

Political Leadership Class  
Tuesday, October 31, 2000  
12:30 p.m.  
Bowen Hall at Mississippi State University

## **Opening**

- Good Afternoon
- Comment on Jordan being interested in Mississippi State football
- Front Porch Story

## **Main Points**

1. Political leaders must craft lasting solutions to the complex problems facing our state and nation
  - a. As Governor it is my responsibility to provide the vision for the state and work with our Legislators and Agencies to accomplish the vision
    - i. I have the task to motivate and organize public concern to act in relationship to the community's commitments.

- b. Leaders must defend honesty, honor and decency in politics, government, commerce and the public arena
  - i. Be courageous
  
- c. As Political Leaders we must set priorities
  - i. We must do what is Right and the Greatest good for the greatest number of people
    - 1. Sometimes this is a Tough position
    - 2. Setting Goals, Strategies and Tactics
      - a. Need for a “Game Plan”
  - ii. Get past political differences
    - 1. Work together as a Team to make decisions
    - 2. Party politics slows down progress for the people for whom you are working
  - iii. Concensus Building
  - iv. Building Public Opinion
    - 1. The public needs to have Faith and Trust in their leaders
    - 2. Listen to the People
  
- d. We must educate and empower the next generation of political leaders

- i. Connect students with leaders who make a difference in the public sphere
- ii. Help students explore the demands of leadership in a diverse society
- iii. Cultivate student's leadership skills
- iv. Enable students to practice leadership through action

## **Closing**

- We must think about how things will affect our future
- Be a Visionary
- Aware of the big picture, but never forget how it affects people locally.
- Political leaders are elected to serve the people, not themselves or special interest groups
- You make decisions that affect many people
- Work for a better future for all Mississippian, for all Americans