

*Remarks to the
Students/Faculty at Delta State University
November 19, 2002*

- Recognize Dr. Caston / faculty with College of Education
- Story of Jordan / 15-point buck / priorities
- Priorities for MS / jobs, security, health care, and education.
- Determined to make a difference in the educational system of this state
 - Teacher pay from 49th to 19th / many of you here going into education
 - Making commitment today for your career tomorrow
 - Computers in the Classroom / NGA says first in nation / difference between being wired and being connected
 - MS one of six states for “Following the Leaders” / No Child Left Behind
 - Leadership Summit / six priorities from early childhood to adult learning
- Keeping education a priority with a budget that puts Schools First / 62 percent
- Budget fully funds the teacher pay raise, restores the MAEP to FY04 funding level, and replaces one time money put into adequate education.
- Brain trust focuses on stopping flow of best and brightest out of MS
 - 10 year commitment of \$200M matched by universities and colleges
 - Build MS’s intellectual capacity / research capabilities
 - Grants for graduate assistants to stay in MS / cultivate teachers
 - More momentum for economic development
- *We’ve invested hundreds of millions of dollars in buildings*
 - *Time to invest in people.*
- Creating jobs is trademark of administration
 - Building a future through quality education is personal passion
- Commitment is focused, but aim is broad
- *Bottom line: We shortchange education, we shortchange our future*