

**Talking Points – SC Conference of Black Mayors**  
**Story Hook -- Remember the Titans**

Mark -  
Story of Radio would be good here - it's in the Rotary Outline  
Start over

- ① Speech  
② Audience
- ↓  
speech -  
(speech)  
program
- Theme for this conference is “Building Alliances to Promote Growth and Progress.” A movie that I think exemplifies that concept is Remember the Titans
  - Movie more than any other exemplifies coming together ... took place in Virginia in 1971 ... racially polarized community ... Denzel Washington plays coach Herman Boone, a tough African American coach who’s given the task of coaching this football team
  - He runs into conflict with coach Yoast, who had coached the team successfully for years before integration... once the team is integrated, white players quit after Yoast is denied the head coaching job ... Boone and Yoast tentatively overcome their differences, and the white players come back to the team...
  - The men start trying to build the team ... after a lot of fighting, strife, conflict, the blacks and whites on the team develop friendships and a lot of respect for each other ... ultimately, they become a championship team that serves as an example to the rest of the community...
  - This is a story about all of us coming together to build a better South Carolina ... it shows the value of an approach that ultimately results in success...

**Talking Points – Facts on Racial Disparities in SC**

- Problem: There’s a significant earnings gap between white and black South Carolinians.
  - Total population: makes 80 percent of the national average.
- According to 2000 Census, blacks in SC are earning about 50 cents on the white dollar.
  - 2000 Census per capita income: White - \$22,095 ---- Black - \$11,776
- Problem: There’s a big disparity between the level of educational achievement between white and black South Carolinians.
  - SC has been scraping the bottom of the barrel in SAT scores since at least 1973. Since that time, we’ve only climbed to 49th twice (1989 and 2002).
- According to 2000 Census, 20 percent of white South Carolinians have less than a high school degree. Conversely, 35 percent of black South Carolinians don’t have a high school degree.
- According to the 2000 Census, 16 percent of white South Carolinians have a bachelor’s degree. Only 7 percent of the state’s black population holds a bachelor’s degree.

- In 1990, 2 of the 46 counties in South Carolina were involved in a regional partnership (the Aiken-Edgefield Economic Development Partnership).
- In 2003, 40 of the 46 counties are involved in a regional partnership (8 regional partnerships in the state in total).

### **Solutions:**

#### **Theme: Retooling South Carolina**

- We're looking for your help on a couple of fronts – implementing Monitor Report recommendations at the local level to retool South Carolina's economy so that we can raise income levels from 80.5 percent the national average.
- Everyone in this room is here because you're committed to improving your community – and that commitment will be invaluable in crafting our strategy for a successful 21<sup>st</sup> century economy

#### **1. Retooling - changing the old model**

- The old model of economic development was cheap land, cheap labor and right to work. Clearly, that model isn't going to work any more in the new economy
- The new model has to be about improving the underlying soil conditions for economic development, and about growing / competing in the knowledge-based economy

#### **2. Retooling – state government side of the ledger**

- What can we in government do to improve the underlying soil conditions for economic development?
- Income tax proposal; capital access program; tort reform; small business regulatory relief

#### **3. Retooling – The cities' side of the ledger**

- Partnering with one another within your respective regions in order to pool your resources in attracting industry
- Revitalizing downtown areas and neighborhoods to improve quality of life and make fertile ground for new business startups
- Use our Department of Commerce as a resource for developing a long term growth strategy