

*Remarks for the  
Tougaloo College Commencement  
May 19, 2002*

Good morning. Dr. Johnson, President Hogan, Ms. Walker, members of the Board of Trustees, honored guests, graduates – thank you for the invitation to join you here this morning.

This is a special day for the Tougaloo College Class of 2002. It is both an ending and a beginning for you. The formal classroom learning may be done for most of you, but your education will never end.

There is a great amount of promise and potential in each of you, and it is my sincere hope that you will choose to let that promise and potential reach their fulfillment here in Mississippi. Your state needs you.

We need your minds, your creativity and your energy. Great things are happening here, and you should be a part of them.

Mississippi is on a new level of competition, a level that elicits respect in the global marketplace and interest from businesses looking for new places to build and grow. We reached this level through hard work and commitment to building this state.

I hope we can count on you to help take us on to the next level.

There are so many people counting on you. Many of them are here today. They're your parents, your brothers and sisters and extended family. They're total strangers who will be helped out by your work.

They all have expectations for you. I encourage you not to meet those expectations; I hope you will exceed them beyond anyone's wildest dreams. And, it's not what you do but how you do it that defines you.

Think about how you want to be remembered – for your wealth? Your fame? Your scholarly pursuits? Or because you made a difference?

From where I stand, I can see the future for Mississippi – and the future is full of hope.

Your families, your state, and your Governor are proud of you. Congratulations to you all.