancing Job  
Opportunities for Skilled, Qualified  
Ex-Offenders in  
Memphis and Shelby County

(An Operation: Safe Community initiative)

**Thursday | June 14 | 8 AM-Noon**

**Fogelman Executive Conference Center**

## OVERVIEW

Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland estimates that there are approximately 15,000 job vacancies in the greater Memphis area, with about 9,000 paying \$12 or more per hour.

We hope this symposium will provide an opportunity for Memphis-area employers to learn more about how they can tap into sources of skilled, qualified workers while at the same time expand opportunities for ex-offenders and create a pathway for their success in our community.

With a growing economy, many companies are looking for skilled, reliable workers. This symposium is designed to help employers know how to reach ex-offenders for employment who have benefitted from special training and skills development, as well as learn about tax benefits available to employers who hire ex-offenders.

Providing job training, life skills and support programs for ex-offenders is a key part of the local Operation: Safe Community plan, the development of which was spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission. The Crime Commission is coordinating implementation of the plan, and the University of Memphis' Public Safety Institute is charged with independently evaluating certain training efforts geared toward ex-offenders in the community.

Thanks to the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) for officially co-sponsoring this event along with the Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute. And thanks to the many public officials and private sector community leaders who are participating today.

### **Bill Gibbons**

Executive Director, Public Safety Institute  
President, Memphis Shelby Crime Commission

## SYMPOSIUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

- **April Buckner**, TN Department of Correction (Chair)
- **Patricia Melton**, Shelby County Division of Corrections, (Co-Chair)
- **Monique Barron**, Shelby County TDOC Day Reporting Center
- **DeAndre Brown**, Lifeline to Success
- **Josh Davis**, Economic Opportunities
- **Mike Gates**, Memphis & Shelby County Office of Re-Entry
- **Bill Gibbons**, Public Safety Institute and Memphis Shelby Crime Commission
- **Adrena Jackson**, Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)
- **Henry Lewis**, Workforce Investment Network
- **Linda Russell**, Public Safety Institute & Memphis Shelby Crime Commission
- **Brenda T. Scott**, TN Department of Correction
- **Ron Wade**, HopeWorks

## GUEST SPEAKER



**BURNS PHILLIPS, TN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER**, was appointed by governor Bill Haslam as Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development in June 2013. Phillips had been named acting commissioner in March 2013.

Previously, Phillips had worked in state government in the Budget Office of the Department of Finance and Administration for seven years before entering the private sector in 1981 where he engaged in the sale and

marketing of surgical and general medical products. In 1991 he founded a surgical instrument company that conducted business in the United States, Canada, Mexico and 28 countries throughout Europe, South America and the Pacific Rim.

Prior to joining the Labor and Workforce Development, he had returned to state government in 2009 to serve as the administrative director of the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Central Services Division, and in 2012 served as managing director in the Department of Finance and Administration, overseeing customer-focused government initiatives administration-wide.

Phillips has both a bachelor's and master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University. He also earned a law degree from the Nashville School of Law.

## AGENDA

### 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

### 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Opening Session (April Buckner, moderator)

- Commissioner Tony Parker, TN Department of Correction
- Commissioner Burns Phillips, TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development
- Executive Director Krissy DeAlejandro, TNAchieves

### 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Preparing Ex-Offenders for Productive Lives (Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, moderator)

- Patricia Melton, Shelby County Division of Corrections
- April Buckner, TN Department of Correction
- Ed Welch, Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitative Services, TN Department of Correction
- Alisha Shoates-James, Assistant Commissioner of Community Supervision, TN Department of Correction

### 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Break

### 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Sources of Skilled, Qualified Workers (Mayor Jim Strickland, moderator)

- Ron Wade, Executive Director, HopeWorks
- Henry Lewis, Interim Executive Director, Workforce Investment Network
- Josh Davis, Executive Director, Economic Opportunities
- DeAndre Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Lifeline to Success
- Taurean James, Superintendent, Mark Luttrell Correctional Center
- Adrena Jackson, Director, Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)

### 11:00 – 11:50 a.m. Voices of Experience from Employers and Employees (Bill Gibbons, moderator)

Representatives from:

HopeWorks, Workforce Investment Network, Economic Opportunities, Lifeline to Success and TN Department of Correction

### 11:50 – Noon Closing Comments

- Commissioner Tony Parker, TN Dept. of Correction
- Bill Gibbons, Executive Director of the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute & President of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission



## SPEAKERS



**JIM STRICKLAND, MEMPHIS MAYOR**, practiced law from 1990 until he was sworn in as mayor of Memphis on Jan. 1, 2016. He served an eight year tenure as a member of the Memphis City Council. Mayor Strickland is a 1982 graduate of Christian Brothers High School, a 1986 graduate of the University of Memphis, and a 1989 graduate of the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the UofM. He has volunteered with various organizations and served on several community boards, including chairing the Memphis Botanic Garden board of directors. He is a gold life

member of the NAACP and serves on the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission board.



**MARK H. LUTTRELL, JR., SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR**, began his public career with the Shelby County Penal Farm and progressed to becoming warden over several federal prisons. He served as the Shelby County Sheriff in 2002 until elected Shelby County Mayor in 2010. Mayor Luttrell was born in Jackson, TN. His family moved to Shelby County where he graduated from Bartlett High School. He received a B.A. from Union University and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Memphis. Mayor Luttrell serves on the board of the Memphis Shelby Crime

Commission and the University of Memphis Arts and Sciences Advisory Council.

## GUEST SPEAKER



**TONY C. PARKER, TN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION COMMISSIONER**, has more than 33 years in the field of corrections. He served as Assistant Commissioner of Prisons from September 2012 until he was appointed Commissioner by governor Bill Haslam in June 2016.

Parker earned an associate's degree in Criminal Justice from the Dyersburg State Community College, a B.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and a Master of Arts in Security Studies with an emphasis in Homeland Security from

the Naval Postgraduate School.

Commissioner Parker is a member of the American Correctional Association (ACA) where he serves as Vice Chairman of the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections and a member of the ACA Standards Committee. He also serves on the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission board.