

Community Development Foundation  
Annual Membership Meeting  
BancorpSouth Center  
Thursday, May 4, 2000  
6:30 p.m.

Remember to stand up straight and use your radio voice (low tones).

## **Greeting**

## **Message**

- New Economic Development Plan
  - We need a coherent agenda for advancing our state economically
  - Currently have out-dated plans
  - DECD tour of Mississippi – 13 cities
  - Writing the plan for economic growth ( team effort )
  - Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development (co-chair Dwight Evans)
  - A first ever coalition of Mississippi's public and private sector leadership

- Will be unveiling a new economic plan – special session
  
- Jobs
  - We are not only focusing on bringing industry and business to Mississippi
  - Those businesses and industries must be able to provide jobs for Mississippians
  - Jobs that pay competitive salaries
  - Keep Mississippians working, building their lives and building their families in Mississippi
  - Quality of life

The two of the most important factors companies consider when relocating to a new area are:

1. A trained and qualified workforce

2. A good educational system to raise their children and provide an educated workforce for the future

- Qualified Workforce

- Businesses are looking for a well-educated, well-trained workforce
- Workforce training

- Education

- Campaign, Inaugural Address, State of the State Address – Raising teacher pay is the most critical issue facing the people of Mississippi.
- Signed the bill
- 5%
- Commitment to our teachers (trying to recruit teachers and keep them teaching in Mississippi)

- Commitment to our children (preparing them for the future)
- Must provide the children of Mississippi with the tools they will need to succeed in today's marketplace
- Technology
  - Today's marketplace is changing at such a fast rate
  - The number of web sites today compared to 1993
  - Classroom Technology Task Force – place an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom by the end of 2002
  - We are equipping our students

## **Closing**

- We are charged with the responsibility of setting the stage for Mississippi's future.

- Making a Mississippi that is better than today's Mississippi.