



PRESS RELEASE

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Amy Parker Selected to Receive National Association Of Institutional Agribusiness Scholarship

Parchman....Amy Parker, daughter of Mississippi Department of Corrections employee Dianne Parker and the late Barry Parker of Parchman, has been named the recipient of the National Association of Agribusiness' (NAIA) 2001-scholarship award. According to Tom Fordyce, current president of NAIA, the association's underlying purpose is to preserve the integrity of institutional agribusiness and to provide the resources for personal development of agribusiness professionals. NAIA's membership is comprised of correctional administrators, farm and food personnel from across the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom. Each year the association selects a scholarship winner based upon their academic achievement, their involvement in school activities and their service to community.

Ms. Parker graduated from North Sunflower Academy at Drew, MS in May. She lettered in basketball, softball and track and placed first in the district high jump for her school in 1998. She was a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Her other extracurricular activities included cheerleader, Pep Club, and Spanish Club. For six years, Ms. Parker assisted with the kindergarten class at her school during her free time. In her senior year, she worked after her regular scheduled classes and served as a kindergarten assistant working with four-year-olds. She also volunteered her time after hours by visiting a continued care unit for the elderly at Ruleville.

Ms. Parker stated, "I'm deeply honored to have been selected by NAIA to receive their scholarship award." Ms. Parker will attend Mississippi Delta Community College at Moorhead in the fall where she plans to major in child development. "There's a great need to expand child development services in our state as more mothers are pressured to join their spouses in the work place to meet family needs spurred by a spiraling cost of living rate," said Ms Parker. "Our children are our greatest resource. They're our future. We owe this specialized care to them to prepare them for tomorrow's leaders."