

1. Good evening
2. Full day
3. Opening story

Main Points

1. We have been told for so long that we are 50th that we have started to believe it.
 - a. We are leading the nation in so many areas
 - i. Magnolia
 - ii. Lee Middle School
 - iii. Internet-Accessible Computers in every classroom
 - b. We must promote Mississippi's positives
 - i. Internally
 1. our people are our greatest salesmen
 2. our people have to know and believe the good things about our state.
 - ii. Externally
 1. We are judged by what the people inside our borders do.

2. We need your help to spread the word about
being the best/being #1

1. Economic Development

- a. Top economic development strategists say when companies are looking for a place to locate or relocate they begin with a long list and start paring down from there
 - i. Right now, Mississippi is not making the long list
 - ii. On paper, we are not competitive
 - iii. We want to make not only the short list, but we want to be chosen as the site

- b. New economic development plan
 - i. Cities/counties need more flexibility
 - ii. Tax incentives
 - iii. Makes be competitive
 - iv. Input from people across the state
 - 1. Listening tours
 - 2. Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development
 - a. First ever public/private partnership

- c. Policy Academy on Entrepreneurship

- i. Only 10 states selected
- ii. Mississippi will create the model to be used nationwide
- iii. Other governors recognize Mississippi as America's State of Promise

2. Highly-trained, technically-skilled and educated workforce is vital to future economic growth

- a. We must invest in our schools
- b. Elementary, Community & Junior College, Colleges & Universities
- c. We must invest in our teachers
 - i. Raising teacher pay to the Southeastern average
 1. We will fund it. – A matter of priority
 2. Must be a priority in budget.
- d. We must invest in our students
 - i. Keeping good teachers, teaching in the classroom
 - ii. Classroom technology
 1. Computer in every classroom by end of 2002 – AOL
 - a. Leading the nation

2. Gates Foundation Grant- teaching technology skills to teachers.
 - a. Only 1 of 7 states to receive it.
 3. Magnolia
 - a. Opens up access from university and college libraries to every public library in the state.
- e. Better Schools = Better Jobs

Closing

1. We have been told we are 50th for so long
2. We are leading the nation in so many areas
3. We have to believe in our state and the advancements we have made
4. We will find solutions that will improve the quality of life for our people – new plan will do that.
5. Promote those advancements
6. Making Mississippi #1