

*Remarks for the
Tougaloo College Commencement
May 16, 2003*

President Clinton, President Hogan, Congressman Thompson, Mayor Johnson, members of the Board of Trustees, honored guests, graduates – thank you for the invitation to join you here this morning.

Mr. President, the young men and women graduating here today represent the best Mississippi has to offer – minds of intelligence, spirits of creativity, and dreams of greatness.

Today, these graduates have opportunities to use their minds, unleash their spirits and realize their dreams right here in Mississippi.

Such opportunities are available because everyone here made a commitment to the people of this state to make the most of our promise and potential. We have dedicated ourselves to setting new standards in education and job creation, standards that other states will look to as models of excellence.

In one month, on June 18th, Tougaloo will celebrate its 134th birthday. Part of your school's founding tenet is training young people "for the benefit of our citizens in general." I ask you to continue the tradition begun over a hundred years ago.

One of the slogans of the alumni association -- which you the graduates are about to join -- is "Where history meets the future." As graduates of one of Mississippi's most prestigious schools, you are that future.

Stay focused on your dreams. With your generation of leadership in our state, our future is even brighter.

Congratulations, and may God Bless you, and God Bless America.