

Main Points

1. Economic Development

- a. Top economic development strategists say when companies are looking for a place to locate or relocate they begin with a long list and start paring down from there

- b. New economic development plan
 - i. Input from people across the state
 - 1. Listening tours
 - 2. Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development
 - a. First ever public/private partnership

- c. 4 hour meeting with experts on economic development
 - i. This is a process that has taken the input and wisdom of people from inside and outside our borders.
 - ii. We are getting close to unveiling the plan and will do it so that Legislators and others have ample time to review it.

- d. NGA - Policy Academy on Entrepreneurship
 - i. Only 10 states selected
 - ii. Mississippi will create the model to be used nationwide
 - iii. Other governors recognize Mississippi as America's State of Promise

- e. Calls from other Governor's
 - i. Want to know what we are doing
 - ii. Keeping an eye on Mississippi

- f. Mississippi led the nation in the growth of service jobs and revenue between 1992 and 1997 – (Census Bureau report)

2. Highly-trained, technically-skilled and educated workforce is vital to future economic growth

- a. We must invest in our schools
- b. Elementary, Community & Junior College, Colleges & Universities

- c. We must invest in our teachers

- i. Raising teacher pay to the Southeastern average
 - 1. We will fund it. – A matter of priority
 - 2. Must be a priority in budget.

- d. We must invest in our students
 - i. Keeping good teachers, teaching in the classroom

- e. *Workforce Training*
 - i. Workforce development is not optional – it is vital to our success
 - ii. Opportunity for training and re-training
 - iii. Cultivating our greatest resource – our people
 - iv. Must access federal funds to enhance workforce training
 - v. Classroom technology
 - 1. Computer in every classroom by end of 2002 – AOL
 - a. Leading the nation
 - 2. Gates Foundation Grant- teaching technology skills to teachers.
 - a. Only 1 of 7 states to receive it.
 - 3. Magnolia
 - a. Opens up access from university and college libraries

to every public library in the state.

f. Better Schools = Better Jobs

Closing

1. We have been told we are 50th for so long
2. But we are leading the nation in so many areas
3. We have to believe in our state and the advancements we have made
4. Promote those advancements