

- Recognize:
 - John Murray (CEO of PLATO)
 - Tom Greaves (One of founding engineers of the computer systems)
 - James Riesterer (Vice-President Marketing- PLATO)
 - Teachers, professors, administrators, and technology directors from public and private schools

- pleasure to be here / celebrate your 10th Annual Education Technology Conference

- Since 1963 you've been an innovator in the field of educational software

- nation's leading company in computer technology for kindergarten through twelfth graders
 - recognized, as we have in the state of Mississippi, the importance
 - proper resources teachers need
 - children every opportunity they deserve

- provide school administrators, teachers, and students the opportunity to literally have the world at their fingertips

- Story about Jordan/ 15-point buck/ priorities

- Mississippi has its priorities straight
 - Education, investment, accountability
 - Improving quality of life for all of our 2.8 million citizens

- As Governor these are the priorities I have focused on

- Investing for the people of Mississippi
today, for dividends tomorrow

- By working together, we have accomplished
a lot, but it hasn't been easy:
 - Every state impacted by national
recession
 - More than \$7 trillion lost in stock
market
 - June 2003 report from Bureau of Labor
Statistics: 9.4 million Americans out of
work –NAFTA 41,000 to Mexico
 - Alabama, Texas and Florida are raising
taxes and Arkansas is cutting services.
Mississippi has refused to follow

- Image of MS in 2003 far different than the image most know
 - Moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
 - Competing and leading in the global marketplace
 - Setting new standards for education and economic development

- Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Computers in the Classroom
 - Accountability
 - Princeton Review: 12th best testing system in nation

- Leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind”
- Our test scores are improving
- Last month we announced our State Accountability system, more than 80% of Mississippi public schools have achieved a rating of Level 3/Successful or higher.
- Under the federal NCLB accountability system, 50% of MS schools met the Adequate Yearly Progress requirements for reading/language arts and math.
- NCLB score: Alabama – 33%, Delaware – 43%, Tennessee – 53%, and Florida 13%

- 6th in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
 - Historic action of funding education first
 - The youth of Mississippi are 1/3 of the population, yet all of our future
 - Good Schools = Good Jobs
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- We all recognize that schools are the cornerstones of our communities and the key to a successful economy
 - We are giving our children more opportunity than they've ever had before
 - Mississippi has experienced significant growth over the past three years

- We are aggressive about creating good paying, quality jobs for all Mississippians
 - Over 2,200 new and expanded facilities
 - More than 56,000 new jobs
 - Total investment in Mississippi nearly \$15 billion

- The best thing for a child to see everyday on their way to school is their parents on the way to a good job

- The image of the Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - It's an image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs

- It's an image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk
- It's an image of global companies looking for a place to do business in the state

- It's an image you're helping us build every day through your work in computer technology

- Your mission - To ensure the success of all learners throughout their lifetimes and
 - Similar to me wanting to provide all Mississippi children with a quality education so that they can compete nationally

- Your Values - We are Leaders, not followers, who demand the highest standards, embrace meaningful change, and insist upon:
Accountability, Trust & Mutual Respect, Hard Work, Honesty/Integrity, Consistency/Fairness
 - Speaks volumes and is what we all should strive for when trying to be productive citizens
- Thank you for inviting me and I hope your conference is a success

