

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Teens on the Move Conference  
Tuesday, April 3, 2001  
9:30 a.m.  
Mississippi Coliseum

(Message: The empowerment of young people and their ability to succeed)

## **Opening**

- Good Morning!
- (Commissioner Huggins will introduce you)
- (Super Bowl Story)

## **Main Points**

1. Opportunities
  - a. Mississippians (YOU) now, more than ever, have many opportunities from which to choose.
  - b. Opportunities in:
    - i. Education
    - ii. Jobs
  - c. Education and economic development go hand in hand.
  - d. A state must have trained employees for potential new businesses.
    - i. High-tech companies must have high-tech employees.
    - ii. Mississippi has these people, and we are continuing that training.
  - e. We have opportunities to invest:

- i. We are investing in education for our you
  - 1. Teacher pay raise
    - a. 49<sup>th</sup> in nation to 19<sup>th</sup>,
  - 2. Computers in the Classroom
    - a. Over half way to our goal,
  - 3. [www.FastForwardMS.com](http://www.FastForwardMS.com)
  - 4. National Board Certified Teachers
- 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.
- f. Give our people the opportunity for an even **better** Quality of Life
- g. Mississippi must invest.
  - i. The key is prioritizing and investing our money in the right places.
    - 1. Economic development
    - 2. Education

## 2. Empowerment

- a. “You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist,” Indira Gandhi.
- b. You must have an open mind and a willing heart to make a difference.
- c. You can communicate with your state and federal representatives.
  - i. Be active in letting them know about issues that are important to you and your community.
- d. Get involved in programs that can make a difference in your life and the life of others.
  - i. Volunteer
  - ii. Mentor
- e. Encourage your family and friends to be active in programs.
- f. Get your education
  - i. The more you know, the more you will have to offer an employer, an organization and your community.
  - ii. You have the opportunity to do anything.
    1. Consider all your options.
  - iii. “The world is your oyster.”
  - iv. Go to a community college,
  - v. Go to a university,
  - vi. Go to a trade school,

- vii. Learn another language.
- viii. All of these avenues will benefit you in the future.
- g. Do not let anyone tell you that you are not capable of doing something.
  - i. If you believe you can, if you have the desire and determination to succeed, then you can.
  - ii. It is better to try something and fail, than to never try and regret that decision for the rest of your life.
  - iii. At least you tried. You made the effort. I
  - iv. Life is a learning experience.

### 3. Success

- a. “What you are speaks so loudly, I can’t hear a word you are saying,” Emerson (American essayist and poet).
- b. What you can do and what you do, are remembered and more noticeable than things you say you can do or will do.
- c. The old saying, “actions speak louder than words,” is true.
- d. You are teens on the move; you are making a difference.
- e. You are saying no to drugs and alcohol.
- f. You are positive role models.

- g. This is often hard to do, in today's society.
- h. I commend you for your courage!
  - i. You deserve a big round of applause (start applause).
  - ii. Teens like you are the future of Mississippi.
  - iii. You are the leaders of tomorrow.

## **Closing**

- Mississippi's Image: Important how our neighbors, our nation and the world view us.
- How Mississippi is perceived affects us in all aspects: economic development, education, tourism, etc.
- We have the opportunity to promote a positive image.
- Remove obstacle that hinder our success.
- The world is taking notice, and we must continue to spread the word about Mississippi.
- A place where our children can live, work and raise their families.
- Everyone plays a role in our state's success.
- We all have to work together to succeed, make changes and create progress.
- America's State of Promise