

DeSoto Council Quarterly Membership Luncheon  
Friday, June 23  
DeSoto County Board of Education (Hernando)  
11:45 a.m.

They have asked you to speak about plans for the state including economic development and education along with a report on the first 6 months. Hit heavy on teacher pay and computers in every classroom.

## **Opening**

1. Good Morning
2. Opening story

## **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
  - i. Right now, Mississippi is not making the long list
  - ii. On paper, we are not competitive
  - iii. We want to make not only the short list, but we want to be chosen as the site
  - iv. We also cannot ignore the importance of existing industry expansion

b. New economic development plan is being developed

- i. Must give cities and counties more flexibility
- ii. Tax incentives
- iii. Effective selling of the state
- iv. Being developed through input from people across the state
  1. Listening tours
  2. Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development
    - a. First ever public/private partnership

2. Trained, skilled and educated workforce is vital to future economic growth

a. We must invest in our schools

- i. Elementary, Community & Junior College, Colleges & Universities

b. We must invest in our teachers

- i. Raising teacher pay to the Southeastern average
  1. Most critical issue facing the people of MS

2. Business sector realizes its importance, and made it their most critical issue.
3. We will fund it. – A matter of priority
4. Must be a priority in budget.

c. 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 – (DeSoto County Schools- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest county in state – already in process thanks to Bob and Tom Pittman along w/Maddox Foundation and university and state leaders

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. Mississippi had the first statewide library system to be inner-connected.

b. Opens up access from university and college libraries

to every public library in the  
state.

#### 4. MS History online

d. Better Schools = Better Jobs

### **Closing**

- We have been told we are 50<sup>th</sup> for so long
- We are leading the nation in so many areas
- We have to believe in our state and the advancements we have made
- Promote those advancements