CEO of Oxford Lafayette Inc. Speaks on Community and Economic Growth

Ryan Miller discusses career development and economic growth in local community

School Events & News



OXFORD, Miss. – University of Mississippi students learned about leadership, career development and economic growth during a discussion with guest speaker and Ole Miss alumnus Ryan Miller, CEO of Oxford-Lafayette Incorporated.



Ryan Miller

Miller, speaking at a joint meeting of the Ole Miss Business club and the Student Real Estate Society, shared his professional journey and explained how communication, teamwork and continuous improvement contribute to successful leadership.

Miller outlined the Four Cs of Leadership: communication, cooperation, coordination and consistency. He emphasized that effective leaders must listen to others, consider different perspectives, direct resources toward common goals and practice these skills regularly.

“Those are my first two tips for you,” he said. “See a problem, find a solution, be the solution; see a need, fill the need, and remember those four Cs.”

He encouraged students to adopt this mindset, explaining that leadership does not require a formal title to take initiative.

“What stood out to me most was Ryan’s message that students don’t have to wait for a title or a certain point in their careers to start leading,” said Hailey Helterbran, president of the Ole Miss Business club. “His emphasis on recognizing problems, taking initiative and being willing to contribute is something our members can apply right now, both on campus and as they begin their careers.”

Originally from Long Beach, Miller came to Ole Miss in 1997. He graduated from the Croft Institute for International Studies in 2002 and earned his law degree in 2008. He later spent 13 years helping develop the university’s Center for Manufacturing Excellence (CME) before establishing Mississippi’s first Office of Workforce Development at the governor’s request. In that role, he managed a budget for workforce education and training.

Today, Miller focuses on economic development and building balanced communities.

“The overall intent of my job is to help find balance in our communities,” Miller said. “That means you have to identify who is our community, what defines our community and what the identity of our community is.

“If you can do those things, you can make better job opportunities for community members, increase household income, increase educational attainment, lower crime, lower poverty rates and lower unemployment.”

Miller’s message highlighted the importance for utilizing the four Cs and encouraged the students to continue developing their leadership skills.

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