

Remarks for the

April 10, 2003

- The image of the Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - It's an image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
 - It's an image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk
 - It's an image of global companies looking for a place to do business in the state
 - Setting new standards for education and economic development

- Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Princeton Review: 6th best testing system in nation
 - Leading other states in preparedness for "No Child Left Behind" / USA Today article

- We're proving to the people of Mississippi, and the rest of the nation, that we're serious about education
 - Making the investment now for dividends tomorrow

- When it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs
 - We are aggressive about creating quality, high-paying jobs for our people

- We gained the attention of companies around the world when we landed Nissan
 - Now more than ever, Mississippi is being visited by companies

- They are coming to Mississippi because the word is out about what we can do
 - Site Selection magazine: Mississippi ranked as Top 10 location for new companies
 - One of top 10 states for small business survival
 - Expansion magazine: 4 Mississippi cities ranked in latest survey of 50 hottest American cities for expansion or location of facilities

- Take that image home with you
 - Image of good schools, good jobs, good communities