

Mississippi Labor Management Conference
Monday, July 24
Isle of Capri Crown Plaza Resort
Biloxi, MS
1:45 p.m.

Remember to use low tones, slow down and breathe.

Opening

1. Good afternoon
2. It is a pleasure to be here
3. story

Intro

1. Mississippi is judged, and opinions are formed about our state because of the action of those of us inside the state.
2. Our people are our best ambassadors
3. We have the opportunity to do great things
4. We must develop those things in our state that make the quality of life for our people better.

Main Points

1. Economic Development
 - a. Top economic development strategists say when companies begin with a long list and start paring down from there
 - i. Mississippi is not making the long list

- ii. we are not competitive
- iii. changes had to be made

b. New economic development plan

- i. Input from people across the state
 - 1. Listening tours
 - 2. Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development
 - a. First ever public/private partnership
- ii. Must be competitive
- iii. We are being watched all the time-we just don't know it

c. Policy Academy on Entrepreneurship

- i. Only 10 states selected
- ii. Mississippi will create the model to be used nationwide
- iii. Other governors recognize Mississippi as America's State of Promise

2. Highly-trained, technically-skilled and educated workforce is vital to future economic growth

- a. We must invest in our schools
- b. Elementary, Community & Junior College, Colleges & Universities
- c. *Workforce Training*

- i. Workforce development is not optional
– it is vital to our success
- ii. Opportunity for training and re-training
- iii. Cultivating our greatest resource – our people
- iv. Must access federal funds to enhance workforce training

d. Classroom technology

- 1. Computer in every classroom by end of 2002 – AOL
 - a. Leading the nation
- 2. Gates Foundation Grant- teaching technology skills to teachers.
 - a. Only 1 of 7 states to receive it.
- 3. Magnolia
 - a. Opens up access from university and college libraries to every public library in the state.

e. Better Schools = Better Jobs

Closing

- 1. We have been told we are 50th for so long
- 2. We are leading the nation in so many areas
- 3. We have to believe in our state and the advancements we have made
- 4. Promote those advancements

