



Released November 3, 2010

National Guard Provides Big Boost to MSCC Sports Programs

In the true spirit of community, the Army National Guard has joined forces with Mid-South Community College's Athletic Booster Club to promote and support the Greyhounds basketball teams.

Sergeant Shonnon Sims, Recruiting and Retention NCO based in West Memphis, announced the partnership during a brief ceremony at the college.

"This is a great day to make history," he said. "As a recruiter for the National Guard, I have been in this area for seven years, and it's been a pleasure working with MSCC. We have been able to partner on several different things, but now we're going to take it to the next level."

"When I heard about the sports program coming forward, I said, 'This is a great opportunity for us all to come together and show what we can do as a community. As you



Participants in the National Guard announcement included, from left, Mid-South Community College President Dr. Glen Fenter, MSCC women's coach Chris Parker, men's coach Andy Stoglin, Sgt. Shonnon Sims, Hall of Fame coach Nolan Richardson, Maj. James Hall, Master Sgt. Robert Norman, and Sgt. First Class Chris Burks.

know, the Army National Guard is a community-based organization. We believe in our community, and we believe in the people of our community. So we try to do everything we possibly can to make an impact right here at home.”

MSCC President Dr. Glen Fenter praised the National Guard for its willingness to support the college’s efforts to expand athletic and academic opportunities.

“We certainly owe the Army National Guard, and particularly Sgt. Sims, a great debt of gratitude for stepping forward and setting a tremendous example for the rest of our community,” Dr. Fenter said. “We believe this latest commitment demonstrates extraordinary service and support of what the community college is trying to do.”

“When we decided to move forward with an athletic program to encourage more students to take advantage of higher education, we knew we would need strong local support to establish and sustain the kind of program this community deserves. The National Guard was the first organization to step up and say, ‘We believe in what you’re doing, and we want to support you.’”

Rather than wait to be contacted about joining the promotional effort, the oldest military branch in the country took the initiative.

“We did not ask the National Guard for their help,” Dr. Fenter explained. “Sergeant Sims came forward and said, ‘If that’s what you want to do, we want to participate; we want to help.’ And that has set the tone for a number of other businesses, agencies, and industries to follow suit. But I can assure you the first supporter is always the hardest one to get.”

Among other things, the National Guard will coordinate the flag and national anthem presentations at all MSCC home games.

“I’m looking forward to the first home game on Nov. 13 because it will give us the opportunity to bring a color guard into the gymnasium,” Sims said. “You don’t see many color guards at basketball games, but we’re going to bring the red, white, and blue onto the floor. We’re really excited about that.”

Sims credited Major Hall, his commander, for working “very hard to make sure we were able to pull this together.”

In addition to Maj. Hall and Sgt. Sims, Master Sgt. Robert Norman and Sgt. First Class Chris Burks participated in the presentation.

“With this partnership, we’re making sure that we’re here for the next generation of students and athletes at Mid-South Community College,” Sims said.

MSCC will open its home season on Saturday, Nov. 13, at Marion High School against Northwest Mississippi Community College. The women will play at 2 p.m., and the men will follow at 4.

Season tickets and corporate sponsorships remain available, and Greyhound supporters can call Mary Adcox, MSCC Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, at (870) 733-6879 for information. Single-game tickets can be purchased at the door.