

Announcement of College Preparation Binder Inserts  
Tuesday, April 24, 2001  
9:00 a.m.  
Chastain Middle School Library

### **Talking Points**

(Note: Governor, you could get interactive with the students by asking questions like: How many of you are planning on going to college? Have many of you have started preparing for college? Etc...)

X Good Morning!

X Mississippi=s future depends on how well we prepare our children to participate in a global, high-tech work force.

X We know that a college degree is probably more valuable today than at any time in this country=s history.

X Too many students wait too late to start preparing for higher education.

X Others take the “easy courses” courses while in high school.

X And many students are unaware of how important higher education is to their future.

X Unfortunately, some students think that they cannot

afford the cost of higher education.

X Mississippi's future workforce is made up of students just like the ones you see before you today, and we're here to tell you it's never too early to start preparing for a bright future through higher education.

X The key to improving the economic outlook of our state is by producing more college graduates, which will, create a better-educated workforce.

X Did you know that a person with a bachelor's degree earns on average \$21,000 more per year than a high school graduate?

X A person with a graduate or professional school degree earns four times more than a high school graduate.

X We know that students interested in going to college should begin as early as the eighth grade taking the right courses.

X Students in Mississippi who take College Prep Curriculum score on average three points higher on the ACT than students who don't take College Prep.

X The courses students take in high school not only

prepare them for college, but also increase the likelihood that they will be successful in college and will graduate.

X As part of their commitment to increasing access to higher education opportunities, the Institutions of Higher Learning has developed and is distributing a set of notebook inserts (*point to large visuals*) to all 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Mississippi through their counselors that contain pertinent information about college preparation.

X The inserts, which can be put into any standard three-ring notebook:

X detail how to get admitted to college,

X how to finance a college education,

X Mississippi=s College Prep Curriculum,

X and contact information and websites for each Mississippi University.

X We hope the inserts will help students make informed choices about their higher education options, including the opportunities available right here in Mississippi to receive a top quality education.

x We are providing better opportunities for our children to become more competitive in the global marketplace.

X I would like to introduce Dr. William McHenry,  
Assistant Commissioner of Academic Affairs with IHL,  
to say a few words.

X Dr. McHenry can answer any specific questions you  
may have about the College Prep Curriculum.

X It is vital that our students have the tools they need to  
be successful.

X Education is our top priority and it must be a top  
priority for Mississippi students.