Computers In The Classroom
Press Conference
Akin Elementary School
Greenville
Monday, May 14, 2001
2:00 p.m.

<u>Talking Points</u>

- 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 <u>we are more than half way to meeting our goal</u>!!

- 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.

- 14 computers are being installed right here at Akin Elementary in Greenville, and a total of 191 computers are being installed in the Greenville Public Schools.

- 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.