

Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet
Friday, January 12, 2001
6:30 p.m.
Casino Magic Entertainment Complex

(Message: Opportunities for Economic Development Growth and Education
in Hancock County)

Opening

- Good Evening
- (Thank Dusty Rhodes for his introduction)
- (Wedding Dress Story)

(Physical boundaries are only geographic distinctions. Mississippi can do business with anyone in the world.)

Main Points

1. Advantage Mississippi Initiative
 - a. Opportunity for economic growth.
 - b. Designed for all 82 counties of the State.
 - c. It provides initiatives to attract businesses to MS.
 - d. Targets programs to assist:
 - i. Rural communities.
 - ii. Communities with low unemployment rates.

- iii. Minority businesses.
- iv. Small businesses.
- e. Rural Development Office
 - i. Making communities aware of opportunities
 - ii. Getting them the information they need to pursue these opportunities.
- f. On-TARGET Community Certification Program
 - i. Helps community leaders recruit, retain and grow business that suit their communities
- g. Capital Access Program (CAP)
 - i. Encourages and supports entrepreneurship among small business and minority-owned business
- h. World Trade Center status to Mississippi
 - i. To extend Mississippi's emergence in the global economy.

(Nissan is proof that we can succeed and attract more companies to MS. We now have the AMI as a “marketing tool” to do that.)

2. Nissan

- a. They have shown their faith in our state.
 - i. Top 1% in the nation

- b. Mississippi is the spotlight of the nation
- c. 4000 new jobs will be created with their arrival.
 - i. 26,000 spin-off jobs
 - ii. Other companies related to Nissan will move to MS.
 - iii. They will relocate all over the state, not just in Canton.
 - 1. Opportunities all over the state will spin-off from the Nissan plant.
 - iv. We must target other companies that best suit specific areas of our state.
- d. We must keep up the momentum
 - i. We are happy to “land” Nissan, but we want more businesses to move to MS
 - ii. We want more jobs, more economic development, more opportunities.
 - iii. We want to be in that “spotlight” again and again for the great things happening in Mississippi.

- Everyone plays a role in our state’s success. We all have to work together to succeed, make changes and create progress.
- We also have to concentrate on educating our children and training the current workforce

3. Education

- a. A key component in our State's economic success
- b.

(The world is taking notice, and we must continue to spread the word about Mississippi.)

Closing

- Mississippi's Image: Important how our neighbors, our nation and the world view us.
- How Mississippi is perceived affects us in all aspects: economic development, education, healthcare, etc.
- We have the opportunity to promote a positive image.
- We put the spotlight on Mississippi throughout the nation and world with the Nissan announcement, but there are more opportunities waiting for us.
- A place where our children can live, work and raise their families.
- America's State of Promise