

MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: National Board Certified Teachers Reception

In discussing this event, you indicated you wanted a strong message, but you wouldn't use written notes.

Suggested comments:

- Ran for state Senate on vision of bringing teacher salary to southeastern average. Last July, that vision became a reality.
- We're going to pay you as the dedicated professionals you are.
- We may be in difficult economic times, but we cannot allow our budget to shape our priorities. Our priorities should shape our budget.
- Mississippi is setting the standard in education around the country.
 - We have tough accountability measures in place.
 - We have tougher testing standards than President Bush called for in his education package.
 - Lead governor on education in the country.
- Improving educational tools for our children – Computers in the Classroom.
- We were first state in nation to offer more pay for Board Certified Teachers.
 - One of the top 10 states in the nation with number of national board certified teachers (ranked 6th).
 - Led the nation in the last school year – 405 teachers certified.
- State of the State address – proud to acknowledge Lynne Cox as first teacher of deaf in country to receive National Board Certification.
- Thank all of you for dedication and commitment.
- Never forget I share your commitment, and will always work with you to help shape Mississippi's future.