

## W, Ole Miss Jumpstart partnership helps children develop language, literacy skills



COLUMBUS, Miss. – Children in low-income neighborhoods typically start kindergarten 60 percent behind their peers in more affluent communities,

according to statistics provided by Jumpstart, a national organization that helps children develop language and literacy skills.

The percentage is one that Mississippi University for Women and the University of Mississippi are hoping to lower through a partnership and expansion of a Jumpstart chapter on The W's campus.

Rose Ford, site manager for The W's Jumpstart program, explained that these students tend to fall behind due to a lack of experience and not ability. "We really anticipate we can help close the gap in this area," she said.

In its fourth year of operation, Mississippi's only Jumpstart chapter is through UM. The program, coordinated through the university's Center for Excellence in Literary Instruction (CELI), includes UM and CELI staff and about 25 Jumpstart volunteers.

The goal of The W's Jumpstart chapter is to start with about 12 volunteers for the local area. While the program is open to all students, the university plans to target education majors as volunteers



### Upcoming Events

- **SPB Meeting**  
Fri. 13 Nov, 2015  
(12:00 pm - 1:00 pm)
- **\$tart \$mart Salary Negotiation Workshop**  
Fri. 13 Nov, 2015  
(1:00 pm - 4:00 pm)
- **Senior Exhibition**  
Mon. 16 Nov, 2015 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)
- **East / West: Relief Prints from the Permanent Collection**  
Mon. 16 Nov, 2015 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)