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7-10-2020

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Recommended Citation


Smith, Edwin B., "Alumnus, Wife Launch Nonprofit to Aid Mississippi Small Businesses" (2020). *University of Mississippi News*. 316.

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Alumnus, Wife Launch Nonprofit to Aid Mississippi Small Businesses

Brian and Marie Sanderson create Mississippi 30 Fund to assist companies affected by COVID-19

 JULY 10, 2020 BY [EDWIN B. SMITH](#)

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Husband and wife philanthropists Marie (left) and Brian Sanderson, of Ocean Springs, have launched the Mississippi 30 Day Fund, a nonprofit effort financially assist small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Submitted photo

OXFORD, Miss. – A [University of Mississippi](#) alumnus and his wife – who met during Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts – are continuing to help the state's small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brian and Marie Sanderson, of Ocean Springs, have launched the Mississippi 30 Day Fund. Small businesses in Mississippi can apply for as much as \$3,000 through the new fund, which was created to provide immediate financial help to those battling through the pandemic.

"These forgivable loans are designed to be quick, easy and free of red tape, as small business owners work to keep employees onboard and operations running in the near term," said Brian Sanderson, a Pascagoula native who received his Bachelor of Business Administration and Juris Doctor from UM in 1995 and 1998, respectively.

Eligible business owners should fill out a one-page form and submit a brief video – up to three minutes – about the business and its employees. Approval is designed to occur within several days, and approved businesses can expect an immediate transfer of funds.

"We received contributions totaling just over \$175,000 and are actively talking with foundations and other potential contributors," said Marie

Sanderson, a Jacksonian who earned her bachelor's degree in marketing from Mississippi State University in 2001.

"We've received almost 600 applications and have been able to award around 30 small businesses. Our ability to meet the obvious needs of small businesses is strictly dependent upon the contributions we are able to receive."

Businesses awarded funds are not required to repay them, but are asked to "pay it forward" to other Mississippians in need or by directing contributions to the fund.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Employ three to 30 people
- Based in Mississippi and operating for at least one year
- Owned and operated by a Mississippi resident

During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Sandersons recognized how instrumental small businesses are to the economy and character of Mississippi. The response and leadership of the private sector was important then, and the philanthropists believe it is even more critical now.

"We have witnessed neighbors and friends across the state struggle to keep their small businesses and jobs as a result of the COVID-19 crisis," Marie Sanderson said. "This fund will be a lifeline to many Mississippians over the coming weeks and will complement the worthy federal and state aid programs."

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Campus Briefs

Civil Engineering Professor Receives Most-Cited Paper Award

OXFORD, Miss. – Peer recognition is a rewarding experience for anyone, but University of Mississippi researcher Amir Mehrara Molan was elated when an article he co-authored recently received the Most Cited Paper Award at the 102nd Transportation Research Board meeting in the nation's capital. The International Journal of Transportation Science and Technology presented the civil engineering

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Young Alumna Gives Back to School of Accountancy

OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to

The Mississippi 30 Day Fund is partnering with the UM **School of Law** and MSU School of Business, whose MBA candidates and law students will conduct an initial review of applications for eligibility. Julia Grant, a 2020 Ole Miss public policy leadership and economics graduate, serves as the fund's executive director.



Community and business leaders from across Mississippi serve on the advisory board. Additionally, several former Mississippi governors and congressmen, along with other notable Mississippians, have joined the honorary advisory board and view the fund as a crucial source of aid for struggling small businesses across the state.

"The economy of Mississippi has been built by our countless small businesses and the innovative, entrepreneurial spirits behind them," Grant said.

"They create and showcase the unique culture that attracts people from all around the world to Mississippi. They employ the great majority of our people in the state, and Mississippi is better when our small businesses thrive."

For more information or to apply, visit <http://ms30dayfund.com>.

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