

Mississippi Association of Colleges Junior/Senior College Conference

Monday, October 23, 2000

9:00 a.m.

Ray Johnson Assemble Room of Agricultural Extension & Research

“Addressing the Challenges of Academic Excellence in the New Millennium”

Opening

- Good Morning
- Thank you Dr. Bristow for your kind introduction
- It is a pleasure to be here today

Main Points

1. Volunteering
 - a. People who volunteer reaffirm the dignity of humanity
 - b. Most common reason for not volunteering is “lack of time”
 - i. A person may have a willingness to help
 - ii. A person often has to balance their family’s needs with their desire to work at a worthwhile organization
 - c. Volunteerism needs to be made part of our every day vocabulary

- d. Volunteering is a wonderful way to meet interesting people, try out career fields and to grow as a person
- e. Many ways that you can Volunteer
 - i. Tutor children or volunteer for a reading hour at your library
 - ii. Mentor a child
 - iii. Teach a group of children computer skills
 - iv. Help homeless children and families
 - v. Start or participate in a Violence Prevention project in your area
 - vi. Form or join an existing group to prevent teen substance abuse
 - vii. Donate your used, working computer equipment to after-school tutoring for kids
 - viii. Collect books and other learning materials for local youth programs
 - ix. Be a counselor or assistant at a day-camp for children
 - x. Help sponsor, fix-up or staff a local playground
 - xi. Just simply be observant and ready to help out a fellow human being
- f. Teaches you Life Skills
 - i. Educates you about community, people, state and nation

- ii. Gives you tools that can be used in life, now and later

2. 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

3. Computers in the Classroom

- a. Committed to providing the tools that we need for training our students
 - i. Computer in every classroom by the end of 2002
 - ii. Only state with this type of commitment
- b. Computers help teachers teach tools to enhance education
 - i. Teaches technology skills needed in today's workplace
 - ii. Many jobs now require technical skills

Closing

- You can make a tremendous impact on our world
- Your education and life experiences will prepare you for a successful future
- One person CAN make a difference
- Be part of the solution – Volunteer
- Be prepared for a bright future – Get An Education
- Best of Luck in your Bright Future