

*Remarks to the
MINACT, INC. 25th Anniversary Banquet
February 18, 2003*

- Recognize dignitaries

- Good jobs demand preparation through education

- MINACT shares in this belief
 - Vision is to be leading provider of quality training and support services to its customers

- MINACT finds success in improving student performance
 - That's where MS will find success as well

■ For us all to succeed, must have priorities in order

■ Jordan / 15-point buck / priorities

■ Priorities for MS / jobs and education

○ Appreciate MINACT sharing in these priorities

■ Keeping education a priority with a budget that puts Schools First / 62 percent

○ *HISTORIC ACTION THAT WAS TAKEN*

○ *UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION*

○ *WAS A HISTORIC DAY WHEN SIGNED EDUCATION BILLS*

- Comprehensive plan for education
 - Funding education at 62%
 - Fully funding MAEP for the first time
 - Funds teacher pay raise

- We are making a difference
 - Teacher pay
 - Computers in the Classroom

- The bills I signed two weeks ago fund education for one year, but the fight we fought and won, changes the way we fund education forever.

- Investments in education benefit every Mississippian, not just students

- We share a common goal of wanting our young people to be better educated, and this will result in more qualified individuals to serve in the job
 - Good schools, good jobs, good communities

- Values driving MINACT are the same ones that Mississippi should have for its young people.
 - Quality, development of people, empowerment, accountability.

- Accountability is the key
 - Must hold each other accountable for getting the job done
 - Preparing our young people -- and MS -
- for success

- Those are the results of good leadership
 - Those are the results our people demand and deserve

- Will Rogers quote: Even if on right track, will get run over if you just sit there