

*Remarks for the
Advanced Technology Center Groundbreaking
January 13, 2003*

- Recognize Dr. William Lewis / other dignitaries

- Great to be here today for this groundbreaking
 - Another example of MS preparing for the future today

- Times are tough / national recession
 - Effects of recession fall on just and unjust / Democrat and Republican
 - Have to prepare for day when recession will end
 - That's what we're doing here

- Education must be first priority for MS
 - Making great progress
 - Teacher pay
 - Test scores
 - Computers in Classroom

- Investment in education must reflect priority
 - Must be funded at 62% of general fund
 - Have called on Legislature to do so by end of January / one bill

- Particular investment in higher education / \$200M “brain trust”
 - Recruit best minds for research, development, workforce training
 - Higher education has critical role in economic development

- Time to prove to people of MS we’re serious about education
 - Make the investment now for dividends tomorrow

- When it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs

- MS Rural Economic Impact Authority
 - \$20M to help with economic development in rural areas
 - Funding to cover workforce training at community colleges

- We have to look to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities

- Have to continue investing in education
 - More computers in classrooms
 - Higher test scores
 - Better funding for higher education
 - More facilities like the Advanced Technology Center

- Advanced Technology will help advance people of MS
 - Appreciate work that will be done here
 - Look forward to visiting when complete

- Will Rogers quote: Even if on right track, will get run over if you just sit there
 - MS is on the right track, and we're moving