

Head Start Association – Region IV
Sunday, January 21, 2001
7:00 p.m.
Grand Convention Center – Tunica, MS

(Message: 20-30 minutes on partnerships and state supports impact on the children of Mississippi)

Opening

- Good Evening!
- (Story about partnerships/teamwork – Maybe something about Carmen Rae’s or Jordan’s basketball games; kids learning early they have to work together to accomplish a common goal)

Main Points

1. Education
 - a. Our future depends on our children.
 - i. Our children’s future depends on their education.
 - b. Education is the key!
 - i. Education is my top priority!
 - c. Thursday’s press conference with the 389 Nationally Board Certified teachers.
 - i. MS has 4th highest amount in the U.S.
 - ii. We are at the top of the list, not the bottom.
 - iii. Our teachers are going that “extra mile” to invest in our teachers.

- iv. We must go that “extra mile” and fully commit to their pay raises by removing the 5% revenue growth condition.
- v. We are working with Legislators to accomplish this.

(Mention the \$20 enrollment incentive for CHIP that was recently expanded to include Head Start agencies and private schools. This is another form of a partnership – everyone working together to enroll our children for health care.)

- Teamwork is the key. Building partnerships is the key to Mississippi’s success.
- We must cross political, racial and geographical boundaries to accomplish more great things for our state.
- Partnerships work! Nissan is proof of that.

2. Nissan

- a. Nissan is proof that we can succeed and attract more companies to MS.
- b. They have shown their faith in our state.
 - i. Top 1% in the nation
- c. Mississippi is the spotlight of the nation
 - i. 4000 new jobs will be created with their arrival.

- ii. 26,000 spin-off jobs
 - d. Other companies related to Nissan will move to MS.
 - i. They will relocate all over the state, not just in Canton.
 - ii. Opportunities all over the state will spin-off from the Nissan plant.
 - iii. We must target other companies that best suit specific areas of our state.
 - e. We must keep up the momentum
 - f. We are happy to “land” Nissan, but we want more businesses to move to MS
 - i. We want more jobs, more economic development, more opportunities.
 - ii. We want to be in that “spotlight” again and again for the great things happening in Mississippi.
- In order to “land” Nissan we worked with local, state and federal officials to accomplish this outstanding opportunity for our state.
- (Story about Lott flying out to L.A.)
- We must have that kind of attitude when it comes to our children, our state and our opportunities.

- Computers in the Classroom by 2002
 - Partnership with AOL to be the first in the nation with a computer in each classroom.
 - Working together to bring this technology to all our children.
 - Preparing them for the future.

3. Opportunities

- a. Legislators talking “gloom and doom” for our state.
- b. You will not hear us whining and saying everything must stop.
- c. Don’t look at budget as an obstacle
 - i. Look for opportunities
- d. Opportunity to prioritize:
 - i. Education
 - ii. Jobs
 - iii. Healthcare
 - iv. Public Safety
- e. Opportunity to invest:
 - i. Invest in education for our kids
 - ii. Invest in good jobs for our people
 - iii. Invest in health care for all of our people
- f. Give our people the opportunity for a better Quality of Life
- g. Invest – the money is there.

- h. The key is prioritizing and investing that money in the right places.
- i. We will work with Legislators to make this happen.
- j. This is our opportunity to form more partnership to accomplish great things for our state.
- k. We were elected to work for the people; to get things accomplished.
 - i. Not to fight and work for personal gains.

- Everyone plays a role in our state's success. We all have to work together to succeed, make changes and create progress.
- We also have to concentrate on educating our children and training the current workforce
- The world is taking notice, and we must continue to spread the word about Mississippi.

Closing

- Mississippi's Image: Important how our neighbors, our nation and the world view us.
- How Mississippi is perceived affects us in all aspects: economic development, education, healthcare, etc.

- We have the opportunity to promote a positive image.
- We put the spotlight on Mississippi throughout the nation and world with the Nissan announcement, but there are more opportunities waiting for us.
- A place where our children can live, work and raise their families.
- America's State of Promise