

Best Western Hotel  
Cleveland, Mississippi  
4:00 p.m.

Talking Points

- What a pleasure it is for me to be here.
- Story
- The grand opening of this new hotel is a great example of prosperity and growth in the Delta.
- We want to ensure that the Delta, and all parts of our state experience economic growth.
- We will make that happen through our new economic development plan for the state of Mississippi, The Advantage Mississippi Initiative.
- With this plan we are giving the people of our state the advantage for more and better paying jobs.
- Just think about how the world has changed in the last 5 to 10 years.

- Websites
- Cellular phones
- Business from home

- The plan we currently have has worked fine for many years, but it is time to make changes that meet the needs of businesses and industry looking to locate, relocate or expand their existing business in Mississippi.
- We are not making the short list of many companies because we don't offer the types of incentives and programs that they are looking for.
- The Advantage Mississippi Initiative is fact-based and comprehensive.
- It will help us to compete in rural areas and enhance our more developed areas throughout the state.
- Many of our Delta counties will:
  - qualify for tax free zones for counties where unemployment stands at 200% or greater
  - enhanced training efforts

- scholarship fund
- Division of MDA responsible for rural development
- Agriculture/Agribusiness Round Table
  
- Accountable – report card.
  
- Legislators will have the opportunity at our special session to move us in the right direction.
  
- We are ensuring that Mississippi is America’s State of Promise.
  
- And the opening of this new hotel is helping us do just that.