

Novia Awards – Empowerment 2000
Friday, October 27, 2000
7:30 p.m.
Girault Auditorium (Fine Arts Bldg.) Belhaven College

- Good Evening
- Thank you for inviting me to be part of your celebration.
- Our citizens have equal opportunity in every part of the State, regardless of who they are
- We are one state. We are one community. We are one people. And we are one future – together.
- Every person in this state is entitled to quality educational opportunities. Every person in this state is entitled to fairness, and they are entitled to a justice system that works for everyone.
- Diversity is our strength and our future.

- America is an interweaving of different peoples that results in the richness and beauty and strength of our nation.
- We should celebrate our differences, not to be emphasizing our differences, but rather to be noting how these differences contribute to diversity and to richness in our society
- Each person brings to society a unique combination of genetics, cultural background, environment and upbringing; which provides but a single perspective, unique to each of us.
- Each individual has a unique personal heritage to contribute.
- The Reverend Doctor Philip Wogaman, pastor of Foundry Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., the church where President Clinton worships, said in a sermon, “God made us different to enrich each other.”
- Diversity provides us the opportunity to see what we can’t see ourselves, from another perspective.

- Diversity, whether it is gender, culture, race, sexual orientation, age, or disability, has enormous power for a society and to help an organization achieve its mission – with more effectiveness, with more efficiency, with higher quality.
- “One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for All.”