

Federal Women's Program  
Melanie Musgrove  
March 8, 2000  
11:00 a.m.

Good Morning. It is quite an honor for me to be with you this morning, and thank you for inviting me to say a few words to you in recognition of Women's history month.

When researching information about speaking to you this morning, I was amazed as I looked through some statistical information about women in the workforce. I did not know that women represent almost half of the total national labor workforce. To me, that is an exciting statistic for our nation and certainly for women. Women have made some fantastic

accomplishments throughout our history, one of which I believe is the general mindset of women and what they perceive their opportunities to be in our country.

I remember when ... (insert story about a female family member or someone you knew who may not have had the same opportunities of education that women of today have available to them)

It really is amazing to see where we, as women, have been, where we are today, and the path that we have taken to get here.

Today, our daughters are not only given the opportunity to get an education, but they are now expected (or encouraged) to get an education.

Instead of finishing, or maybe not finishing, high school, getting married and raising a family, our young women are encouraged to get their high school diploma, their college degree, their masters degree or even their doctorate, and then become self sufficient before they consider their family options.

As a teacher for \_\_\_\_ years. I impressed upon all of my students, both male and female, that education was important for all people and that they could do whatever their hearts desired. No goal was too big and no dream was too large for any of them.

I felt that one of my roles as a teacher was to spend a little extra time with some of the young women

students that I came into contact with knew that they were important individuals and that they could set their goals and reach them by starting with a solid education and looking at all of life's options before making any life changing decisions.

Moving from the classroom to the Governor's Mansion has not lessened my interest in wanting to make a positive impact on the lives of students. As a matter of fact, I have two students at home, Jordan, the Governor's and my son and Carmen Rae, our daughter.

We have made it a priority to teach both of our children that they can do anything and be anyone that

they choose to be. We have not taught Carmen Rae anything differently just because she is our daughter.

(Time permitting)

(Insert a story about Carmen Rae being independent and a goal setter)

Women have come a long way throughout history, and some people would still say that we have a long way to go; however, I choose to celebrate our advancements and am pleased to do so with you today as we recognize the month of March as “Women’s History Month”.

Thank you again for asking me to be with you here this morning and allowing me to share a few moments with you.



