

December 1, 2000

As the year comes to an end, Mississippi finds itself in the spotlight of the nation and the world as people take notice of the accomplishments we have made for the people of the State of Mississippi. **Following is a copy of the current newsletter to be distributed to each of your employees.**

Mississippi continues to enjoy exceptional growth and unprecedented economic development. In August, we created a new economic development plan, the Advantage Mississippi Initiative. With the passage of supporting legislation, Mississippi now has the advantage over competing states to attract new industries to our state. Nissan Motor Company has taken notice and shown their faith; other companies are sure to follow.

A quality education for all Mississippians is vital to our success. We must educate and train Mississippi's children and recruit exceptional teachers for our state. Our children demand the best education that Mississippi can provide, and this spring we passed a bill, which will raise teacher pay in Mississippi to the Southeastern average.

In May 2000, we unveiled a new plan of action to promote the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides much needed insurance coverage to Mississippi children of working families. Because of this plan, more than 18,000 additional Mississippi children have access to healthcare, an increase of 36 times the number covered at the start of my administration.

As Mississippi enters a new century, we look forward to new opportunities. We will continue to improve education, economic development, healthcare and public safety. As Governor, I am excited about what Mississippi has to offer the nation and the world. All state employees working together will be able to accomplish great things for Mississippi.

We will continue to work together to make Mississippi an even better place to live, work and visit.

Very truly yours,

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