

National Literacy Summit 2000
Monday, June 12, 2000
Universities Center, Education & Research Center
9:00 a.m.

There will be approximately 120 Adult Education professionals in attendance. This is sponsored by the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. Dr. Olon Ray will introduce you.

Opening

1. Good Morning
2. Pleasure to be here.
3. Talk about just returning from Mississippi Day in New York – recognized Willie Morris' contribution to literature and in highlighting Mississippi.

Main Points

1. Mississippi has a prestigious literary pedigree.
 - a. William Faulkner
 - b. Eudora Welty
 - c. Richard Ford
 - d. Richard Wright
 - e. Margaret Walker Alexander
 - f. John Grisham

2. These writers have brought national and worldwide attention to our state and even with

that distinguished list, we have so many people in our state who cannot read

- a. It is an epidemic that we must find a cure for
- b. On both a youth and adult standpoint
- c. If we start early with our children, then we stamp out adult illiteracy

3. People like you make a difference

- a. Your commitment
- b. Jim Barksdale
 - i. Statewide commitment
- c. First Lady
 - i. Reading teacher – loved teaching children to read
 - ii. Unveil her reading program with the upcoming school year.

4. We must look for other answers

- a. It takes more than money
- b. We want to see every child from grades 1-12 reading at or above grade level.

Closing

- 1. I am committed to helping
- 2. We are a proud people and we must make sure that all of our people have the education and

skills they need to provide a good quality of life for their children and families.

3. Work with you to make that happen.

Thank you.