

*Remarks for the
Lextron/Visteon Ribbon Cutting
February 4, 2003*

- Recognize Jim Nelson/other dignitaries
- Great to be here today for this ribbon cutting
 - Another example of MS preparing for the future today
- Impact of national recession
 - More than \$7 trillion lost in stock market
 - More than a million Americans out of work
 - States cutting school week / releasing prisoners / massive lay-offs

- Effects of national recession touches everyone
 - Recession has no respect for political parties
 - Every state affected

- Have to deal with the impact here in MS
 - Protect people in short term / prepare for long term

- Best way to do that is through education
 - Everybody benefits from good schools

- Education must be first priority for MS
 - Making great progress
 - Teacher pay
 - Test scores
 - Computers in Classroom

- Keeping education a priority with a budget that puts Schools First / 62 percent
 - *HISTORIC ACTION THAT IS BEING TAKEN*
 - *UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION*
 - *LOOKING FORWARD TO SIGNING BILL WEDNESDAY*

- Budget is key issue of legislative session
 - Must budget based on real numbers, not on hope
 - Recognize House and Senate for historic action
 - Funding education at 62%
 - Fully funding MAEP for the first time
 - Funds teacher pay raise

- Particular investment in higher education /
\$200M “brain trust”
 - Recruit best minds for research,
development, workforce training
 - Higher education has critical role in
economic development

- Time to prove to people of MS we’re serious
about education
 - Make the investment now for dividends
tomorrow

- When it comes to education, we mean
business
 - Business means jobs

- MS Rural Economic Impact Authority
 - \$20M to help with economic development in rural areas
 - Funding to cover workforce training at community colleges

- We have to look to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities

- Have to continue investing in education
 - More computers in classrooms
 - Higher test scores
 - Better funding for higher education
 - More facilities like Lextron/Visteon

- Lextron/Visteon will help the future of MS
 - Appreciate work that will be done here

- Will Rogers quote: Even if on right track, will get run over if you just sit there
 - MS is on the right track, and we're moving