

*Remarks for the
Nissan Scholarship Press Conference
May 23, 2002*

Thank you, Emil. It is wonderful to be here with you today to recognize the first recipients of the Nissan Scholarship in Mississippi. These four young people – with their hopes, dreams, and proven intellect – represent the true promise and potential of our state.

I have always been committed to improving education in Mississippi, and I am proud of the system that helped today's recipients achieve this level of excellence.

They are tangible examples of why we must invest in education, why we must make it a priority, why we must dedicate ourselves to improving our schools as if our future depended on it – because it does.

Hodding Carter, a native Mississippian and a great journalist, once said that there are two things we can give our children – roots and wings.

Your roots are here. Your roots are your family, your friends, your teachers – and they will help you find your wings.

And, I hope your wings take you to new and exciting places, to see and experience all life has to offer. But, in the end, I hope your wings will steer you back home to Mississippi.

We're working hard every day to bring more good news to the people of this great state. I look forward to the day when you are there working with us, because I know you will be instrumental in making things happen.

Javier, Arlecia, LaRea, Karolina – I'm proud of you. And, I know your parents and families are proud of you. You've worked hard to reach this point and there's a lot of hard work ahead of you.

It will pay off in ways you can never imagine. The work you begin this fall when you start college will kick off a chain of events, like falling dominoes, that will culminate in the way you give back to this state and the automotive industry that has become a part of it.

We are here to recognize and honor your skill and your commitment. It is up to you to do the rest.

It's been said that the greatest thing you can do in the world is make the most out of what's been given to you – that this is success, and there is no other.

Make the most of what's been given to you – that wonderful, God-given talent you possess – and you will be successful. Share that talent with others, and the foundation will be built for the next generation.

Congratulations to you all.