

## **Tianne Brown**

Serving Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Neshoba, and Newton Counties

Tianne Brown serves as a Digital Skills Assessment Coach with AmeriCorps Lead For America and BEAM, where she empowers communities in East Central Mississippi by helping residents develop critical online and digital skills. She serves at the MSU extension office in Decatur, MS.

Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, Tianne relocated to Little Rock (Newton County) 18 years ago and brought with her a strong entrepreneurial spirit. As she watched the rapid growth of the internet and e-commerce transform the business landscape, Tianne recognized a need to expand her own skill set, as well as help others adapt to these changes.

Motivated by this evolving digital world, Tianne earned her certification in digital marketing through a collaborative program between Thrive and Loyola University of New Orleans in 2021.

Her expertise and experience uniquely position her to coach community members in Newton and surrounding counties as they navigate and master digital tools that enhance both personal growth and economic opportunity. Tianne's mission is to ensure that people of all ages, especially those 50 and older feel confidently equipped in using digital skills for personal, business, and community advancement.



## Amber Dorsey

Serving Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Scott, Warren, and Yazoo Counties



Amber R. Dorsey is a proud native of Jackson, MS, with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Jackson State University and an Associate's Degree in art from Hinds Community College. With a unique blend of social science expertise and creative insight, she is dedicated to community engagement and social justice initiatives.

As a Digital Navigator with the American Connection Corps and a member of Lead for America, she helps individuals and families access digital resources and improve their digital literacy, bridging the gap between technology and community needs. She believes that "when we serve our community, we serve ourselves," reflecting her commitment to impactful, grassroots efforts.

In her free time, she enjoys exploring different cultures, cooking, and diving into a good book, always seeking to deepen her understanding of diverse narratives.

## Seth Flake

Serving Alcorn, Chickasaw, Clay, Monroe, Prentiss, and Tishomingo Counties

I am an experienced educator and digital navigator currently serving with the American Connection Corps through the Alcorn County Mississippi Extension office. Over the past two years, I've taught middle school technology classes, where I enjoy helping students explore the digital world and gain essential tech skills. I moved to Corinth, MS, one year ago and have been actively involved in the community, both professionally and creatively. Outside of work, I'm a singer/songwriter who performs on weekends at local restaurants and bars, sharing my passion for music with my neighbors.



At home, I'm a proud parent of my ten-year-old daughter, Fiona, and a mixed Shepherd dog, Oliver. I spend my free time enjoying the outdoors, whether hiking, biking, camping, or kayaking. My current role as a digital navigator allows me to help bridge the digital divide in our area, assisting people in gaining digital skills, devices, and affordable internet access. I'm also enthusiastic about becoming more involved in community development, with a special interest in promoting the arts and cultural connections in Corinth. I'm eager to make a lasting impact here, helping to foster a vibrant, creative, and connected community.

## **Kenady Helm**

Serving Choctaw, Grenada, Lafayette, Montgomery, Webster, and Yalobusha Counties



My name is Kenady Helm, and I am an ACC AmeriCorps member. I am a native of Oxford, MS, and a graduate of the University of Mississippi. I have been with the AmeriCorps program for almost two years, previously serving with VISTA. I enjoy serving my community and giving back whenever I can, as well as providing resources to those in need. I am excited to learn more about digital inclusion and equity, and to teach and spread awareness about these topics to others. I am dedicated to helping bridge the gap for Mississippians in the digital world.

## **Darby Lowery**

Serving Covington, Franklin, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln, and Smith Counties

Darby Lowery is an American Connection Corps member who currently serves as a Digital Skills Coach for the Broadband Expansion and Accessibility Office in her home state of Mississippi. In this role, Darby helps to teach southwest Mississippi community members the digital skills they need to participate in an ever-changing digital world. Darby finds fulfillment in helping members of her community, and she believes that everyone deserves access to digital skills that can improve their quality of life.



Darby holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Mississippi State University. Previously, Darby worked in the online education field and helped to provide educational opportunities to students in rural Mississippi communities. Although Darby is a native of Houlka, Mississippi, she now lives in Brookhaven, Mississippi with her husband and enjoys spending her time traveling and writing.

## Austin Reynolds

Serving Bolivar, Coahoma, Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, and Washington Counties



Austin Reynolds is a dedicated boxing coach and community leader based in Mississippi. As the owner and head trainer of his own boxing club, Austin has built a reputation for excellence in the sport, traveling across the state to train and mentor athletes. In addition to his passion for boxing, Austin is an experienced dog trainer, known for his work with dogs and his commitment to the local community.

A proud member of W.A.J. Morgan Lodge #20 in Shelby, MS, Austin is deeply involved in his community, embodying the values of brotherhood and service. He was inducted into Phi

Theta Kappa at Coahoma Community College, reflecting his academic achievement and leadership potential. Throughout his life, Austin has sought opportunities for personal growth, attending multiple leadership camps and continually striving to make a positive impact on those around him, including in his work as a Digital Skills Coach.

## **Alisha Rose**

Serving Carroll, Holmes, Leflore, Panola, Sunflower, and Tallahatchie Counties

Alisha is serving as a Digital Skills Coach in Panola, Tallahatchie, Sunflower, Leflore, Carroll and Holmes counties. Known for her leadership skills, conflict resolution abilities and meticulous attention to detail, Alisha is passionate about contributing to organizational success, community service and sustainability.

Alisha is currently pursuing a degree in Business and Accounting, and mastering the ability to combine operational expertise, with strong financial management skills. Alisha was selected as only one of 15 individuals to participate in the Marconi Digital Literacy Pilot Program. She is a strong advocate for digital literacy, and works to support and strengthen workshops to broaden the knowledge and curriculum of digital training opportunities.

When Alisha is not working she enjoys turkey hunting, fishing, photography and spending time with her family.



## **Andy Smithie**

Serving Amite, Lamar, Marion, Pike, Walthall, and Wilkinson Counties



Andy Smithie is a Digital Skills & Accessibility Coach with AmeriCorps Lead for America and BEAM, bringing 26 years of experience teaching and coaching in Mississippi Public Schools. A lifelong resident of south Mississippi, Andy has dedicated his career to helping individuals of all ages unlock new opportunities for growth and success by harnessing digital tools. Through his work with the Mississippi State Extension Office in Pike County, Andy is committed to empowering people from all backgrounds, guiding them to build the digital skills they need to thrive in an increasingly connected world. Andy's deep love for community service fuels his dedication to helping

his home county embrace the future, ensuring that every resident has access to the resources and support needed to achieve their goals.



## Markesha Wells

Serving Adams, Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Jefferson, and Simpson Counties



Markesha Wells, originally from Gloster, MS, serves as a Digital Skills Coach at the Broadband Expansion & Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM) office. In her role, she is committed to enhancing the digital skills of residents in underserved communities, helping to bridge the digital divide.

Markesha attended Jackson State University, where she majored in Business Administration. In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her two children and engaging with the community through small acts of service.

Before joining BEAM, Markesha was an entrepreneur and author, owning and operating Nostalgia Catering Company. She has also shared her creativity through poetry, contributing to various anthologies and literary magazines.

Markesha hopes to bring an attitude of service and an enthusiasm for growth and digital development to the community and surrounding areas.