

Hinds Community College Career & Technical Education Advisory Committee Dinner
Tuesday, March 6, 2001
6:30 p.m.
Hinds Community College

(Message: 15-20 minutes on the importance of a skilled workforce to attracting more industries to Mississippi)

Opening

- Good Evening
- (Dr. Sue Pitts will introduce you)
- (Story)

Main Points

1. Opportunities

- a. Mississippians now, more than ever, have many opportunities from which to choose.
- b. Opportunities in:
 - i. Education
 - ii. Jobs
- c. We have opportunities to invest:
 - i. Invest in education for our kids
 1. Teacher pay raise
 - a. 49th in nation to 19th
 2. Computers in the Classroom.
 3. Accountability plans for teachers and schools.
 4. www.FastForwardMS.com

- 5. MS at the forefront on testing standards
- 6. National Board Certified Teachers
- ii. Invest in good jobs for our people
 - 1. Incentives from AMI
 - a. Training and re-training
 - b. Tax credit incentives
 - 2. Nissan
 - 3. Supplier opportunities
 - a. Over 2,200 applications sent to Nissan
- d. Give our people the opportunity for an even **better** Quality of Life
- e. Invest – the money is there.
 - i. The key is prioritizing and investing that money in the right places.
- f. Don't look at budget as an obstacle
 - i. Look for opportunities
 - ii. As Governor, I have to keep the budget balanced in good times and in challenging times.

2. Budget

- a. We are taking a responsible approach to the slowdown in the economy by affecting a slowdown in budgeting and spending.
 - i. We must be fiscally responsible

- b. Mississippi is not broke.
 - i. Our economy has been up, so eventually it must slow down.
 - ii. 27 other states are experiencing this slow down in their economy.
- c. Our budget reflects our people's priorities
 - i. Education
 - ii. Economic development
- d. We must look for innovative ways to bridge our budget recommendations, whether we use:
 - i. AMS settlement funds
 - 1. For one time expenditures
 - 2. We have access to this money now
 - ii. Rainy Day funds for to education on track.
 - 1. Already used \$15 million
 - 2. \$35 million is still available
- e. Education recommendations
 - i. Mississippi's colleges and universities are doing an excellent job.
 - ii. Our students excel, and they are competitors in the global market.
 - iii. We must continue to support our state's heart and soul, her people.

- iv. A strong education system is vital to all future successes for the people of our state.
- v. Our success in economic development depends on our continued success and advancement in education.
- vi. High tech companies need high-tech employees.
 - 1. They need skilled employees
 - 2. They need a strong, educated workforce
 - 3. Mississippi **does** provide that for them.

- f. Economic development recommendations
 - i. In order for MS to remain competitive, we must continue to support programs that give our people the opportunity for more, new, high-paying jobs.
 - ii. We recommend 10 million more than the JLBC budget to maintain our momentum
 - iii. For years we have been quietly investing in economic development and education, and now we are beginning to reap the benefits.

- iv. Rewards of this long-term investment are here.
- v. **Nissan** is proof that we can succeed.
- vi. They have shown their faith in our state.
- vii. Opportunities all over the state will spin-off from the Nissan plant.
- viii. We must target other companies that best suit specific areas of our state.
- ix. We must keep up the momentum
- x. We are happy to “land” Nissan, but we want more businesses to move to MS
- xi. We want more jobs, more economic development, more opportunities.
 1. We want to be in that “spotlight” again and again for the great things happening in Mississippi.

Closing

- 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.

- We must not hinder our progress in any way.
- If something has the potential to keep MS from new business or as a tourist destination, then we must work to remedy that problem.
- 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, tourism, etc.
- We have the opportunity to promote a positive image.
- Remove obstacle that hinder our success.
- We can make a difference on April 17th
- 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