



***For Immediate Release***

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**Erial Mays, Distinguished Young Woman of Winston 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 68<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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."

**Erial**, the daughter of **Eric Mays and Lakeshia Miller of Louisville**, attends **Noxapater Attendance Center High School**. *Academic accomplishments, membership and hobbies include the following: Beta Club, Math Team, Chosen as a EMEPA Cooperative Leader Member, Highest Average in six classes and Cheerleader* She plans to attend **Harvard University** to pursue a career as an **OB-GYN**.

During the week-long program in Meridian, participants are evaluated on scholastic achievement, fitness, self-expression, talent, and interview. **Mays** has chosen a **Vocal presentation** of "**I Will Always Love You**" for her talent.

If selected as Distinguished Young Woman of Mississippi, **Erial** 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](mailto:carly@distinguishedyw.org) or visit [www.DistinguishedYW.org](http://www.DistinguishedYW.org).