

Superintendent's Leadership Conference  
Wednesday, May 31  
12:00 noon  
Windsor III room – Crowne Plaza Hotel  
(Press Conference immediately following)

## **Opening**

1. Thank you for the kind introduction and warm reception
2. Thank you for inviting me to be here today
3. Story

## **Main Points**

1. Mississippi Delta
  - a. Preparing for economic growth
  - b. If any part of our state falters whether in economic development or in quality of schools, then our entire state suffers.
  - c. Educators must understand that jobs matter.
    1. We can educate our children, but if there are no jobs available, then what future have we built for them?
    2. Education and jobs go hand in hand
  
2. Delta Regional Authority

- a. Based on Appalachian Regional Commission
  - 1. addressed chronic economic depression and poverty that existed in that region of the nation
  - 2. successful
- b. Address needs such as education, healthcare, job creation, job retention etc.
- c. These are not the subjects for year after year of patchwork programs that provide only temporary fixes.
- d. Our people deserve long-term solutions based on responsible, long-range planning.

### 3. We will look to educators for your help

- a. Solid education and good jobs go hand in hand
- b. You are providing our students with the life skills they will need to prosper
- c. Good teachers in the classroom who are continuing their education and expanding their knowledge in order to have the latest information in technology training.

### 4. Classroom Technology

- a. Committed to providing the tools that we need for training our students.
- b. Computer in every classroom by the end of 2002.
- c. Only state with this type of commitment.

## 5. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant

- a. Will announce in a few minutes, at a press conference with Dr. Thompson, a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- b. Recognizes and encourages high achievement models
- c. Develops strong leadership in education
- d. Builds on the success of the state's current technology training programs.

## **Closing**

1. Future is bright
2. Takes more than one person – it will take all of us working together.
3. Commitment to the future – to our children.