

*Remarks for the  
Mississippi Counseling Association Fall Conference  
November 7, 2001*

It's been said that "children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see." Tonight, I want to thank you for your role in crafting those messages.

There is no greater work we can do than to build a foundation for the future. That foundation has to be built today, and we're doing just that here in Mississippi.

We're putting internet-accessible computers in every public school classroom in the state. Mississippi will be the first state in the nation to have these computers in every classroom, and we're on target to reach this goal.

What does this mean? It means that a child in rural Stone County will have the same opportunities to access the technology and research capability of the internet as a child in Hinds County.

It means that our children will have the skills to compete in a new economy, an economy that is borderless, wireless and global.

It means we're building our foundation for the future.

We're working on a health care proposal, one component of which would increase the number of school nurses to provide front-line health care for children. Students need and deserve to have a nurse on hand in their schools, and we'll see that it happens.

What does this mean in the long run?

It means healthy children go to school ready to learn. It means that if we are going to successfully craft those “living messages” I spoke of earlier, they must be healthy enough to be delivered.

A great Mississippian, Hodding Carter, Jr., once wrote “there are two lasting bequests we can give our children. One is roots, the other is wings.”

Together, we are growing strong roots. We are building the foundations for success. Based on the strength of those roots, of those foundations, the wings are ready for flight.

They are ready to deliver the messages we craft in our children for “a time we will not see.”

Thank you for the role you play in the lives of the children of Mississippi. We are all the better for it, and one day, years from now, someone else will say “thank you” as well for your work.

