

## **Major Initiatives**

The State of Mississippi is entering a new century. As we embark on this journey, we look forward to continued success and growth. Mississippi has seen changes this year, and we are ready to make even more positive differences for the people of Mississippi.

Capital investments in new and expanded facilities were estimated at \$1.7 billion during the first three quarters of 2000, according to the Mississippi Development Authority. Of this total, \$503 million was in manufacturing facilities, a larger amount than during the corresponding period in 1999. This total does not include the location of a \$930 million automobile manufacturing plant announced by Nissan in November.

The Advantage Mississippi Initiative is allowing us to become more competitive with other states. The incentives in the package are attracting companies around the world to do business with Mississippi. Nissan has shown their faith in our state and her people; other companies will soon follow their lead.

Beginning this year, Mississippian will see changes in the way they conduct government business. With the frequency of our use of computers, it is time for Mississippians to be able to easily access Mississippi government services. E-Government will offer more accessible government services to the people of Mississippi. By October 2001, e-Government will allow us to deliver more convenient government services to our people.

The Task Force on Classroom Technology, which will oversee the placement of an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom in the state by 2002, is bringing Mississippi one step closer to becoming a leader in the world of education across the nation. We are working with MCI WorldCom to bring Broadband Internet access to every rural community in Mississippi, and we are bringing the educational tools our students need to prepare them for the workforce.

A new website to help our children prepare for a bright future in Mississippi was launched this year, under our administration. Fast Forward Mississippi ([www.fastforwardms.com](http://www.fastforwardms.com)) guides students in kindergarten through college on the career path of their choice.

Raising teacher pay in Mississippi to the Southeastern average was a milestone in our goal to become number one in education. A raise in teacher salaries will in turn lead to even better education for our children. We are able to better recruit new teachers and retain the great ones we have. Indeed, our children have a bright future.

Healthcare for Mississippi's children is more readily available since the start of 2000. Under Governor Musgrove's leadership, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides much needed insurance coverage to Mississippi children of working families, has seen more than 18,000 additional Mississippi children enrolled. This is an increase of 36 times the number covered when the Governor took office.

We are on the way to becoming America's State of Promise. We are willing and able to be number one in the nation. We are joining forces, crossing agency and political lines, to accomplish more for the people of Mississippi. We have the potential, and we are beginning to utilize our assets to their fullest potential.