

National Education Summit
“A Critical Balance”
Tuesday, March 27, 2001
3:00 p.m.

(Message: Promoting, strengthening and expanding education in Mississippi with innovative technology and the Internet)

Opening

- Good Afternoon
- (Dr. Richard Thompson will introduce you)
- (Story – You learning to use the Internet and how much you depend on a computer)

Main Point

1. Education
 - a. A strong education system is vital to all future successes for the people of our state.
 - b. Our success in economic development depends on our continued success and advancement in education.
 - i. High tech companies need high-tech employees.
 - ii. Our schools, K-University, are preparing our children for this market.
 - c. We must continue to invest in opportunities for our children

- i. We can do this by investing in education,
 - ii. Making it our #1 priority.
- d. We have been investing and will continue to invest.
- e. We are now seeing results from our efforts
 - i. Teacher pay raise
 - 1. 49th in the nation to 19th
 - 2. Computers in the Classroom Task Force
 - a. Over half way to our goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom in MS by 2002.
 - 3. Better accountability plans for teachers and schools.
 - 4. www.FastForwardMS.com
 - 5. Mississippi is at the forefront on testing standards
 - 6. National Board Certified Teachers
 - a. Consistently in the top 5.
- f. We are looking for most ways to make our educational system the envy of the nation.
- g. We are not satisfied with where we are – we want more for our children.

- h. They are living and competing in a global society, a global marketplace
 - i. They must be prepared.
- i. In order for MS to remain competitive, we must continue to support programs that give our people the opportunity for more, new, high-paying jobs.
- j. For years we have been quietly investing in economic development and education, and now we are beginning to reap the benefits.
- k. Rewards of this long-term investment are here.