

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR JAMES B. EDWARDS  
OPENING, THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL  
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON  
SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1976

It is said that education is not simply the process of learning...it is the exercise and development of the powers of the mind. This is a basic concept too often forgotten when we go about the work of educating young people today. The educators' job is one of the most difficult in the world, for he is called upon to give students the tools for a good education and teach them how to use those tools in a creative way.

This is part of the reason for the establishment of The Governor's School here at the College of Charleston.

Another reason is our enduring interest in the quality of educational opportunities available to young people...especially those in our secondary education system.

In years past, we have found many ways to honor young people in our high schools for their scholastic achievement...but seldom have they had the opportunity to exercise the abilities that come with that achievement. This is exactly what the Governor's School is designed to do. Hopefully, it will give these talented young people an opportunity to put their knowledge and skills to use. It will help them even further develop the powers of their education and point them in the direction of even greater achievements.

There is yet another benefit...I believe that is just as important as the personal advancement these young people will receive.

Their already demonstrated leadership will be strengthened even more by this experience. These people are among those who will lead business and industry, and government in the decades to come.

If today...we can share with them educational opportunities as rich as the ones here, then we will see even greater leadership emerging in our State and Nation in the future.

Of course, I regret that more young people cannot have this same opportunity. But the top five to ten percent that are chosen for the Governor's School represent our education system's best products. Their experience here can serve to help other young people as well. Besides providing an incentive for others to achieve excellence, their activities here will enrich the scholastic atmosphere of their classmates and friends as they return to their schools or go on to college.

These things were all part of our objective when we developed the idea of the Governor's School. We hope that our state and our society will be enriched by the contributions of the young people who go through this program.

I am personally pleased that the Governor's School has been established here in my home of Charleston...and at my alma mater...the College of Charleston.

Certainly, the rich cultural and historical heritage of the college and the City of Charleston can have a profound effect on these young people. The resources for study and experimentation are fortunately concentrated in this environment to provide an excellent creative experience.

The Governor's School is not intended to be an isolated or lofty academic experience...It is to be a part of the real world. It is to be a laboratory for the sharpening of young people's skills to deal with real problems and issues of today and the future.

I am excited about what will be happening here. Our investments in time and energy can only be repaid by the further achievement of these young people.

I know that it will be repaid many times over.

You have a great challenge ahead of you. You have great opportunities. I look forward to seeing the results of your work here...Results which I am certain will be of great benefit to you and to the people of our State.