

Reception for the Executive Council of Southern Association of Colleges & Schools  
Saturday, March 10, 2001  
6:00 p.m.  
Governor's Mansion

(Message: Welcome and opening remarks)

### **Talking Points**

- Good Evening
- On behalf of the Melanie and myself, I would like to welcome you to our home.
- We are pleased to have you here tonight.
- Education is my top priority for Mississippi – for our educators – for our students.
- It is the backbone from which we build all future successes in our state.
- Even facing a revenue slowdown, we have placed education as a top priority.
- We know the importance of an:
  - Investment in Education
  - Investment in Teachers
  - Investment in Students.

- We have placed an importance on teaching in Mississippi.
- Our children future depends on the education they receive today, and we are creating more opportunities for them to succeed.
- More economic success for Mississippi depends on us keeping trained employees in our state.
  - Nissan's decision to locate its \$930 million plant in Mississippi was strongly reliant upon our strong workforce.
- We have worked hard this year to ensure our continued success:
  - Teacher Pay Raise
  - Computers in the Classroom
  - National Board Certified Teachers
- We must continue our hard work to make our schools and our nation a success.
- We want our students to have the opportunity to choose to be educated here and to live, work and raise their families here in Mississippi.
- Educating our children is the key.