

Sunflower County Economic Development Corporation
Friday, June 1, 2001
Sunflower, MS

■ *(You will be introduced by Rep. Sarah Thomas)*

- **Glad to be in Sunflower County**
 - **Thank Sunflower Economic Development Corporation for hosting this event**

- **Working to improve environment for economic development in Mississippi**
 - **Special session of Legislature last year**

- **That session produced the Advantage Mississippi Initiative– finest economic development strategy in nation**

- **Have already seen results**
 - **Nissan plant currently under construction**
 - **\$930 million investment**
 - **4,000 new jobs**

- **Along with Nissan, looking to attract suppliers**
 - **This means more investment / jobs**
 - **Have identified over 40,000 potential suppliers already in Mississippi**

■ **Proud of work that's been done here
in Sunflower County**

- **\$9 million investment of Fishbelt Feeds**
- **\$100,000 investment of Mississippi Prison Industries Corp.**

■ **Community Development Block
Grants**

- **Last April, \$1 million grant for Delta Pride Catfish**
- **Over \$1.1 million in street and sewer improvements since last September**

- **Will continue to work with Mississippi Development Authority to pursue new industries and investments for the Delta**

- **Also will work at national level**
 - **Last week met with Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman at Delta Council**
 - **Pledged to work on 2002 farm bill**
 - **Equitable legislation for Mississippi's farmers**

- **Economic development efforts not limited to urban areas**
 - **Working in rural areas as well**

- **Advantage Mississippi Initiative will establish Rural Development Office within Mississippi Development Authority**

- **Also created “Small Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Fund”**
 - **Grant program to assist in completing projects**

- **Believe that development follows infrastructure**
 - **Build strong foundations and strong investments will be made**

- **Infrastructure for rural areas under study now**
 - **Reviewing water and wastewater systems**
 - **Recommendations coming soon**

■ **Mississippi Land, Water and Timber Resources Board**

- **Created last November**
- **Focusing on agricultural development**

■ **However, economic development and infrastructure all based on one thing**

- **Education**

- **We've got to make sure our children have every opportunity to learn**
 - **Addressing this through**
 - “Computers in the Classroom”**
 - initiative**

- **Currently working to place internet-accessible computers in every public school classroom in Mississippi**
 - **Halfway to goal already**
 - **6,325 computers now being placed**

- **As part of first phase of allocations, placing 13 computers in Sunflower County School District**
 - **Scheduled for Ruleville Central Elementary**

- **Must also ensure we are able to recruit and retain the best teachers**
 - **They are key ingredient in success of our children**

- **Teachers are committed to children**
 - **Let's show commitment to them**

- **Need to remove 5 percent provision on teacher pay raises**

- **We're making progress in Mississippi**
 - **Need your help to keep things moving**

 - **Our work requires us all to work together, from the Sunflower Economic Development Corporation to the Legislature**

■ **We all want the same things**

- **More and better-paying jobs for the working people of Mississippi**
- **Better education for our children**
- **Quality of life**

■ **It's up to us to make it happen**

- **Thank you for your commitment**
- **Thank you for your role in helping Mississippi live up to its potential**
- **America's State of Promise**