

*Remarks for the  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority / 2003 Statewide Founders Day  
March 22, 2003*

- Recognize Nancy Saddler / Senator Blackmon  
/ Mayor Johnson
  
- Proud to welcome you all here today as part of  
your 2003 Statewide Founders Day
  - Particularly pleased to welcome National  
President Gwendolyn Boyd

- Ms. Boyd is a native of Alabama, so she is well aware of the historical challenges facing southern states
  - Want her to know we are working together to turn those challenges into opportunities
  - Thank Senator Blackmon / Mayor Johnson for their work in that effort
  
- In her president's message after being re-elected, Ms. Boyd shared some words of wisdom:
  - "We must fix our horizons not on the mandates of maintaining the status quo but on the success of new innovation."

- That has been our charge here in Mississippi, to focus on building our state through education and economic development
  - To build good schools, good jobs, good communities
  
- It's a charge we take seriously, and we're making progress
  - Teacher pay / 49<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> when fully implemented
  - Test scores up / accountability standards stronger than "No Child Left Behind"
  - Princeton Review: MS has 6<sup>th</sup> best testing system in nation
  - MS 6<sup>th</sup> in nation in National Board Certified Teachers
  - Computers in Classroom

- When it comes to education, we mean business
  - Business means jobs
  
- Job creation from January 2000 to February 2003
  - 2,103 new and expanded facilities
  - 50,253 new jobs
  - Total investment of \$14.1 billion
  
- Ms. Boyd, I believe you would agree that Mississippi shares your goal of fixing on the “success of new innovation”
  - Thankful for the work of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and its focus on building a better Mississippi
  
- Best wishes for a successful conference