

There is something special about Mississippi, something difficult to put into words. It's that little something found in a sunset in the Delta, in the varied sounds of our music, in the literature of our writers, in the simple hospitality for which we're known.

Add to that our renewed commitment to making Mississippi the very best it can be, and you'll know there's no other state like it.

We are building our future on the foundation of education. Our teachers are being paid as the professionals they are. We're putting internet-accessible computers in every public school classroom in the state, so every student will have the same access to the information superhighway.

The rest of the nation and the world are looking to Mississippi as a leader in economic development. Last year, we landed the largest economic development project in the nation with the announcement of the \$930 million Nissan plant. We're working hard to bring in new jobs and new investments while retaining the businesses already in place and contributing to our economy.

From the words of William Faulkner and the music of B. B. King to the technology and educational standards of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Mississippi continues to set the standard for excellence. We have chosen our path for the future, a path covered with challenges and surrounded by opportunities.

We all know of and share in the promise of Mississippi. It is a promise we are fulfilling every day through hard work, creative thinking and cooperation.