

Governor's Arts Awards Ceremony
Friday, March 16, 2000
2:00 p.m.
Old Capitol Museum, House Chamber

*This is an audience of approximately 300. You are giving 5 minutes of comments. Remember to stand up straight and be pleasant, but a strong presence.

Sponsoring this grand event is one of the really great reasons to be proud to be the Governor of Mississippi.

To stand before you today gives me such immense pride. All of my life I have stood in awe of the artists in this state. (Give personal example if time allows)

It is appropriate for us to have at least one day in the year to celebrate Mississippi artists. Because our artists bring us positive publicity, and with the release of this week's economic impact study, we know our

artists are attracting tourism and helping to grow our economic development efforts.

Mississippi artists, no matter how far from home they travel, remember their roots. They talk about how their creative souls are imbedded in Mississippi soil.

Somewhere along the line, the artists we are honoring today had a teacher who saw something special in them. A caring teacher who recognized their potential and told them – You can do it.

We must never underestimate the value of the people who dedicate their lives to our children.

Your achievements and contributions to this state

amaze me. Congratulations to today's award winners and thank you to all of you for being here to celebrate arts in Mississippi.

I am honored to be with you today. Thank you.