

*Remarks to the  
MS Association of Community and Junior Colleges  
February 12, 2003*

■ Recognize

- Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck
- Speaker Tim Ford (if he is present)
- Dr. Tommy Davis – Chair, MS Assoc.  
of Comm. and Junior Colleges, also  
Pres. of East MS Comm. College
- Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Ex. Dir., State  
Board for Comm. and Junior Colleges
- Mrs. Jeanette Atkins, Pres., MS Assoc.  
of Comm. and Junior College Trustees
- Phil Flynn, Pres., MS Comm. and  
Junior College Inter-Alumni Assoc.
- Larry Sylvester, Pres. MS Faculty  
Assoc. for Comm. and Junior Colleges

- Story of Jordan / 15-point buck / priorities
  
- Priorities for MS / jobs and education
  
- Meeting these priorities not always easy,  
especially in schools
  
- Education is the priority now
  - REPRESENTS HISTORIC ACTION
  - UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION
  - MISSISSIPPI IS MOVING FORWARD

## ■ Impact of national recession

- More than \$7 trillion lost in stock market
- More than two 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
  
- Comprehensive plan for education
  - Funding education at 62%
  - Fully funding MAEP for the first time
  - Funds teacher pay raise
  - Funds Comm. and Junior Colleges
    - Workforce development and training

- Brain trust focuses on stopping flow of best and brightest out of MS
  - 10 year commitment of \$200M matched by universities and colleges
  - Build MS's intellectual capacity / research capabilities
  - Grants for graduate assistants to stay in MS / cultivate teachers
  - More momentum for economic development
  
- *We've invested hundreds of millions of dollars in buildings*
  - *Time to invest in people*

- We are making a difference
  - Teacher pay from 49<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Computers in the Classroom/ NGA says first in the nation/ MS “at head of wave of technological innovation”
  - MS one of six states for “Following the Leaders”/ No Child Left Behind
  - Leadership Summit/six priorities from early childhood to adult learning
  - Princeton Review - #6 best testing in the nation

- Investments in education benefit every Mississippian, not just students
  - People want to live in good communities
  - Good schools, good jobs, good communities
  
- Those are the results of good leadership
  - Those are the results our people demand and deserve
  
- The bills I signed last week fund education for one year, but the fight we fought and won, changes the way we fund education forever.

- Gone are the days when we fund education the last week of the session.
  
- Gone are the days when our school children compete for funding with convicted felons in our prisons.
  
- Gone are the days when we shortchange our schools.
  
- Gone are the days when we shortchange our future.
  
- **MISSISSIPPI HAS ENTERED A NEW ERA**