

*Remarks for the
Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges Trustees Association Conference
July 19, 2003*

- Acknowledge Senator Jack Gordon and
Representative Charlie Capps

- Story of Jordan/ 15-point buck/ priorities

- Mississippi has its priorities straight
 - Education
 - Economic development
 - Workforce training

- Meeting priorities are not always easy

- Impact of the national recession
 - More than 7 million lost in stock market
 - More than 2 million Americans out of work
 - States cutting school week/ releasing prisoners/ massive lay-offs

- February 2003: Signed a comprehensive plan for education into law
 - Historic action
 - Investing in education / 62%
 - Fully funding MAEP for the first time
 - Funds teacher pay raises
 - Funds universities and prevents tuition increases
 - Funds junior and community colleges (workforce training)

■ Mississippi is sending the message that even in tough economic times we are putting our children and our future first

- Good schools attract good jobs and good jobs build better communities

■ Mississippi is a recognized leader in education

- Teacher pay 49th to 19th when fully implemented
- No Child Left Behind
- Computers in the classroom

■ Educating our children is the key to Mississippi's future, but there also has to be continued economic development and growth to keep our best and brightest minds here in Mississippi

- They are Mississippi's future
- We have to leave them a state with a solid economic base
- As Governor, that's what I have been working for

■ Job creation

- Over 2,200 new and expanded facilities
- More than 53,000 new jobs
- Capital investment of over \$15 billion

■ Increasing investment while others are cutting

- Demonstrates our priority/ commitment to Mississippi

■ Vital link between education and economic development

- Community colleges started in the 1920's
 - Extension of HS for students who could not afford universities
 - Community and junior colleges are still providing education at affordable prices
 - In addition they have become a one-stop location where employers in Mississippi can send their employees for hands-on training and education
 - For example Nissan employees received training and education at Holmes Community College in Ridgeland

■ Cooperation between the state/ Nissan/ and junior colleges lead to the world's premier automobile factory being located right here in Mississippi

- Old question: “why Mississippi?”
- New question: “why not Mississippi?”
- Mississippi of today is unlike anything anyone could ever have imagined

■ Mississippi has its priorities straight

- Aggressive about education
- Aggressive about economic development
- Aggressive about workforce training

■ Good schools/ good jobs/ better
communities/ better Mississippi