

Getting MS women ready to lead

I participated in an exciting event at Mississippi State University on April 18. It was sponsored by the Student Association and featured a program called She Should Run, which prepares women to take on leadership roles in our communities. I was part of a panel discussion that included Senators Sally Doty and Angela Turner and former State Representative Kimberly Campbell. The auditorium was packed and the hundreds who attended were very engaged and energized.

I'd met earlier in the day with Jennifer Gregory at the Stennis Center for Public Service. The Stennis Center is starting a Mississippi chapter of the Ready to Run program, which also promotes female leadership in the public arena.

Mississippi is one of only two states that has never sent a woman to Washington to represent us. The other is Vermont. We've never had a woman governor either. In fact, we have only had four women elected to statewide office – ever – and two of us are serving right now. I am very excited to work with groups like these to encourage women to become more involved in civic life!