

*Remarks for the
Inaugural Convocation for Dr. Charles Lee
September 5, 2003*

- principle goal of education is to create people capable of doing new things
 - not of repeating what other generations have accomplished – people who are creative, inventive and discoverers.

- Dr. Lee, we are working toward that goal in Mississippi.
 - working to ensure all Mississippians benefit from education,
 - whether it is as a preschooler learning the basics of language
 - or an adult learning a new trade

- The process of education begins at the earliest age
 - the first day our children walk through the schoolhouse door isn't necessarily the beginning of the process.

- But when a child walks into a school for the first time, that's where our work begins.
 - That's where we start the process of investing in their promise and potential – in the hope they represent for a future yet to come
 - And that process continues throughout life.
 - It continues through high school, college and with adult learners, many of whom are learning new skills to improve their careers.

- Simply, we are building our foundation as strong and secure as we can.
 - biblical proverb about building a house on sand
 - are building ours on the most stable rock we can, and that rock is education.

- We've chosen a path covered with challenges and surrounded by opportunity
 - How we walk that path and use our resources will determine our success for generations to come

- Our commitment is focused, but our aim is broad
 - Education is where we build our success
 - we're going to do it.

- We have the tools to get this work done.
We have the people and the talent and the resources to get this work done.

- Dr. Lee, you have come to Mississippi at an exciting time. We've rolled up our sleeves taken on the challenge of hard work – the challenge of improving education for all Mississippians. Thank you for joining us in that work.

- On behalf of the people of Mississippi, I'm proud to welcome you – and I'm looking forward to working with you.
Congratulations on this day.