

Computers In The Classroom
Fundraiser
Forrest/Lamar Counties
Oak Grove Attendance Center
Tuesday, May 15, 2001
8:00 a.m.

Talking Points

- Thank you for joining us this early morning.
- Asked you to be here because we know what we are doing is of great importance to the children of Mississippi.
- Great importance to education.
- 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.
- 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.
- We have commitments from Entergy, the Maddox Foundation, Mississippi Power, State Farm, AOL, Jim Barksdale and others.
- 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 talked about the assistance Entergy is giving to this initiative,
- But we need more grassroots help.
- We need your help.
- This is your opportunity to invest in the future workforce of Mississippi.
- By supporting this effort, you can have a hand in shaping the quality of that future workforce.
- 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 on track to make Mississippi the first state in the nation to have a computer in every classroom.
- That is definitely a first I would like to see happen in Mississippi.
- Again, we appreciate you being here, and hope that this is a great sign of your support of the Computers in the Classroom Initiative.

Numbers for Greater Hattiesburg Area Schools – Numbers of Computers being installed in Phase 1.

Lamar County School District – 146

Hattiesburg School District – 9

Forrest County School District – 67

Petal School District – 11

Total 233