

Question 1. As you know, the State of Mississippi has made an enormous commitment in the Mississippi School of the Arts. We thank you for your past support. Where do you see this project going and will it be a priority?

Answer 1. Education in Mississippi must be our number one priority.

- Teachers and students need and deserve top quality tools and teaching materials to enhance their teaching and learning.
- Priority in the budget process
- Teacher pay raise – 5% provision
- Computers in the classroom (5 schools in Lincoln County are receiving computers in this 1st phase of the initiative.)

Question 2. Congratulations to you for the passage of the Advantage Mississippi Economic Development Plan. How do you see it reshaping Mississippi and benefiting Brookhaven-Lincoln County?

Answer 2. The passage of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative is probably the most dramatic and positive thing to happen to economic development in our state, and will have a direct impact on every person across Mississippi.

- Comprehensive approach
- Input from many – business leaders, etc.
- Took into account the needs of all 82 counties
- Help us market Mississippi
- Took us from last place to 1st place with our competing states
- It is working.
 - Nissan
 - National attention
 - Site Selection Magazine
 - Neighboring States comparing themselves to Mississippi (Maginnis article and Commercial Appeal article)
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- There are specific programs to help Brookhaven/Lincoln County such as the small cities and municipalities (low population counties), which soon will be funded.

- There are incentives designed to support regionalism/letting counties and cities work together, which the southwest area is already developing.
- Other incentives include the Advantage Jobs programs designed to attract new industry as well as benefit existing industries wishing to expand.

Question 3: Governor, you spoke with us at the Chamber banquet about the recent announcement of Nissan's \$930 million investment and 4000 jobs. How can businesses in Brookhaven benefit from the Nissan announcement and what should we be doing to prepare for their arrival.

Answer 3. Recently we mailed over 41,000 letters to companies all across the state and did a statewide media announcement about supplier opportunities. Nissan received more than 2,200 applications and almost 6,000 were downloaded from the website. As a result, Nissan has invited approximately 1,300 MS companies to attend a supplier conference in Jackson Tuesday, February 20, 2001. Other conferences will also be held if companies are unable to participate in this initial meeting.

Question 4. What is your vision for Mississippi for the future?

Answer 4. Mississippi's future looks great.

- We are making sure that we know our people's priorities, and we are working to create a better quality of life for our people so they can live, work and raise their families right here in Mississippi.
- Education
- Economic Development
- Healthcare
- Public Safety
- We want to keep our young people in Mississippi rather than losing them to other states.
- Educate our children here and keep them here with good jobs.

Question 5. What is your vision for economic development.

Answer 5. The ADV MS program is the blueprint for our economic development strategy.

- We are aggressively marketing our state for further economic development.
- We are empowering our local communities, cities and counties with the tools they need to develop growth for their areas.
- We are working together on a local, state and national level to enact a greater impact of economic development across Mississippi.
- We are taking a new approach to economic development for Mississippi.
- We will assess the effectiveness of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative and are accountable for it's results.
- What works, we will continue and enhance and what is less effective, we will change and improve to garner better results.

Question 6. How can Brookhaven-Lincoln County help you realize this vision?

Answer 6. By working together throughout your city, community, county, and beyond. By providing leadership and vision to develop and economic development strategy so that your local economic development officials, elected officials and area leaders can plan and sustain development in the area, and ensure a qualified, well-trained workforce. What is good for one area of the state, is good for all of the state.