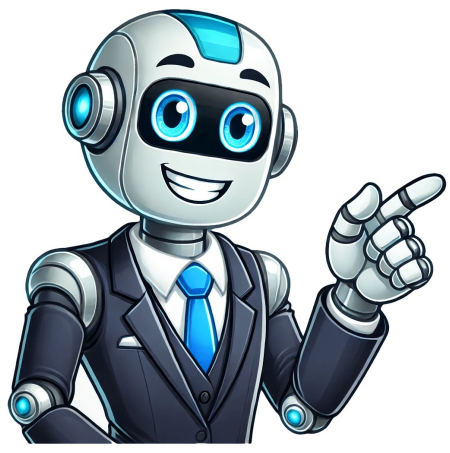


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## Singing river academy

Given article text here Phone: 228-522-8835 or 228-522-8836Fax: 228-522-8839Gautier-Vancleave Road Gautier, MS 39553Principal - Pam RonePASCAGOULA, Miss. (WLOX) - Students at Singing River Health Care Academy worked hard to achieve a moment of pride. Tuesday evening saw the graduation of 120 students, including 20 Licenced Practical Nurses (LPNs).The first-ever medical apprenticeship program allowed students hands-on experience in nursing, which was challenging at first."I was a little nervous going into nursing school but we had alot of support," one graduate said. "It started off hard because we didn't know what to do but it got better with time and lots of help from our instructors. The apprenticeship played a major role in balancing life and school."Life can get you off track and I'm thankful for Singing River which allowed me to pursue my dream," one graduate said.I am looking forward to continuing my career and working at Singing River.Lauren Fernandez, a working mother, could not afford to stop workin and change her career path. She is now able to take advantage of the same opportunities through the state's first ever medical apprenticeship program - all at no cost.Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves touting the program as an innovative employment solution for health care systems facng unprecedented staffing shortages."We need to train Mississippians for the jobs of the next 50 years," Governor Reeves said. "There will be a continued need for more resources in Jackson County."The Singing River Healthcare Academy has grown into a multi-million dollar facility.The potential is for 1,000 students to attend and work while earning money."I think it's a model that's brilliant and will work not only here but around the state," Governor Reeves said.As state leaders broke ground on the Ocean Construction Completes for First Medical Apprenticeship Facility in Mississippi Gautier's school system in Mississippi holds a satisfactory 47% rate. With 16 students per instructor, learning environments are well-maintained. Among Gautier residents, approximately 84% have achieved eighth-grade completion and roughly 83% have finished high school.