

Gulf Coast Community College Graduation Ceremony
Wednesday, May 9, 2001
7:15 p.m.
Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS (10 minutes)
Talking Points

- Good Evening.
- It is a pleasure for me to participate in this special event tonight.
- Any event that involves education and achievements in educations, I love to be involved with.
- As you may or may not know, I'm a product of Mississippi's outstanding community and junior college system.
- (Story about attending Northwest – a special teacher, special event – how well the experience prepared you for your transition to Ole Miss.)
- (Boy Singing in Choir Story)

- We all must be prepared in our ever-changing world.
- We cannot be content and “sit on our laurels,” we will fall behind and the world will pass us by.
- In Mississippi, we have 8 exceptional universities from which you are able to choose, if you continue your education.
- I want to strongly encourage each of you to continue learning.
- A prepared, educated mind will lead to a successful life and career.
- You cannot let someone else hold you back; you cannot let their opinion of who you are influence who you know you are.
- We must be confident in our opinion of ourselves and of our state.
- Lucille Ball was kicked out of acting school when she was 18. The headmaster wrote her mother and said Lucille was the least talented actress they’d ever seen.

- Did she give up? No, and neither should you.
- You can achieve unprecedented goals and unparalleled progress, if you choose to.
- In Mississippi you have a world of opportunities.
- We are creating an atmosphere for an even better quality of life for all Mississippians.
- You have the opportunity to live, work and raise your families here.
- I do not want my children to have to leave our great state because they do not have the opportunities here, at home.
- Congratulations on this milestone you have achieved today, follow your dreams and make them happen.
- Good Luck!