

Opening

1. Good Morning
2. It is a pleasure for me to be here with you

Main Points

1. I am familiar with Community Action Agencies across the State of Mississippi, but as I looked more closely at the many services you provide for the people of our state, I am thankful for your efforts.
 - a. Help alleviate poverty and promote self-sufficiency of low-income Mississippians
 - b. Weatherize homes to help reduce energy bills
 - c. Assist with energy payments
 - d. Emergency assistance to families in crisis
 - e. Divert at-risk youth from incarceration, truancy or other self-destructive problems
 - f. Transportation services to elderly and disabled in need of healthcare and other services
 - g. And the list goes on and on.....

2. You know what you do for those in need across our state, and it is important that all Mississippians know what you do. More importantly, that the call for volunteers is great.

- a. Community Action Agencies employ more than 2,400 people statewide
- b. More than 1.5 million hours of volunteer services are documented by Community Action Agencies.

3. Since becoming the First Lady of the State of Mississippi, I have accepted the responsibility of serving as the Spokesperson for the State of Mississippi's President's Student Service Challenge Scholarship Program

- a. Promotes service learning for students
- b. Rewards students with recognition and scholarships
- c. Most importantly it:
 - i. Instills the importance of giving back to the community
 - ii. Helping those who are less fortunate
 - iii. Concern for others
 - iv. Making communities and our state better and stronger

d. It is vital that our young people learn the importance of service and volunteerism because their attitudes toward one another will shape the future for our state.

Closing

1. Story about a student that you have seen whose attitude or outlook has changed for the better because of his/her experiences with volunteerism through PSSC.
2. I know the future of our state is bright.
3. It is bright because of the groundwork that you have laid and the work you have accomplished to help the people of Mississippi, and
4. It is bright because of the work that is yet to be done by other leaders and people who give of their time and talents to help others.
5. I thank you for your hard work, and for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Thank you.