

*Remarks for the  
Ribbon Cutting Quitman County Mahogany 2 School Reading Program  
January 29, 2003*

- Recognize:
  - Cashenna (KA-SHEEN-NA) - President of Student Gov't at Madison Palmer HS
  - Rosie Glasper – Homecoming Queen, Madison Palmer HS
  - Tiffany Hughery – Miss Madison Palmer HS
  - David Hughes and Henry Norris with Mahogany Magazine Enterprises
  
- Welcome to the launch of the Quitman County Mahogany 2 Reading Program at M.S. Palmer High School
  
- Another example of MS preparing our children for the future.
  
- Mahogany Magazine Enterprises, area businesses and families come together to improve reading scores and to motivate children to learn.

- Uses writing contests and spelling bees to promote reading
  
- Students will have the opportunity to spend a day with professionals to learn how businesses work
  
- Education must be first priority for MS
  - Making great progress
    - Teacher pay
    - Test scores
    - Computers in Classroom
  
- Particular investment in higher education / \$200M “brain trust”
  - Recruit best minds for research, development, workforce training
  - Higher education has critical role in economic development

- Investment in education must reflect priority
  - Must be funded at 62% of general fund
  - Legislature is preparing one bill to fund education
  - Expected to sign next week
  - HISTORIC TIME, HISTORIC ACTION
- Time to prove to people of MS we're serious about education
  - Make the investment now for dividends tomorrow
- When it comes to education, we mean business
  - Business means jobs
- MS Rural Economic Impact Authority
  - \$20M to help with economic development in rural areas
  - Funding to cover workforce training at community colleges
- We have to look to the future of MS / where do we want to go?

- Strong future depends on cooperation of private and public entities to help reach promise and potential
  
- This type of cooperation has one main goal
  - Good schools / good jobs / good communities
  
- That's what we're seeing here today in Quitman County
  - That's what we're working for across MS
  - Thank you for helping set the standard
  
- Have to continue investing in education
  - More computers in classrooms
  - Higher test scores
  - Better funding for higher education
  - More programs like the Mahogany 2 School Reading Program

- Mahogany 2 School Reading Program will help advance people of MS
  - Appreciate work that will be done through program
  - Look forward to hearing of your successes
  
- Will Rogers quote: Even if on right track, will get run over if you just sit there
  - MS is on the right track, and we're moving