

THE JACKSON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



“To develop and maintain an economic climate, which creates and retains jobs and enhances the quality of life for all citizens of Jackson/Madison County and West Tennessee.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Memphis mayor to address Chamber young professionals

Jackson, TN — Memphis Mayor AC Wharton will be the featured speaker at the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce U40 Young Professionals Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15 at Coyote Blues restaurant. U40 is a Chamber program created to motivate young professionals who are 40 years old and younger to become successful leaders of West Tennessee. The group meets every other month to network, have lunch and learn from a community leader.

Wharton, the first black mayor of Shelby County, was elected mayor of Memphis in 2009.

A native of Lebanon, Tenn., Wharton attended Tennessee State University on an academic scholarship, graduating with honors in political science in 1962. Six years later, he entered the University of Mississippi Law School, where he was one of the first black students to serve on the Moot Court Board and the first black to serve on the Judicial Council. He graduated with honors in 1971 and later became the university's first black law professor, a position he held for 25 years.

Within his first six months as city mayor, Wharton and his team enacted new standards for government transparency and employee ethics; made urgent changes at the Memphis Animal Shelter and the auto inspection stations; launched the third season of the city's Diversity Development Incubator; established the new Office of Talent and Human Capital to develop, attract, and retain the best and brightest young workers; and laid out a new blueprint for comprehensively restructuring the operations and business model for city government.

As the Jackson Chamber continues to develop a regional approach to economic development, its President/CEO Kyle Spurgeon said it is critical for the Chamber to work closely with the City of Memphis and Shelby County.

“Memphis’ transportation assets are one of the major selling points to companies considering this region,” Spurgeon said. “We look forward to working with Mayor Wharton and the rest of the Memphis leadership team as we market the West Tennessee Megasite and other locations in our region.”

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The cost to attend the U40 Young Professionals Luncheon is \$15 for Chamber members and \$25 for non-members. Advanced registration is required by contacting Brandy Stutsman at 423-2200 or by e-mail at bstutsman@jacksontn.com.

About the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce:

The Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1905 – seven years prior to the United States Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber consists of a diverse and talented staff, an executive committee, dedicated volunteers, and more than 1,350 business members – all committed to growing the economy and quality of life for everyone in Madison County and the region.

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