

NEWS RELEASE

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Noted chef to deliver keynote address at annual Conerly Symposium

Chef Cyndie Story, a registered dietitian and certified chef at Culinary Solution Centers in Jacksonville, Fla., will present the keynote address at the Wallace Conerly Health Policy Symposium, "Obesity and Public School Nutrition: Changing the Recipe," at noon on Friday, March 30, in the second-floor conference center of the Norman C. Nelson Student Union on campus at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The media also are invited to attend a workshop on public school nutrition that Story will conduct from 2-5 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, and from 8:30-10 a.m. Friday, March 30, in the second-floor conference center of the Norman C. Nelson Student Union. During the workshop, Story will teach representatives of school districts throughout the state and members of the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Healthy Schools creative ways to prepare quality, healthy meals for their students.

"We appreciate the collaboration with the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the opportunity to invite food service personnel from across the state to hear Chef Cyndie speak," said Dr. Hank M. Bounds, State Superintendent of Education. "Chef Cyndie will be a great inspiration to them as she demonstrates new ways to prepare and present nutritious meals for our students."

Story earned her BS in dietetics and institutional management at the University of Georgia in 1987, her master's in nutrition education at the University of Georgia in 1993 and an AA in culinary arts at the Art Institute of Atlanta in 2001.

She is currently enrolled in the Child Nutrition Leadership Academy at Iowa State University, where she is working on her PhD in Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management.

Story has more than 18 years of experience in food service with established school food service programs and health care organizations. She works as an independent trainer, providing hands-on and demonstration-style quantity food production classes and food safety workshops for food service professionals at all levels. She conducts more than 50 workshops every year.

On the staff of Culinary Solution Centers since August 2003, Story is the author of *Producing Produce*, a fresh food and vegetable training manual for school food service

managers and assistants. Recently, she was featured as a guest chef for *Cooking Light Magazine* at the Southern Women's Show in Jacksonville.

She includes among her professional memberships the American Dietetic Association, The National Environmental Health Association, American School Nutrition Association and the Georgia School Nutrition Association.

The Conerly Symposium is co-sponsored by the John D. Bower Foundation and the Medical Center.

The Symposium is named for Conerly, UMC vice chancellor emeritus for health affairs and dean emeritus of the School of Medicine. Conerly was the chief architect of the largest expansion program in the history of higher education in Mississippi.

Conerly created a campuswide Office of Research in 1998, expanded the institution's efforts to recruit and retain minority students, and worked with Dr. Aaron Shirley, Judge Reuben Anderson and others to create the Jackson Medical Mall.

In 2002, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services appointed Conerly to the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine, making him the first Mississippian to serve on that prestigious body. In 2005, the Tulane School of Medicine honored him with its Alumnus of the Year Award.