

SCT REMARKS FOR SCIL CHANGE-OF-COMMAND CEREMONY

In September of last year, the first class of the South Carolina Institute of Leadership for Women arrived on our campus. They came from diverse high schools, home towns, and family backgrounds. They had—I am sure—equally diverse expectations and goals regarding the SCIL program, its mission, and their place in it.

They also had much in common: impressive academic achievements, high SAT scores, and a personal desire to be pioneers in a program that was sure to make educational history.

Today's ceremony represents a milestone in the SCIL program and in the lives of its participants. During the past seven month, these young women have achieved an incredible amount:

- They completed a four-day Outward Bound program in the mountains of North Carolina**
- They have traveled to Washington, DC, where they met elected officials, civil servants, and military leaders**
- They have been to the Naval Academy, Fort Jackson, and The Citadel.**
- They have run together, marched together, climbed together, and studied together.**
- They have learned discipline, leadership, and responsibility.**
- And with 6:30 am PT, they have seen the sun rise on this campus more often than any of them would have imagined.**

In recognition of their outstanding achievements, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to each SCIL Cadet for the effort, seriousness of purpose, and perseverance they have shown.

Today, each of you will be recognized for your accomplishments. Those of you who have been leaders must now learn to be followers. Others will rise to new leadership positions and take on additional responsibilities within the SCIL Chain of Command. However, regardless of what position you hold or responsibilities you will assume, you are all deserving of special recognition for the advances you have made for yourselves and for single-gender education. I commend you, I applaud you, and I salute you. Congratulations.