

Mississippi School-to-Careers  
Wednesday, January 17, 2001  
6:30 p.m.  
Gulfport – The Grand Hotel/Casino – The Grand Ballroom

(Message: 15 minutes on education, importance of School-to-Careers Initiative and how it all affects economic development.)

## **Opening**

- Good Evening
- (Thank Suzanne Ulmer, State Director, for her introduction).
- (Super Bowl Story: We cannot hope that our children “get lucky” and have an opportunity; we must ensure they have these opportunities.)

## **Main Points**

### ***1. Mississippi’s School-to-Careers Initiative***

- a. Two years ago, MS received a \$19.2 million dollar grant commitment from the U.S. Dept. of Labor under the Federal School-to-Work Act.
  - i. 50 local partnerships around the state will receive about \$330,000 each.
- b. Five key goals to the School-to-Careers Initiative
  - i. Academic mastery
  - ii. Career planning and development

- iii. Integration of academic and technical education
- iv. Communication between constituencies
- v. Effective local partnership models
- c. The key to our work is communities connecting their efforts and then filling in the gaps.
  - i. We have many programs to build upon in MS.
  - ii. We need to work together.
  - iii. Local partnerships and state level partnerships make the success happen.

(Relate successful partnership: Nissan)

## ***2. Nissan***

- a. Last summer we began to form a partnership, to make Mississippi more competitive for economic development opportunities.
- b. Local and state leaders worked together to develop a marketing plan, the Advantage Mississippi Initiative.
  - i. A comprehensive plan with incentives to attract new, high paying jobs to MS.
    - 1. Works for all 82 counties.
- c. State and federal leaders then worked to attract Nissan to Mississippi.

- i. The AMI was the key.
- ii. The state and federal partnership helped our success.
- iii. These leaders are committed to Mississippi's economic success

(Mississippi's educational success depends on local, state and federal leaders also.)

(Stephanie Powers, the Director for the National School-to-Work Office will be speaking also. You may want to recognize her.)

### ***3. Education***

- a. Our teachers and leaders are committed to our children's success.
- b. They know the importance of a good education on a children's future quality of life.
- c. (Story about Mrs. Musgrove being a teacher)
- d. Our teachers should be provided training to ensure that they know how to connect what they are teaching to business and industry in Mississippi.
  - i. How the children's lesson is relevant to "real work"
- e. [WWW.FastForwardMS.com](http://WWW.FastForwardMS.com)

- i. A great tool for students, parents and teachers to use.
    - ii. Helps with school and career planning.
  - f. Educational budget recommendations to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
    - i. A strong education system is vital to all future successes for the people of our state.
    - ii. Difference between JLBC and our budget:
      1. K-12 = 45 million
      2. Comm. and Jr. = 11.5 million
      3. IHL = 23 million
- Everyone plays a role in our state's success. We all have to work together to succeed, make changes and create progress.

(The world is taking notice, and we must continue to spread the word about Mississippi.)

### **Closing**

- 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, healthcare, etc.
- We have the opportunity to promote a positive image.
- A place where our children can live, work and raise their families.
- Working together we are creating a better Mississippi
- America's State of Promise