

*Remarks for the  
Southeastern Council of Foundations  
November 7, 2001*

Good afternoon. A few weeks ago, I went with my kids to the Tennessee-LSU football game in Knoxville. Looking out over the crowd, my son commented to me that there must be 10,000 different ways to wear orange.

I laughed at the time, but as I thought more about it, the more I appreciated his insight. It made me realize that there are 10,000 different ways for us to do business in today's economy.

That's what we're doing in Mississippi. We're thinking outside the box. We're creating our own opportunities. We're planning for a future built on the successes we achieve today.

There are exciting things happening in Mississippi today, and I'm pleased to have the opportunity today to welcome you here and tell you about some of them.

One of the most exciting projects, the Computers in the Classroom initiative, will be discussed in detail in the roundtable meeting at 3:00.

However, I will say that it is one of the most exciting public-private partnerships around today. Through a marriage of government and business, we are making a difference in the lives of our children and building a strong foundation for their future.

Imagine, an internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom in the state.

Imagine, every child – from the most rural town to the most urban city – having access to the information and technology of the internet.

We're going to be the first state in the nation to accomplish this goal, and we're going to do it by the end of next year.

Through this initiative, our kids will be ready to compete in an economy that will be borderless, wireless and global – and that will make the difference.

We're exploring the 10,000 different ways to do business, and we're not going to slow down any time soon.

I look forward to speaking with you again this afternoon. Thank you.