



# STUDENTS LEARN HISTORY THROUGH THE HATS OF KATE CAMPBELL STEVENSON

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Kate Campbell Stevenson is a woman of many "hats." Indeed, she is a mother, wife and a member of the United States work force, but she also is the women's rights activist Abigail Adams, the Indian maiden Sacagawea, the women's suffrage visionary Lucy Stone, and African-American aviator Bessie Coleman.

No, Ms. Stevenson does not have a multiple personality disorder: she has a vision to educate today's youth.

Several women of different generations, backgrounds, races and occupations came to life last week in Stevenson's one-woman program, ***Women: Back to the Future***. This theatrical performance was performed at Hampton Street Auditorium and is geared to promote positive role models for today's youth, using historical women figures.

Stevenson's performances, for students in the Colleton School District, were sponsored by the Lowcountry Tech Prep Consortium.

***Women: Back to the Future*** was conceived, written and performed by Stevenson, originally for her own children.

"My Children were my inspiration. I wanted to be a part of a program that I could actively participate in," Stevenson said. In addition to being an actress, she is an advocate and educator of women's achievements.

"Women have been under-represented in history. Women were active figures in history all along," Stevenson said. "They are marvelous role models to young people, boys and girls, because they have overcome such large obstacles."

When talking to kids, Stevenson places much emphasis on the hard work her characters endured. "Everything is so instantaneous today. You push a button and it happens. Kids have to realize that

anything of value is hard to achieve: it takes time and effort. Anything you obtain easily is not worth anything"

Expression and focus are qualities important to Kate Stevenson. She urges kids to write things down and to express their feelings on paper, because they are the ones that will make a difference later.

"One ordinary person can make a difference. It's not just the famous celebrities who make a difference, it's people who are working everyday," she said. " It's the cogs in the wheel that make the country go forward." Stevenson transforms auditoriums into classrooms around the country with her lessons. " Live theatre is such a strong teaching tool. It's a form of communication, because it takes energy from the audience to learn."