

*Remarks for the  
Jobs for Mississippi Graduates Luncheon  
April 1, 2003*

- Recognize Dr. Joe Haynes
  
- Image of MS in 2003 far different than the image most know
  - Moving faster than anyone else into the 21<sup>st</sup> century
  - Competing and leading in the global marketplace
  - Setting new standards for education and economic development
  
- Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
  - Teacher pay / 49<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> when fully implemented
  - Princeton Review: 6<sup>th</sup> best testing system in nation

- Leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind” / USA Today article
  - 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
  - 62% of general fund
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- When it comes to education, we mean business
    - Business means jobs
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- We gained the attention of companies around the world when we landed Nissan
    - Now more than ever, Mississippi is being visited by companies

- They are coming to Mississippi because the word is out about what we can do
  - Site Selection magazine: Mississippi ranked as Top 10 location for new companies
  - One of top 10 states for small business survival
  - Expansion magazine: 4 Mississippi cities ranked in latest survey of 50 hottest American cities for expansion or location of facilities
  
- When businesses read these industry publications, they see that Mississippi has something to offer
  - They realize the image has changed

- You're helping change the image
  - Making the most of your promise and potential
  - Using your skills to help build Mississippi
  
- The image of the Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
  - It's an image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
  - It's an image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk
  - It's an image of global companies looking for a place to do business in the state

- It's an image you're building every day through your work
  - Thank you for your commitment and dedication to building a better Mississippi
  - Building good schools, good jobs, good communities
  
- Congratulations and good luck