

School-To-Careers Forum
“Enhancing Mississippi’s Educated Workforce”
Monday, April 23, 2001
12:00 Noon
Hilton Hotel

(Message: 10-15 minutes – We are working together, forming partnerships, to continue preparing our children and our workforce with the needed skills and education for the continued advancement and growth of MS.)

Opening

- Good Afternoon
- (Boy singing in choir story – Mississippi must be ready for changes)

Main Points

1. Opportunities to Prioritize

- a. Mississippians now, more than ever, have many opportunities from which to choose.
- b. We must be ready for the future – ready for changes – ready for the “new economy.”
- c. Workforce development is critical to our continued advancement and growth as a state.
- d. We want more opportunities in:
 - i. Education
 1. The cornerstone of our success.
 - ii. Economic Development

1. More job opportunities for Mississippians.
- e. We must use these as guidelines to become more competitive in the global marketplace.
 1. These are the priorities of the people.
- f. Education and economic development go hand in hand.
- g. A state must have trained employees for potential new businesses.
 - i. High-tech companies must have high-tech employees.
 - ii. We are investing in good jobs for our people
 1. Nissan
 - a. Is only the beginning.
 - b. The AMI gave Mississippi the competitive advantage.
 2. Supplier opportunities
 - a. Creating thousands of spin-off jobs for Mississippians
 - b. Potential for 26,000 for all of Mississippi.
- h. Give our people the opportunity for an even **better** Quality of Life

- i. Our students and our adult learners must have the proper skills and training for the global economy.
- ii. We are no longer an assembly line workforce in Mississippi.
 - 1. We are a skilled workforce.
- i. Mississippi must continue to invest.
 - i. The key is prioritizing and investing our money in the right places.
 - ii. We want to be more competitive.
 - iii. We want positive changes for our state.
- j. (Recognize School-to-Careers for its efforts in preparing our students for college and the workforce.)
 - i. This is a prime example of a successful partnership working for the betterment of Mississippi.

2. Promoting a more Positive Image of our State

- a. Mississippi's Image: Important how our neighbors, our nation and the world view us.
- b. How Mississippi is perceived affects us in all aspects:
 - i. Economic development
 - ii. Education

- c. We have opportunities to promote a positive image.
- d. We must join together and concentrate on making Mississippi an even better place to live, work and raise a family.
- e. Companies are placing their faith in our state.
 - i. They have recognized the “untapped potential” in Mississippi.
 - ii. They are beginning to take advantage of it.
- f. The world is taking notice, and we must continue to spread the word about Mississippi.
 - i. Mississippi is Open for Business, not just in the U.S., but also around the world.
- g. We put the spotlight on Mississippi throughout the nation and world with the Nissan announcement, but there are more opportunities waiting for us.

Closing

- Mississippi is headed forward.
- It takes everyone working together to move our state forward – locally and statewide.

- We are not going to turn back the clocks and disrupt our progress.
- We want more great opportunities for the people of Mississippi.
- We want our children to have the opportunity to live, work and raise their families here.
- Everyone plays a role in our success.
- Working together we can and will make it happen.
 - Partnerships are the key.
- The people of Mississippi deserve that commitment.
- The children of Mississippi deserve that commitment.
- Our future depends on everyone working as a team in Mississippi.
- Making plans now for an even better Mississippi will ensure that future generations continue to succeed in our state.