



For Immediate Release

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

Mary Kate Stokley, Distinguished Young Woman of Wayne 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."

Mary Kate, the daughter of **Todd Stokley and Kim Turner of Waynesboro**, attends **Wayne Academy High School**. *Academic accomplishments, membership and hobbies include the following: ALL A Honor Roll, Varsity Cheerleader, Dixie Electric Youth Leader, McDonald's Golden Apple Award and Finalist in National Book Challenge* She plans to attend **Auburn University** to pursue a career in **Pre-Med with a focus on Pediatric Medicine**.

During the week-long program in Meridian, participants are evaluated on scholastic achievement, fitness, self-expression, talent, and interview. **Stokley** has chosen a **Vocal presentation of "Another Day of Sun"** for her talent.

If selected as Distinguished Young Woman of Mississippi, **Mary Kate** 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.