



## The Deliverables

*Michael Marks* is uniquely positioned by his life experiences to deliver keynote addresses, lead workshops, provide professional development, offer resources and services, help build enrichment programs, launch campaigns and promote hands-on learning in the following categories (others by request):

- Actor Training
- Arts Appreciation/Education
- Arts as Disaster Therapy
- Black History Month Activities
- Board Trainings
- Business Branding and Marketing
- Community Development
- Community Engagement Campaigns
- Competitive Speaking Events
- Crisis Management
- Debate Training
- Diversity/Inclusion
- Dress for Success
- Dropout Rates
- Education Careers
- Educator Mentoring
- Employment Recognition Programs
- Entertainment Piano
- Event Planning and Staging
- Extracurricular Activities
- Fundraising
- Group Process/Consensus
- Graduation Rates
- Health Care Careers
- Holiday Celebrations
- Interview Skills
- Keynote Addresses
- Law-Related Education/ Mock Trial
- Legislative Lobbying
- Life Coaching
- Life Skills
- Martin Luther King Volunteer Day
- Master of Ceremonies
- Media Training
- Motivational Speaking
- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- National Competition Preparation
- National Teacher Day
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Political Campaigns
- Political Candidate Grooming
- Professional Development
- Public Relations
- Public Speaking
- Scholarship Competitions/ Programs
- Social Media Advice for Businesses
- Speech Writing
- Student Government Training
- Talent Development
- Talent Promotion and Representation
- Teacher Shortage
- Theatre Production
- Voiceovers/Narration
- Workforce Development
- Youth Leadership Development

Link to Marks' Keynote/MLK Day at USM:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj5s7fGDPQ>



## The Record

*Michael Marks* is a former Mississippi Teacher of the Year, National Milken Educator and America's Outstanding Teacher of the Performing Arts.



Instructor of theatre for over 20 years at Hattiesburg High School, he directed over 50 productions including *The Wiz*, which played at The International Theatre Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Under his direction, Music Theatre International selected HHS as America's Best High School Performing Arts Department. His theatre students have originated roles in national shows from Broadway's *Hairspray* to Marvel's *Black Panther* to *NCIS: New Orleans*. HHS Thespians became the first high school in America to establish a chapter of Equity Fights AIDS on its campus.

As debate coach at Hattiesburg high School, he qualified students to national tournaments in every event. His mock trial teams claimed 8 state championships and as many Top Ten finishes in national competition. He served on the Deep South District Committee, chaired The Mississippi NFL District, served as a national parliamentarian for NFL Congress, and founded the Biloxi Catholic Forensic League.

As a playwright, his Hattiesburg High School docudrama *The Katrina Project: Hell and High Water* toured the continental United States, including a performance in Dallas at the National Forensics League Tournament; enjoyed a command performance for Congress; and received the NEA's National Human and Civil Rights award. The show was recently revived for the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and to date has generated over \$400,000 in relief benefits for natural disaster victims in our country.

As former president of The Mississippi Association of Educators, he once negotiated a 36% pay raise for his state's educators. As former Executive Officer of the 3.3 million-member National Education Association, he was responsible for the National Read Across America Program. He represented America at The Education International Conference in Berlin, keynoted the India Teachers Conference and championed diversity via workshops he presented in Barbados. In addition, he served as National Treasurer of The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and chairs the Hattiesburg Mayoral Health Council. He also chaired the National Task Force on Early Childhood Education and Sales & Marketing Professionals' Pinnacle Awards.

A founding director and former President of The Miss Mississippi Pageant Local Directors Association, he holds the distinction of having his contestant win the state title for a record 4 times. In addition, he directed the Miss Mississippi Troupe and served as talent coach for Mississippi's last national winner. In addition to a Miss America title, his former students have also included an America's Junior Miss (now America's Distinguished Young Woman).

When funding was recently cut from the Hattiesburg High School Debate Team, he organized *Speak Up, Hattiesburg*, a community-built coalition that raised \$16K to keep the speech and debate team on the road. This year, Speech and Debate coaches from across the country recognized his efforts with their Josephine Dukes National Teacher of the Year distinction. A member of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi, he is co-author of the book, *Katrina: Ten Years After* and serves as a director on the boards for Hattiesburg Public School District Foundation, Downtown Hattiesburg, Pinebelt Foundation, Hattiesburg Family Y and the Mississippi Miss Hospitality Competition. He is also a member of the Area Development Partnership.

For his exceptional community service, he received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from his alma mater, The University of Southern Mississippi. He is a former principal of Mississippi's ADEPT Dropout Recovery School and is the former Public Relations Coordinator at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg and recently raised thousands of dollars for Hattiesburg Public School District student scholarships, teacher grants and early childhood education, as chair of the inaugural Hattiesburg Hall of Fame.



## STAGE, STYLE & STUDY, LLC

### Educational and Arts Consulting





## STAGE

Whether it is grooming political candidates for Congress, speaking up for educators on The Today Show or CNN, or staging an historic docudrama for a congressional command performance, Michael Marks understands the power of the podium, messaging, and the public spotlight. After 30 years in public education and political lobbying, he is in constant demand as a keynote speaker, speech coach, director and producer.

In 2005, his original stage play, *The Katrina Project: Hell and High Water*, played on stages across the country, generating over \$400,000 to date for disaster relief. Even today, royalties from worldwide performances of the production fund scholarships for students pursuing careers in the arts.

From political and fundraising campaigns to coaching witnesses for the courtroom to designing business marketing strategies and workforce development, he understands that when it comes to messaging, **"All the world's a stage."**

*"Marks taught me that real competitive edge is derived from embracing many disciplines, which results in a synergy that drives creative solutions."*

~ **Bryan Brister**  
General Electric Plastics Scientist • Evansville, Indiana



◀ Scene from national docudrama, *The Katrina Project: Hell and High Water*.



▶ Speaking with then Candidate Barack Obama backstage at the National Education Association's annual meeting.



## STYLE

Economic and Workforce Development are hallmarks for success in any community. As a member of local civic boards, arts councils, philanthropic foundations, and state associations and commissions, Marks understands that people deliver power.

From supporting downtown revitalization projects to leading tornado recovery efforts to helping provide public facilities for nursing mothers, he understands that a city's style is synonymous with its quality of life.

As chair of the inaugural Hattiesburg Hall of Fame, he is helping to lead an alumni reclamation project that showcases city school district graduates as career role models for the next generation. Helping communities become successful by utilizing their existing resources is his passion. **Style counts.**

*"He instilled in me a desire to excel and never be complacent."*

~ **Allen N. Burke**  
Senior Accountant, Ernst & Young • Atlanta, Georgia

▶ Serving on the Board of Directors for Hattiesburg Downtown Association.



▶ On set of WDM-TV to promote Early Childhood Education Initiative for Hattiesburg Public School District Foundation.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## STUDY

Graduating from South Pike High School at 15 and Southern Miss Honors College three years later, Marks started his teaching career at 19 and has always been an advocate for quality teaching and learning. As principal of ADEPT Dropout Recovery High School, he learned that incentivizing dropouts to continue education will boost Mississippi's economy.

As national treasurer for The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, he leveraged a \$63 million-dollar budget to help sustain national standards and teaching certifications based on what "good teachers ought to know and be able to do."

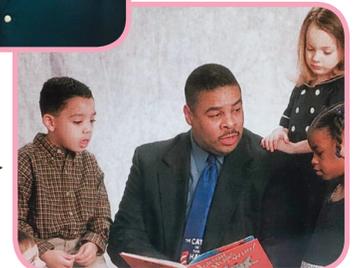
Elected by 3 million educators nationwide, he served as a leader for The National Education Association, helping to channel a \$463 million-dollar budget to support children and public education. As Mississippi Teacher of the Year and as America's Outstanding Teacher of the Performing Arts, he is a believer in the well-rounded student and a staunch advocate for "extracurricular activities as the other side of education." **Study matters.**

*"I knew after my first day on the floor of Youth Congress that I wanted a career in politics. I thank Coach Marks for opening that door for me."*

~ **Bret K. Boyles**  
Political Fundraiser • Washington, D.C.



◀ Negotiating a 36% pay raise for Mississippi Teachers with then Governor Ronnie Musgrove.



▶ Serving as National Liaison for Read Across America campaign.