

Jobs for Mississippi Graduates Fund Raiser  
Thursday, April 26, 2001  
12:00 noon  
Beau Rivage

### **Talking Points**

- Good Afternoon!
- Education is the key to all our future success in Mississippi.
- Mississippi's future depends on how well we prepare our children to enter the workforce and compete in a global, high-tech marketplace.
- Jobs for Mississippi Graduates targets at-risk and disadvantaged youth and assist them in graduating from high school and in finding and keeping quality jobs.
- Education is the number one priority of my administration.
- Because it is a top priority for all Mississippians.

- We are continually looking for new, innovative ways to improve education and work force training for the people of Mississippi.
- The Jobs for Mississippi Graduates program is unique because it forms a partnership with businesses.
- Businesses have a direct impact on a young person's life by providing internships.
- These internships give the youth hands-on experience where they gain knowledge and interact with other employees.
- The Jobs for Mississippi Graduates program is an excellent opportunity of which many Mississippians take advantage.
- Last year, 543 students participated in this program and 94% of them graduated.
- This is proof that the program works.
- The goal is reach 100 of the state's high schools over the next 4 years, which serve in excess of 4,000 at-risk or disadvantaged youth.

- Thank you for your support in continuing to make this program a success.
- Thank you for being a partner in improving and shaping the lives of Mississippi's youth.
- Jobs for Mississippi Graduates is a non-profit corporation that is now actively seeking investments by the private sector to help leverage more public-sector funding and make it possible to reach more of Mississippi's youth.
- This program is a powerful, proven and cost-effective way to invest in helping the state's future workers, leaders and taxpayers.
- Thank you for your help and support.
- The nation and the world are taking notice of our progress.
- Mississippians are working together, helping make our state an even better place to live, work and raise a family.