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SBOP announces 'Getting Ahead' class

For Starkville Daily News

"Starkville Bridges Out of Poverty is planning its next "Getting Ahead" class for people from a low socioeconomic background," said Tequilla Manning, Operations Administrator. Starkville Bridges graduated its first class of 12 participants in 2011. The class is comprised of 16, 2.5 hour sessions and is held once a week with three trained facilitators. The participants will receive a stipend, childcare services (including a structured educational program and homework assistance for their children), and a meal. Lynn Phillips-Gaines, President, said "Participants will learn the hidden rules of the middle-class, the causes of poverty, how to build resources (social capital, financial, etc), and how to bridge themselves out of poverty."



Manning

The orientation for the "Getting Ahead" class is Thursday, May 17 at 5:30 pm in the library of the Emerson Family School Oktibbeha County Families First Resource Center. All interested participants must attend this meeting. Many have already signed up and will receive notification via phone and mail. The class will begin on Tuesday, June 5 and also be held at the Emerson Family School. It will meet every week on a Tuesday for 16 weeks. Phillips-Gaines announced the facilitators are Barbara Setaro, member of the steering committee and ally for the "Getting Ahead Master's Program, Daniel Smith, member of both the steering and children's committee, and Shirley Ross, a "Getting Ahead" graduate.

Starkville Bridges is recruiting new volunteers and looking for funding sources. For more information, please contact Manning at 662-418-3100.