

*Remarks for the
“Computers in the Classroom” Press Conference
August 30, 2001*

Good morning. Today, I am pleased to announce another great contribution of support for the “Computers in the Classroom” initiative.

Earlier this year, I announced this effort, which plans to place an Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom by the end of 2002. By this fall, we will be beyond the halfway mark of that goal.

Our ability to reach this point is enhanced by the public-private partnership that has been created. With the help of Carolyn Shanks of Entergy, we are receiving a great deal of help from private industry.

This morning, we're excited to announce the donation of 850 computers by three great businesses here in Mississippi – AmSouth Bank, State Farm Insurance, and Union Planters Bank.

And joining me here are Joe Carden,
President of AmSouth; Marty Hosford,
Agency Field Executive with State Farm;
and Curt Gabardi, President and CEO of
Union Planters.

Their donation of these computers means we
are closer than ever to making Mississippi
the first state in the nation to have every one
of its public school classrooms connected to
the Internet. And, it means more of our
children will have opportunities to learn and
expand their technological skills.

As we move into the 21st century, we are moving into a new economy – one that is borderless, wireless, and global. Our children will have to be able to compete in that economy, and these gifts today help make that happen.

I'd like to recognize Joe, Marty and Curt for any remarks they'd like to make.

Thank you.