

Governor's Conference on High Technology  
Thursday, November 2, 2000  
12:00  
Clarion Hotel

## Opening

- I am delighted to be here today
- Thank you for attending this conference
- I would also like to Thank the Mississippi Economic Council and the Communication Information Technology Organization of Mississippi for all their hard work in organizing this event

## Main Points

1. Advantage Mississippi
  - a. Technology propels this new economy
    - i. Making borders obsolete and trading geographic divides for digital divides
    - ii. New world demands that MS explore new approaches to attracting and expanding job opportunities
    - iii. Expand the World Wide Web to include MS

- b. Plan is not for one region over another. It helps all Mississippians in all 82 counties
  - i. MS is in a position to be considered for top companies
  - ii. Plan to bring higher paying jobs to our people
  - iii. Objective must be to create a higher quality-of-place
- c. Improving basic infrastructure, transportation and information, to support community and capacity building
  - i. Broaden deployment of high-speed data and Internet access capabilities
  - ii. Leverage EdNet to fully utilize this resource
  - iii. Focus training and re-training programs to boost workforce high tech aptitude and capabilities
  - iv. Establish a Chief Technology Officer position as a part of the state's development authority
- d. Leverage the strength of MS's universities taking a "cluster approach" to target industries that fit best for MS's future
- e. Bring World Trade Center status to MS
  - i. Provide for the coordination of all existing international programs and services in the state

- ii. Provides trade services to the private sector and opens the door to a myriad of resources, programs and services MS businesses can utilize to further penetrate the growing world market
- f. Internet Technology
  - i. Can eliminate borders, open national and international doors to Mississippi businesses

A Task Force by Executive Order was established August 8, 2000, to assist in implementing e-government. The Task Force will work to draft a plan in time for consideration during the 2001 regular session.

- 2. E-Government Commission
  - a. Establishing E-commerce is critical
  - b. As the environment in which we do business changes, so must the environment in which we conduct the public's business
  - c. Advancement of Technology in every part of the world, is moving the expansion of e-commerce at the "speed of light"
  - d. We have to keep up to be competitive, but we don't want to be "just competitive", we want to lead the nation and the world

- e. I have created a task force to explore and implement e-government
  - i. Make the government more customer friendly
  - ii. Make the government simple and easy to access
  - iii. We want Mississippi's e-government to lead the nation and serve as the model for other states

3. MTI/ ITD: Mississippi Technology, Inc. & the Institute of Technology Development

- a. MTI promotes and coordinates science and technology-based economic development, while the Inst. Of Technology Development focuses on technology commercialization for the State of MS
- b. Dr. Angie Dvorak is the new CEO/President MTI & the Inst. Of Technology Development
- c. Dr. Dvorak has a long history of promoting the value of technology-based economic development and will do an outstanding job of helping to bring quality, high paying jobs to the people of Mississippi.

d. Dr.Dvorak will also bring about a coordinated effort to pull together all of our resources, coordinating among MTI, ITD, the MS Development Authority, other existing entities and the private sector

4. What's next?

- a. There has been a lot of talk lately about a major company/industry locating here in MS
- b. Wouldn't it be great to think that we have worked hard enough in 10 months of our administration to put MS on the map for a large company to consider us for a possible locations site?
- c. By making dramatic changes in our economic strategy, we made MS competitive with other states
- d. Advanced technology is a key component to what business and industry are looking for in a state to have.
- e. Now our job is spreading the word that MS has the right incentives and the right workforce to help make companies successful
- f. Good jobs and a good quality of life make a positive difference to our state.

## Closing

- We will continue to sell the state
- Look for new opportunities to bring additional higher paying jobs to the people of our state
- We want our people to build their lives and raise their families in Mississippi
- Now have the climate to make that happen in Mississippi
- Success will take leadership, vision and a solid direction
- The people of MS have our pledge to make their quality of life better