

*Remarks for the
Global Education Mobile
Press Conference
September 21, 2001*

Good morning. Today, I am here to help introduce the Global Education Mobile, or what we call Mississippi's "GEM."

The GEM is a collaborative effort between the state and NASA. With it, we will utilize the most current technology to help educate and enlighten Mississippi students, educators, farmers, and business and community leaders.

Through this state-of-the-art vehicle, we will be able to reach every corner of the state, promoting the infinite uses of technology that will help us compete in this century.

In the past, one had to go to where the technology was. The GEM allows us to take the technology where it's needed.

The GEM is a mobile display for the advantages technology has already given us and it serves as a preview of what we will be capable of in the near future.

With it, farmers can use remote sensing through satellite imagery to show the nutrient content of farmland. This technology can help them make better use of their land and improve crop production.

Employers can see how videoconferencing reduces the needs of travel to meetings.

Employees can be introduced to software that is changing the business environment and is making employees tasks quicker and easier.

Teachers can use networking software to observe “master teachers” who are utilizing the latest techniques to reach students.

The GEM will be a wonderful tool to reach students of all ages. Classrooms can be introduced to software that is not available to schools. Artistic software, business software and other tools will be introduced to classrooms across the state.

Universities can use the GEM to help develop teachers and students. Blackboard software will help teachers and students alike to make more visual and interactive presentations.

Finally, communities can be linked to other communities across the state for real-time discussions. This will aid community awareness, business development and even tourism if used properly.

With support from NASA, the GEM is an investment in our children's future, our economy's future, and our agricultural future. Current technology gives Mississippi the chance to learn recent enhancements quickly so we can implement them here.

It allows us to bolster the education we offer our children. Farmers and businesses alike will benefit from recent developments and certainly those developments that are right around the corner.

This administration is committed to making Mississippi a “state-of-the-art” state. The Global Education Mobile – Mississippi’s GEM – is one of the first steps in making this vision a reality.

Thank you.