

*Remarks for the
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
February 28, 2003*

- Pleased to welcome National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to MS
 - Great to have all of you here
 - Eager to share the good news of what we're doing in education

- Want to thank this board for its commitment to enhancing teacher quality
 - That commitment shared here in MS

- It's been an exciting year for education in our state
 - State of State address: challenged Legislature to fund education first, and fund it at 62 percent of general fund
 - They accepted that challenge
 - Less than a month later, signed legislation that met my call

- Historic action / unprecedented cooperation
 - Will benefit all Mississippians

- This year's funding builds on other education successes
 - Teacher pay
 - Computers in the Classroom
 - Princeton Review – testing 6th best in nation
 - USA Today story on survey by Education Commission of the States
 - Only 12 states close to fulfilling requirements of “No Child Left Behind”
 - Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas furthest along
 - Speaks well of our work

- Also proud of state's ranking as 6th in nation in number of National Board Certified Teachers
 - Committed to putting quality teachers in our classrooms
 - Teachers share that commitment with their students

- Education is the foundation for all we do
 - Good schools, good jobs, good communities

- Will Rogers quote: Even if on right track, will get run over if you just sit there
 - MS is on the right track, and we're moving