



For Immediate Release

For More Information, Contact Susan Keith, susanms@distinguishedyw.org.

Grace Ann Courtney, Distinguished Young Woman of Stone County, will be one of 29 Mississippi high school seniors competing for more than \$35,000 in college scholarships when the 2025 Distinguished Young Women of Mississippi Program gets under way Thursday, July 11, in Meridian, Mississippi.

The state program, which is held in Meridian, Mississippi, is now in its 68th year celebrating and spotlighting outstanding achievements of the state's best and brightest high school women. The three nights of competition at The Evangel Temple concludes on Saturday, July 13. The doors open nightly at 6:30 pm and each show starts promptly at 7:30 pm for the three-night event.

Reserved tickets for the 2025 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/dywofms25 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. "Distinguished Young Women celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of high school women and offers them cash scholarship opportunities to further their education and to develop their self-confidence."

Grace Ann, the daughter of **Sean and Rebecca Courtney of Wiggins**, attends **Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science High School**. *Academic accomplishments, membership and hobbies include the following: State Beta Club D1 Onsite Drawing Champion, Stone High Pride Outstanding Musicianship, Stone High Color Guard, Senator of MSMS Student Government Association and Graphics Editor of MSM Newspaper* She plans to attend **University of Mississippi** to pursue a career as a **Plastic Surgeon Specializing in Pediatric Facial Reconstruction**.

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

If selected as Distinguished Young Woman of Mississippi, **Grace Ann** will compete in the Distinguished Young Women of 2025 finals in June of 2025, 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 scholarship opportunities, connecting with a nationwide network of women, developing their self-confidence, and participating in our Life Skills Workshops that prepare them for a successful future. National sponsors include Barbara Barrington Jones Family Foundation, Mobile County, City of Mobile, Alabama Power Foundation, Master Boat Builders, Gant Travel Management, Regions Financial Corporation, John Cauley Jeweler, Jostens and Alabama Media Group.

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