



The Congressional Award

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CONTACT: Joshua Stockstill

P: 202/226-0130

stockstill@congressionalaward.org

Mississippi State University Honored for Congressional Award Partnership



Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senate Republican Whip Trent Lott and Members of the Mississippi Congressional Delegation gathered for a dinner celebrating Mississippi State University President Dr. Robert Foglesong for his work to further the Congressional Award program – Congress’ only award for young Americans.

“My wife Tricia and I have long supported this award because it recognizes and encourages the development of outstanding character,” said Senator Trent

Lott. “For us, being part of this worthwhile effort has always been a reward unto itself. Seeing youth achieve so much reaffirms my faith in America’s future and reinvigorates my resolve to ensure that future generations are left with a stronger and better nation.”

Dr. Foglesong announced MSU’s new scholarship opportunity created specifically for Congressional Award Medalists, stating, “Mississippi State University’s primary mission is student development in the areas of academics, leadership, and character, and the aims of the Congressional Award program mesh perfectly with our institutional priorities.” MSU is the first university to offer Congressional Award scholarships.

Guests attending the dinner included Congressmen Roger Wicker, Chip Pickering and Gene Taylor of Mississippi and Tennessee Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, who is a graduate of Mississippi State University. William Mattox, Vice President of Government Affairs for New York Life Insurance Company and MSU alumnus, served as a primary sponsor of the dinner.

The Congressional Award, a public-private partnership, established by Congress in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, is a non-competitive program open to young people ages 14-23, regardless of mental or physical challenges, or socioeconomic status. The Congressional Award Foundation teaches participants to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character, and foster community service, personal development, and citizenship.

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