

2nd Annual Safe Schools: A Parent's Perspective Conference
Thursday, October 12, 2000
12:00
Coliseum Clarion Hotel

The have asked for remarks concerning School Safety: A Parent's Perspective.

Opening

- Good Afternoon
- Thank you Dr. Richard Thompson for the introduction
- What a pleasure it is ...

Main Points

1. Mississippi's greatest asset is her people.
 - a. Mississippi's families are what make us strong
 - b. Our children are the future of the State of Mississippi
 - c. Our children must have safe classrooms in order to learn and fulfill their dreams
 - d. A safe place to study is not too much for a child to ask
 - i. A school is the only safe haven for many children

- e. Parents, teachers and administrators must work together to provide a safe environment for our children to learn

2. Fast Forward Mississippi

a. Schools-to-Careers Program

- i. Preparing our students for successful entry into the workplace
- ii. From K-college and beyond – opens door to realizing the vast career opportunities that await them
- iii. Web site www.fastforwardms.com
 - 1. Offers the best career choice website on the World Wide Web
 - 2. Career links – what type of education is needed for a career, salary, personality
 - 3. Career Chat – chat rooms where career professionals or mentors can interact with students about their career and obstacles that must be overcome
 - 4. Calculators – calculate future costs of college
- iv. Role for educators and business community

1. work hand in hand to bring education and “real world” experiences together.
2. Need involvement and leadership from people just like you

3. Mentoring Program

- a. This Statewide Mentoring Initiative is a positive and important way to influence the lives of Mississippi’s children by fostering positive educational and life goals.
- b. Research shows that students involved in a mentoring program are less likely to start using drugs, less physically violent, more interested in their school work, achieve better grades and develop positive relationships with their peers and parents.

Closing

- The best way to strengthen Mississippi’s future is to invest in our students
- The children of Mississippi have a bright future
- We must work together to accomplish great things for the people of this state