

*Remarks for
Leadership Mississippi
December 17, 2002*

- Recognize Robin Robinson
- Story of lawyer on plane / didn't think you were governor
- One lawyer / one thousand people – learning that MS is changing
 - Leading the nation
 - Setting new standard
- Doing this work because of passion for positive change
 - Determined to make a difference in education
 - Teacher pay from 49th to 19th
 - Computers in Classroom / NGA says first in nation / MS at “head of wave of technological innovation”
 - Test scores up / Princeton Review says MS testing 6th best
 - MS one of six states for “Following the Leaders” / No Child Left Behind
 - 62% of students going to college / 6th best in nation
- Keeping education priority with budget that puts Schools First / 62%
- Budget fully funds teacher pay / MAEP / restores one time \$ in adequate education
- Brain trust to stem flow of best and brightest out of MS
 - 10 year commitment / \$200M
 - Build intellectual capacity / research capabilities
 - *Invested millions in buildings / time to invest in people*
 - *Shortchange investment in education / shortchange future*
- Commitment is focused / aim is broad
 - If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door
 - Status quo won't work for MS / can and will do better
- Simple definition of leader: knows where he / she wants to go, gets up and goes
 - That's your call as part of Leadership MS
 - Get up and go / be involved / make a difference for our state, our future