



MDES

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT of EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) is a federally funded state agency. The programs of MDES, under direction of the governor of Mississippi, report to the federal government. MDES provides an array of services from [WIN Job Centers](#) located throughout the state. The WIN Job Centers are the centerpiece of the WIN in Mississippi system, which provides convenient, one-stop employment and training services to employers and job seekers.

Introducing: **Cherrita Speech** Representative for Member Firm MDES



Cherrita Speech, originally from Oakland, California, spent much of her career in Hospital Administration. She began her current career with Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) in 2007. Cherrita currently serves as Executive Assistant to the Executive Director of MDES.

In addition to her duties as assistant to a busy executive, Ms. Speech takes time to work in her other passion, helping people. MDES sponsors Barr Elementary for the Jackson Public Schools, Adopt-A-School program and Cherrita volunteers with the school's music department. She also served on the board of the MS American Heart Assn. and was the chairperson for the MDES "Go Red for Women" campaign, helping to raise over \$2,500.

Cherrita is the Executive Director of "Music is My Ministry – Too!" a non-profit organization. The goal of "Music is My Ministry – Too!" is to reach out to children in churches and in the community through Christian music to build integrity, morals, and to motivate success. An accomplished musician, Ms. Speech has played piano most of her life and uses her talent to serve her church and to give God praise. She has organized children and adult choirs for various churches Ms. Speech has served within her church, Church of Christ (Holiness) USA at local, district, diocese and national levels in a variety of positions from music director to Trustee Board member. In 2009, she was appointed as the Director of National Women's Corps, an organization within the Church of Christ (Holiness) USA dedicated to developing, equipping and empowering women in the ministry.

Cherrita lives in Brandon, MS with her husband, Arthur Speech. She has three sons, Joseph Powell, Minister Arlandis Powell and Cedric Powell and three grandchildren.