

*Remarks for the
Mississippi Conference on Women
March 20, 2002*

Good morning. I'm proud to be here with you today as part of the 2002 Mississippi Women's Conference. This event coincides with "National Women's History Month" and offers a wealth of issues for your discussion.

The role of women in today's workforce is strong. Women represent almost half of our national labor pool, and that is a strong statistic.

Your accomplishments have had a tremendous impact on our success and our growth as a state and as a nation, and they cannot be ignored.

Times have changed for women. Instead of simply finishing school and raising a family, young women are earning college and graduate degrees. They are helping shape our economy, our society and our future.

I have a 13-year-old daughter, and I am excited about what she's going to accomplish with her life.

She knows that she can do whatever she wants – that no goal is too big, no dream is too large. We need to teach this to all our children – they can do anything and be anyone they choose to be.

We've all been given gifts in life, and it's up to us alone to put them to use – in our business, in our schools, in our places of worship, in our homes.

By giving of ourselves, we can build a better state for others. By making the most of our gifts, we can make a difference.

Today, you will focus on the tremendous gifts you possess, and how to make the most of them. I appreciate those gifts and their potential for Mississippi.

Aldous Huxley once wrote that “experience is not what happens to you; it’s what you do with what happens to you.” Make the most of the experiences you have, and the impact will benefit us all.

I wish you the best for a successful conference.