

Mentor Today's Youth for the Future
Thursday, October 26, 2000
12 p.m.
Aberdeen Best Western Banquet Room

Opening

- Good Afternoon
- Thank you for having me here today
- Thank you, Ms. Jeanette Atkins for your introduction

Main Points

1. Fast Forward Mississippi
 - a. Eases transition from School-to-Careers
 - b. Helps students from K-College age and beyond to realize the world of career opportunities that await them
 - c. With Fast Forward Mississippi
 - i. Can learn about career options
 - ii. Research facts on different careers
 - iii. Educational choices
 - iv. Technical skills
 - v. Training options

- d. Connects classroom learning to what is happening in the workplace
 - i. Workplaces can become active learning environments
 - ii. Employers become joint partners with educators
 - 1. They train students for immediate employment or further education
- e. Utilizes the Internet & web technology
 - i. Creates a one-stop resource for students, parents and teachers
 - ii. www.FastForwardMS.com
 - iii. Targets students of all ages
- f. Parents can use the resource also
 - i. Gather information on colleges
 - ii. Calculate tuition costs
 - iii. Begin talking to their children about different career options & educational requirements
- g. Teachers use the website also
 - i. A resource center for their classrooms
 - ii. Can bring professionals into the classroom
 - 1. Discuss education needed
 - 2. Discuss job experiences
 - iii. To develop career-related class work and lesson plans

2. Mentoring Program

- a. This Statewide Mentoring Initiative is a positive and important way to influence the lives of Mississippi's children by fostering positive educational and life goals.
- b. One reason I called a special session on the Economic Dev. Plan was because the strategic plan in existence was outdated. For so long our state had taken a patchwork approach to promote E.D. in Mississippi.
- c. We created a new plan that includes many elements. It is a strategic and comprehensive plan.
- d. We hope to do something similar with our Mentoring Program.
- e. Our job is to offer leadership by establishing a Leadership Council that will create a strategic plan for mentoring.
- f. We are not pitting one program against another. We are here to pull them together to help children of Mississippi.]
- g. Research shows that students involved in a mentoring program are less likely to start using drugs, less physically violent, more interested in their school work,

- achieve better grades and develop positive relationships with their peers and parents.
- h. We are working closely with the National Mentoring Partnership to formalize our alliance.
 - i. Our Mentoring Initiative will focus on developing structured, one-on-one relationships that focus on the needs of the student
 - j. Our success – the future success of Mississippi’s children – depends on the number of dedicated mentors that choose to make a difference in the lives of our children.
 - k. That is my challenge today to the men and women across the State of MS – we need you to stop forward and volunteer to serve the children of your community – of your city – of your country
 - l. The best way to strengthen Mississippi’s future is to invest in our students.
 - m. And we are creating a program that will help our young people grow, prosper and reach their full potential.
 - n. We are excited about what this program can do for our children and the future of the State of MS.

Closing

- You can make a tremendous impact on our world
- The future is Bright
- One person CAN make a difference
- Be part of the solution – Mentor