

Fast Forward Mississippi  
Schools To Careers  
Press Conference  
Wednesday, September 27, 2000  
10:00 a.m.

**Talking Points**

- It is my pleasure today to launch a statewide program aimed at helping Mississippi students realize the career opportunities that await them.
- Fast Forward Mississippi is a School-to-Careers initiative that helps Mississippi's students – from kindergarten to college age and beyond – realize the world of career opportunities that await them.
- Mississippi has been actively participating in the School-to-Careers initiative for several years, and have implemented the School-to-Careers program through 50 local partnerships.
- The Fast Forward Mississippi program will be another tool for our schools to use as they arm our children for the future.
- With Fast Forward Mississippi, our children can learn about all their career options – from corporate work to craft work – and everything in between.

- Through this initiative, kids can find out facts about different careers, educational choices, and technical skills and training options.
- They can discover that their interests can lead to enjoyable, satisfying careers.
- And they can make early decisions that can help them find and pursue their life's calling.
- It is also a fantastic opportunity for the business community to have a hand in molding their future employees – and for educators to take part in preparing students for the “real world.”
- In this program, workplaces become active learning environments.
- Employers become joint partners with educators in training youth and preparing all students for either high-wage, high-skill jobs or further education.
- Fast Forward Mississippi connects classroom learning to what is happening in Mississippi's workplace by building upon existing efforts to improve education and workforce development.

- Because of the increasing demands of a highly competitive global economy, employers need people with high academic, analytical and technical skills. In order to provide young people with these skills, there is a need to change the way we educate our students.
- Fast Forward Mississippi benefits everyone – students, parents, educators and business and industry.
- Much thought, research and hard work has been put into the development of the Fast Forward Mississippi Program, and I know this initiative will better inform and assist Mississippi’s children as they become successful, productive members of the workforce.
- This initiative has been developed through a cooperative effort and partnership that includes the Office of the Governor, the Department of Education, Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Economic Council, Mississippi Parent Teachers Association, Public Education Forum, State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and

State Workforce Development Council and the 15 Regional Workforce Development Councils.

- Representatives from these agencies and organizations have joined us today, and I would like for each of them to take a moment to introduce themselves.
- (let everyone introduce themselves. When they finish you begin again.)
- Fast Forward Mississippi utilizes the Internet and web technology to create a comprehensive, one-stop resource for Mississippi students.
- I would like to ask Kelly Riley who is the Governor's Office staff coordinator for this program to come forward and explain some specifics about the Web site.
- (Kelly shows Internet program.)
- Thank you Kelly.
- Fast Forward Mississippi works hand-in-hand with our goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every public elementary and

secondary classroom in the State of Mississippi by the end of 2002.

- We are giving our students the tools they need to help them prepare to successfully enter the workplace.