

Youth Challenge Graduation  
Saturday, December 16, 2000  
10:30 a.m.  
Forrest County Multipurpose Center, Hattiesburg

### **Talking Points**

- Good Morning
- What an honor it is for me to share this special occasion with you.
- I would like to Thank Major General Lipscomb and his team for their hard work in protecting and serving our State and our nation.
- Their hard work and dedication make it possible for all of us to enjoy the freedoms we enjoy today.
- I commend all the graduates today for your hard work and commitment to success, you have a bright future ahead.
- Your QUALITY OF LIFE depends greatly on your education.

- It is what you do with your education that will define the person you become, and the impact that you will make on your community, state and nation.
- We recognize that a strong educational system and a qualified workforce benefit not only you, but all of the people of Mississippi.
- One of our goals is to bring competitive, high paying jobs to our state that will keep Mississippi's best and brightest students in our state to build their homes, build their families and build a quality of life that is second to none.
- The two most important factors companies consider when relocating to a new area are
  - A trained and qualified workforce
  - A good educational system to raise their children and provide an educated workforce for the future.
- We must provide our students with a strong academic background, a broad-base education and the practical training our workforce requires, if Mississippi is to compete with other states in the future.

- We must enhance and improve our schools so that we can create economic growth.
- We need to bring companies to Mississippi who can pay our people high paying salaries.
- We have a strong economy. We have a workforce that is getting better and better. We have the resources! We have the potential!
- Winston Churchill said, “Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.”
  - You may not always succeed the first time, but you have to continue trying if you plan to succeed.
  - When you give up and stop trying to achieve a goal, then you have failed.
  - You must have the courage and determination to succeed.
  - You must be willing to work to give yourself a better quality of life.
- We have set high goals for the state of Mississippi in terms of economic development and education. It is only with you that

Mississippi can meet its challenges and become the state we know we are.

- America's State of Promise
- Whatever path you choose, I hope that you are choosing to stay in Mississippi as you build your lives, your homes and your families.
- We committed to continuing to create a Mississippi that today's and future generations are proud to call home.
- Congratulations again and Good Luck.