



For Immediate Release

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Ralea Hanna, Distinguished Young Woman of Simpson County, will be one of 30 Mississippi high school seniors competing for more than \$33,000 in college scholarships when the 2024 Distinguished Young Women of Mississippi Program gets under way Thursday, July 13, in Meridian.

The state program, which is held in Meridian, Mississippi, is now in its 67th year celebrating and spotlighting outstanding achievements of the state's best and brightest high school girls. The three nights of competition at The Evangel Temple concludes on Saturday, July 15. The doors open nightly at 6:30pm and each show starts promptly at 7:30pm for the three-night event.

Reserved tickets for the 2024 Distinguished Young Women Program are available for **\$65** for a three-night package. General admission tickets are available for **\$50** for a three-night package, or may be purchased for individual evenings: **\$20**, Thursday; **\$20**, Friday; and **\$25**, Saturday. Tickets go on sale Monday, June 26, and may be obtained by logging on www.purplepass.com/dywofms or calling 601-480-3438. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are welcomed.

"We are extremely excited about this year's program," said Sid Wilkinson, State Chairman of the Distinguished Young Women of Mississippi Program. "This program celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of high school women and offers them cash scholarship opportunities to further their education."

Ralea, the daughter of **Joe and Misty Hanna of Magee**, attends **Mendenhall High School**. *Academic accomplishments, membership and hobbies include the following:* **Health Occupations Students of America President, Simpson County Youth Leadership, Mendenhall High School Tennis Team, National Honor Society and Mendenhall High School Marching, Jazz, and Concert Bands**. She plans to attend the **University of Southern Mississippi** to pursue a career as an **Elementary Education Teacher**.

During the week-long program in Meridian, participants are evaluated on scholastic achievement, fitness, self-expression, talent, and interview. **Hanna** has chosen a **Piano presentation** of "**Fur Elise**" for her talent.

If selected as Distinguished Young Woman of Mississippi, **Ralea** will compete in the Distinguished Young Women of 2024 finals in June of 2024, held in Mobile, Alabama. There she will compete for the opportunity to win a share of more than \$100,000 in cash scholarship awards, including the \$40,000 national title scholarship award.

Founded in 1958, Distinguished Young Women is a free program that encourages participants to reach their full individual potential. Our mission is to empower young women by providing over \$1 billion in scholarship opportunities, developing their self-confidence and participating in our Life Skills Workshops that prepare them for success after high school. National sponsors include Barbara Barrington Jones Family Foundation, Mobile County, City of Mobile, Alabama Power Foundation, Shoe Station, Gant Travel Management, Wellington and Bonnie Coffeen, Regions Financial Corporation, Jostens and Alabama Media Group.

For more information about Distinguished Young Women, contact Tara Principe, National Headquarters Marketing and Communications Director, at 251-438-3621 or Tara@DistinguishedYW.org or visit www.DistinguishedYW.org.