

Good afternoon! Thank you for that warm welcome and for your invitation to be here. On behalf of Governor Ronnie Musgrove, it is a pleasure to welcome you today to the 2000 Summer Adult Education Conference.

On behalf of the Governor, I would also like to thank you for your commitment as adult educators. You provide an invaluable service to our state and to its citizens that cannot read or accomplish basic skills. You give of yourself to help others.

There has been a popular “test” floating around on the internet lately concerning the value of teachers. The test emphasizes that we often forget the names of the so-called “celebrities” in our ranks – the Academy Award winners, the beauty pageant queens, or even the NBA’s Most Valuable Player. But we are often able to remember the name of our first grade teacher, or the teacher who took that extra time with us to help us understand and conquer an assignment.

I am sure that the many people whose lives you touch every week are able to remember your name, for you are their teacher and their educator. You are a true celebrity for you give of yourself to help your fellow man. You are appreciated, not only by your clients, but by your state.

I hope that you will find this conference beneficial and that your stay on the Gulf Coast will be most enjoyable. Thank you again for your service and your commitment to the future of our state and its citizens. Enjoy the conference.