

Magnolia Veterans' Association
Annual Scholarship Banquet
Saturday, July 15, 2000
7:00 p.m.
Jackson Hilton

This is pretty motivational. Being strong in your delivery will help in the reception.

Opening

1. Good evening
2. What a pleasure it is for me to join you for this evening's celebration.
3. As a former teacher, it is always nice for me to be involved with events that deal with education and students.

Main Points

1. I know the value of a good education
 - a. Story about you working while the Governor was in school, and then you returning to work to get your degree.
 - b. It was not easy to get my degree, but I know how important it was.

- c. Getting my degree in elementary education allowed me to realize my dream of working with students (specifically in the area of reading).
- d. Without my degree, I would not have had that wonderful opportunity to see the faces of my students as they became better readers.
- e. It gave them a sense of accomplishment and pride that glowed in their eyes.
- f. (Insert a story about one of your students who greatly improved through your work with him/her.
- g. Witnessing their joy was better than anything else that I could have done without my degree.

2. You are helping Mississippi students realize their dreams.

- a. My situation was unique.

- b. I was not the “traditional” student, which could have been a challenge if I had allowed it to be.
- c. But I refused to let anything stop me in my pursuits.
- d. I realized my dreams of being a teacher because I had wonderful support from my husband etc.....
- e. You are helping these students realize their dreams by providing them with scholarships.
- f. I know for many of these students, you have given them the key to their educational future.
- g. Many of them might not have been able to continue their education were it not for these scholarships
- h. They now have the opportunity to focus their full efforts on their education

- i. I thank you for your commitment to these Mississippi students.
- j. And, I thank you for your commitment to education.
- k. You are making a difference in the lives of these students.

3. Challenge to Students

- a. Those of you who are receiving these scholarships-- it is your responsibility to do something really great with your education.
- b. No matter what you choose to be, or to do, your future is in your hands.
- c. You can choose to do something great, or something mediocre
- d. I challenge you to do something great.

- e. Along with getting good grades, I challenge you to return the kindness that has been given to you.
- f. Don't forget that you were given this scholarship by the Magnolia Veterans' Association.
- g. I hope that you will return the favor.
- h. When you complete your education, and enter the workforce, make someone else's life a little easier – Set up a scholarship fund for a student.
- i. What better way can you help another student than by awarding them a scholarship.
- j. My hope is that every person in Mississippi follow this trend of service to others.

Closing

1. My best wishes to each one of you as you reach your dreams through education.
2. It has been a pleasure to be with you tonight.
3. Thank you.