

Mississippi Association of Partners in Education
Annual Seminar
Monday, October 16, 2000
8:30 a.m.
Jackson Hilton Hotel Grand Ballroom

Speaking on the link between Education and Economic Development

Opening

- Good Morning
- Thank Beth Fisher for her introduction

Main Points

1. Strong economic development begins with a strong education
 - a. Good education = Good jobs
 - b. Business and industry are looking for a strong workforce
 - i. Well educated and skilled people
 - c. That strong education begins in K-12
 - i. Good teachers
 1. Competitive salaries
 - a. Helps recruit students into teaching field
 - b. Keeps good teachers in the classroom

- ii. Computers in the classroom
 - 1. Internet-accessible computers
 - 2. Task Force – goal end of 2002.

(Wedding Dress Story)

We have been working over the past few months to let people from every corner of our state know about the new economic development plan that we developed for the State of Mississippi

- 2. New Economic Development Plan
 - a. Now Mississippi has a management tool to sell the state
 - i. Designed by business leaders across the state and noted E.D. experts throughout the nation
 - ii. Had the strong support of business people and local developers
 - iii. They knew how important it was for our plan to pass and become reality
 - iv. We are in direct competition with our sister states
 - b. The plan helps those communities that have not prospered
 - i. Gives opportunities for all cities/counties

- ii. Sends a signal to the nation –
Mississippi is serious about business
- c. More, higher paying jobs for people of Mississippi
 - i. Competing with other states for those jobs
 - ii. We now have a competitive advantage
 - iii. Creates a better Quality of Life for every person in all 82 counties

Closing

- Combine plans for improving education and economy = Great future for all Mississippians
- We are working in the best interest of our people for a brighter future
- We all need to work together
- America's State of Promise