

*Remarks for the  
Computers in the Classroom Reception  
September 25, 2001*

Good evening, and thank you all for being here tonight.

We're here to celebrate a great year for the children and the schools of Mississippi, a year in which we are more than halfway past our goal of putting an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom of every public school in the state.

I want to thank you for the tremendous effort you have put forth to make this possible, and to remind you that we're not done just yet.

We're on track to be the first state in the nation to achieve this goal, and I need your help to make it a reality. We need to redouble our efforts in raising funds, in soliciting donations of used computers, and in securing in-kind donations.

This effort has come a long way from the MEC annual meeting in 1999, when Bob Pittman first raised the idea for our schools. What a road we've traveled in two years!

What we are doing is helping cement our children's potential for competing in the new world economy, an economy that is borderless, seamless, wireless and global.

(Tell story of Memphis Rotary)

I also want to thank Carolyn Shanks of Entergy for her tremendous work in raising money for this initiative. Her efforts, and the support she has brought to this project, are making a great difference in the lives of our children.

I know Carolyn has a few words for us, and after she speaks, Peggy Howard of the Mississippi Economic Council and Robin Costa will share their thoughts.

(Carolyn Shanks, Peggy Howard and Robin Costa speak)

Carolyn, Peggy, and Robin – thank you for the great work you have done for “Computers in the Classroom,” and the impact you are having on young lives.

Now, I’m going to ask Carolyn if she will help me show our appreciation to our partners in this project. Carolyn?

(distribute plaques and certificates)