

Computers In The Classroom
Press Conference
Thomas Street School
Tupelo
Tuesday, May 15, 2001
12:00 p.m.

Talking Points

- Today's economy is global – seamless – borderless – ever changing.
- Vital that our children have the skills in technology when they leave the twelfth grade to successfully enter the workforce or to continue their education.
- It is important that we start early – exposing our students early to technology.
- Computers and the Internet can motivate students in new ways.
- The use of the World Wide Web excites and motivates even the youngest of children.
- Technology taps into their natural curiosity, and opens the doors to new ways of learning.
- That is why our Computers In The Classroom initiative is so important.

- Our goal is to place an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom by the end of the year 2002.
- I am excited to say that we are more than half way to meeting our goal!!
- 6,325 Internet-accessible computers are being installed in classrooms across our state, and will all be in place by the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year.
- 90 computers are being installed in the Tupelo and Lee County School Districts.
- Several of those 90 computers are being installed here at Thomas Street School.
- These children are already benefiting from our efforts.
- Carolyn Shanks, CEO and President of Entergy Mississippi has graciously agreed to serve as my co-chair for the campaign to secure the funds we need to install the remaining computers.

- I would like to ask her to say a few words, Carolyn.
- Carolyn, I appreciate your commitment, and the commitment of Entergy.
- Carolyn knows first-hand the importance of computers and technology in the workplace, and she also knows that their importance will only strengthen.
- We are able to install these computers because of a strong public/private partnership.
- The partnership has raised both public and private funds to help in our efforts.
- We are right on track to make Mississippi the first state in the nation to have a computer in every classroom.
- That is a definitely a first I would like to see happen in Mississippi, but -
- We are not just putting a computer in classroom.

- We are giving our students – Mississippi’s students – the keys to a brighter future.
- We are giving our teachers better tools with which to teach our students.
- We are readying our students to make a successful transition into jobs that give them the opportunity for a good quality of life right here in Mississippi.
- This is a great step forward for technology in our classrooms.
- A great step forward for education in Mississippi.
- And a great step forward for Mississippi’s students.