

Good morning. First Lady Melanie Musgrove has asked me to convey her apologies for not being here this morning, but she is in Spain. She and the Governor are previewing the pieces that will be included in “The Majesty of Spain” exhibition which Mississippi will host here in Jackson next year, March 1 through September 3.

On behalf of First Lady Musgrove,, I would like to welcome all of you to Mississippi and to Jackson for the 2000 “Educators as Peacemakers Conference.” I hope that your visit will be a learning experience for you, as well as an enjoyable visit to our state and to our capitol city.

I would like to commend you all for taking the time and the effort to attend this conference that focuses on intervention strategies to enhance students’ behavior and to prevent school violence. As a parent and as an educator, the First Lady recognizes and appreciates the importance of a safe learning environment for children, for teachers and for administrators. Your presence at this conference might prevent us all from having to once again see the school tragedies which we have seen all too often in the past few years. Thank you for your concern, for your desire to better your schools’ environments and for your commitment to your students.

Enjoy your sessions, the entertainment, and the networking with other professionals. Again, on behalf of the First Lady, welcome to Mississippi. Thank you.