

*Remarks for the
ExplorNet Computer Blitz Build
December 11, 2002*

- Recognize Andrew Smith / Robin Costa and Maddox Foundation / Public Education Forum / Entergy
- Bill Renick at meeting in Knoxville / TN schools wired for Internet
 - Every public school classroom in MS – not only wired for Internet but connected to Internet
 - Big difference between wired and connected / MS children connected
- Computers in the Classroom initiative placing an Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom in the state.
- MS the first state in the nation to do this / confirmed by National Governors Association
- NGA policy analyst: MS “at the head of the wave of technological innovation.”
- Students from around the state gathered in the Capitol last March for a “Blitz Build”
 - Support from ExplorNet Mississippi / corporate sponsors helping students across MS build computers for students
- Amazing sight – young people building computers to help teach a new generation
- Computers in Classroom just another indicator of education as priority
- Budget recommending 62 percent for education
 - Teacher pay / MAEP / Brain Trust
- *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*