

*Remarks for the
Mississippi Center for Non-Profits Annual Conference
June 27, 2002*

- Thank you for the invitation to be here with you today.
- I would like to welcome Tracy Gray to our state. Thank you so much for all of your work founding 17 non-profits and for your thoughts this morning to the non-profit leaders in Mississippi.
- I would also like to welcome William Hunsberger, publisher of the Clarion Ledger and Keith Parsons, President of MS Cener for Non-profit Board.

- Mention Community Stewpot, Miss. Food Network, Gateway Rescue Mission, Miss. Blood Services, Make-A-Wish... explaining how these organizations or foundations contribute to the overall sense of well being in our community and state.

- International Ballet is currently in Jackson, use art organizations and mention Thalia Mara how she was instrumental in bringing the IBC to Jackson. Mississippi Opera and the Mississippi Symphony also represent our state well and make the residents proud.

- The non-profits, community assistance, art, emergency response, and economic development, are a vital part of Mississippi, and I appreciate all of your hard work to make each organization and our state a better place.
- Emergency and Crisis Response organizations assisted not only Mississippi in a critical time but also America. Mississippi Blood Services and others worked endlessly in September to increase the number of blood donors in the wake of September 11 along with other organizations in Miss who raised money or sent volunteers to New York.

- Last year, I spoke to you about the partnership between organizations that contribute to economic growth such as Mississippi Economic Council and the State of Mississippi.
- Last year, these organizations began partnering together to put an internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom by the end of this year.

- To date, 33% of our classrooms have these computers and 100% will have a computer in every classroom by December 31. When I became governor of Mississippi all schools in our state needed a computer in each classroom and we are making that a reality.
- Great potential here in Mississippi – I am committed to doing whatever it takes to fulfill that potential for the people of our great state.

- I want to also say “thank you” to Nathan Woodliff-Stanley for his work the past 10 years at the Mississippi Center for Non-Profits’ as the founder and executive director.
- Nathan is leaving the Center for Non-Profits to become an ordained minister, another sector of non-profits which have an obvious impact on our state and community.

- Nathan, we will miss you and your family. Our prayers and best wishes are with you for a safe move to Colorado.

- The Center for Non-Profits as well as the non-profit organizations will miss your leadership, but I know you will make great impacts on the lives you touch as you move into the ministry. You have worked to make Mississippi a better place. Godspeed and good luck.