

From the Desk of the First Lady

One of the treats that come with my role as First Lady is the opportunity to meet women from all over the country and all over the world who share the title of First Lady in their respective communities. As I travel and correspond with those that share this title, I have grown to realize how it can transcend geographical boundaries.

Recently, I hosted a delegation of First Ladies from various counties in Kenya while they were in Georgia. They were here to research and advocate for the betterment of their communities. As we chatted over a glass of Georgia Peach Punch, I realized that the geographical boundaries seemed to disappear. At the core of our discussion, our intentions were the same.

We all strive to promote education, training and development for our citizens; to ensure their health, safety and well-being; to promote equality through community initiatives; and to publicly advocate for economic progress. We do all of these things to make our homes a better place to live, work and raise a family.

We share a role; a title and the deeply rooted desire to see all of these positive things come to fruition.

As you may know, for me personally, being a former teacher has shaped my platform as First Lady. I have taken a keen interest in promoting all aspects of education. In May, I was invited to visit the Consulate General of Canada in Atlanta. Using modern-day resources, they created a video program which links Canadian and Atlanta-Area female students who have a knack for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to encourage them to be inspired, seek and prepare for strong futures in these areas.

To go into further detail, the program operates via video chat. Two young girls from Canada took to the web to share their successes in these fields. By opening up the lines of communication, it allows our Atlanta-Area female students to witness ways in which their peers are able to invent and create careers in these types of professions.

It is networks like those aforementioned that help motivate progress and stimulate entire populations. This summer as many of you vacation, I urge you to reach out and meet people from different regions. Share what you are doing in your community and inquire about what they are doing for theirs. You never know what could spark a connection that could help millions.