

Simpson County Development Foundation Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 30
Southfork Fish House
11:30 a.m.

Speak in low tones.

Opening

- 1) Thank you for the introduction and the kind reception
- 2) Appreciate the invitation to attend
- 3) Opening story

Main Points

- 1) Education – Raising Teacher Pay to the Southeastern average is the most critical issue facing the people of the State of Mississippi.
 - a. Education is the key to better economic Development in our state.
 - b. We must be able to keep good teachers in the classroom and recruit students into the field of teaching.
 - c. We are going to make the pay raises happen- despite 5%
 - d. We must have strong schools that have the best teachers educating the children of our state to enter the job market.
 - e. Better education = Better jobs.

- 2) Economic Plan for the State
 - a. Old plan was stale
 - i. Not competitive with other states
 - ii. No longer offers the incentives that business and industry is looking for.
 - b. Time for a new plan
 - i. New incentives
 - ii. Being written by the Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development – first ever public/private partnership – Dwight Evans
 - iii. Business leadership from across the state sharing their expertise
 - iv. Bi-partisan working together
 - v. Comprehensive-statewide effort
- 3) Unveiling of a new plan
 - a. Will call a special session to present the new plan
 - b. Summer
 - c. Time to get the plan underway

Closing

We have been told for so long that we rank 50th that many people have come to believe that. I don't

believe that. We must change our image both internally and externally. If the people of our state believe that we are in last place, then what does the rest of the nation believe.

We are a state that is rich in history and culture, and we are working side by side to make changes that positively affect the people of our state. We are responsible for creating a future that is rich with excellent educational opportunities, economic growth, competitive paying jobs, and solid healthcare, and I am committed to doing just that.

I cannot do it alone. We need your help and we need the help of every Mississippian to make our state strong, viable and ready for growth and prosperity.

Thank you.