

Mississippi Young Bankers Leadership Conference
Wednesday, September 27, 2000
Lake Terrace Convention Center
Hattiesburg, MS
12:00 p.m.

This is a leadership/motivational conference. All ages and level of bankers even though it is called Mississippi Young Bankers.

Opening

1. Pleasure to be here
2. Had the opportunity to talk with the MS Bankers Assoc. meeting in May (Sandestin)
3. Story

Main Points

1. Fast Forward Mississippi
 - a. Schools-to-Careers Program
 - i. Preparing our students for successful entry into the workplace
 - ii. From K-college and beyond – opens door to realizing the vast career opportunities that await them
 - iii. Web site www.FastForwardMS.com
 1. offers the best career choice website on the World Wide Web.
 2. Career links – what type of education is needed for a career, salary, personality

3. Mississippi success stories – highlight success Mississippians and tell the story of what led them to their current success
4. Career Chat – chat room where career professionals or mentors can interact with students about their career and obstacles that must be overcome
5. Calculators – calculate future costs of college
6. News – what is the latest on the site

iv. Role for educators and business community

1. work hand in hand to bring education and “real world” experiences together.
2. Need involvement and leadership from people just like you
3. Mentors – need your involvement in our young people’s lives.

(first grade story)

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 econ. 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 Plan was because the strategic plan in existence was outdated.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 Mississippi – we need you to step forward and volunteer to serve the children of your community – of your city – of your county.
- 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 Mississippi.

Closing

- Future is bright
- We must work together to accomplish great things for the people of this state.
- We are determined to do just that.