

**THERE IS A SPECIAL TYPE OF
PERSON IN THE WORLD, ONE WHO
HELPS OTHERS DETERMINE
WHETHER THE ROCKS AHEAD IN
THE ROAD ARE STUMBLING
BLOCKS OR STEPPING STONES.**

**THAT TYPE OF PERSON IS KNOWN
AS A TEACHER, AND ONE OF
MISSISSIPPI'S BEST TEACHERS IS
KNOWN AS MARVA JEAN HILL.**

**MRS. HILL, I WANT TO COMMEND
YOU ON A TREMENDOUS CAREER
IN IDENTIFYING STEPPING STONES.
YOU HAVE TAUGHT MANY
STUDENTS IN YOUR 35 YEARS AT
VELMA JACKSON – STUDENTS WHO
HAVE GONE ON TO LEAD
PRODUCTIVE AND POSITIVE LIVES.**

**ONE COULD LOOK AT YOUR WORK
RECORD AND KNOW YOU HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL
DURING YOUR CAREER.**

**AS A FOUR-TIME STAR TEACHER,
AS THE RECIPIENT OF A MADISON
COUNTY EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE
GRANT, AND AS TEACHER OF THE
YEAR AT VELMA JACKSON – YOU
HAVE MADE YOUR MARK IN THE
CLASSROOM.**

**BUT, TO KNOW THE TRUE IMPACT
OF YOUR WORK, WE HAVE TO
LOOK BEYOND YOUR RESUME – WE
HAVE TO LOOK AT THE LIVES OF
THOSE WHO CAME THROUGH
YOUR CLASSROOM.**

**THAT'S WHERE WE SEE THE
EVIDENCE THAT YOU TAUGHT NOT
JUST FROM THE HEAD, BUT FROM
THE HEART.**

**THERE IS A CHINESE PROVERB
THAT SAYS, "LEARNING IS A
TREASURE THAT WILL FOLLOW
ITS OWNER EVERYWHERE." MRS.
HILL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR
WORK IN HELPING REVEAL THE
TREASURE FOR OUR CHILDREN.**