

*Remarks for the
WIN in Mississippi Press Conferences
August 20, 2001*

They say that some people dream of success, while others work hard at making it happen. It is that dream of success that is behind the Workforce Investment Network in Mississippi – WIN in Mississippi, as we like to call it.

We want to help those who are eager to make their dream of success come true.

WIN is an innovative program that provides one-stop employment and training services for both employers and job-seekers statewide.

This program creates a convenient and user-friendly system for those who use it, because it combines the federal, state and community workforce programs and services into locations, such as this center, all over the state.

Last year, we announced our new economic development plan, the Advantage Mississippi Initiative. As part of that announcement, we talked about the importance of having a trained workforce to help retain and attract industry.

And when Nissan decided to come here, one of the main reasons was our people – the greatest natural resource our state has to offer.

We are committed to meeting the needs of our people and our employers – and this is where the WIN in Mississippi comes into play.

Mississippians need to have readily available resources and services to help them train for the jobs of the new economy – an economy that is borderless, seamless, wireless, and global.

Through the WIN program, we are partnering with business, as well as local and state officials, to coordinate efforts and maximize resources.

The local WIN in Mississippi programs are administered through a Mississippi Development Authority grant. There are six areas around the state where centers such as this exist. Local boards identify priorities and develop programs based on the needs of the area.

At WIN Job Center locations around the state, just like this one, employers and hopeful employees can access services in the areas of employment, education, training, human services and economic development.

I want to thank you all for being here today, and for supporting your local WIN Job Centers. I encourage you to use them to help build your communities and careers.

Will Rogers once said that “even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”

The WIN in Mississippi program has us on the right track, but we have to make the most of the services offered by these local centers. By doing so, we will continue to build a quality workforce and quality of life that will set the standard for the rest of the country.

Thank you.