

Clarksdale Rotary Club
Tuesday, July 25, 2000
12:00 p.m.
Western Sizzlin on State Street

Be firm in your presentation.

Opening

1. It's good to be back.
2. Opening story

Intro

1. Mississippi is judged, and opinions are formed about our state because of the action of those of us inside the state.
2. Our people are our best ambassadors
3. We have the opportunity to do great things
4. We must develop those things in our state that make the quality of life for our people better.

Main Points

1. Economic Development
 - a. Top economic development strategists say when companies are looking for a place to locate or relocate they begin with a long list and start paring down from there

- b. New economic development plan
 - i. Input from people across the state
 - 1. Listening tours
 - 2. Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development
 - a. First ever public/private partnership
- c. 4 hour meeting with experts on economic development
 - i. This is a process that has taken the input and wisdom of people from inside and outside our borders.
 - ii. Plan must benefit every inch of our state
 - 1. comprehensive
 - iii. We are getting close to unveiling the plan and will do it so that Legislators and others have ample time to review it.
- d. NGA - Policy Academy on Entrepreneurship
 - i. Only 10 states selected
 - ii. Mississippi will create the model to be used nationwide
 - iii. Other governors recognize Mississippi as America's State of Promise
- e. Calls from other Governor's

- i. Want to know what we are doing
- ii. Keeping an eye on Mississippi

f. Mississippi led the nation in the growth of service jobs and revenue between 1992 and 1997 – (Census Bureau report)

2. Highly-trained, technically-skilled and educated workforce is vital to future economic growth

- a. We must invest in our schools
- b. Elementary, Community & Junior College, Colleges & Universities
 - i. Workforce training
- c. We must invest in our teachers
 - i. Raising teacher pay to the Southeastern average
 - 1. We will fund it. – A matter of priority
 - 2. Must be a priority in budget.
- d. We must invest in our students
 - i. Keeping good teachers, teaching in the classroom
 - ii. Classroom technology
 - 1. Computer in every classroom by end of 2002 – AOL
 - a. Leading the nation

2. Gates Foundation Grant- teaching technology skills to teachers.
 - a. Only 1 of 7 states to receive it.
3. Magnolia
 - a. Opens up access from university and college libraries to every public library in the state.
 - e. Better Schools = Better Jobs

Closing

1. We have been told we are 50th for so long
2. We are leading the nation in so many areas
3. We have to believe in our state and the advancements we have made
4. Promote those advancements