

Draft #1

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR
GRAND OPENING OF EXPLORIS
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
TAPED SEPT. 28, 1999 FOR OCTOBER 9, 1999**

Good afternoon and welcome to the grand opening of Exploris. I'm sorry that I couldn't be there with you in person this afternoon. Exploris sounds like such fun that I can't wait to come to Raleigh to get a first-hand look.

I'm pleased to join the other speakers this afternoon in recognizing the important mission of this ground-breaking endeavor: to encourage individuals of all ages – but especially young people – to respect each others' differences, appreciate their similarities, and make connections with them.

It's particularly fitting that Exploris is opening now – as we stand on the threshold of a new century and a new millennium. For, if there is anything that will distinguish the next phase of human history from the last, it will be the breaking down of barriers, as the world shrinks, and we find ourselves linked to people all over the world

Over the course of the past six years, I have had the opportunity to travel the globe. And I know that, for many, learning about and accepting people whose cultures and traditions are different from their own, is not always an easy process. That's why I'm particularly excited that, at Exploris, visitors will be able to experience not only what makes every culture unique and special, but also what it is that connects human beings and brings them together. In this way, Exploris will play a vital role in preparing the next generation for success in a rapidly changing world.

I want to congratulate Ann and Gordon for their vision and the remarkable 15-year commitment that has turned Exploris from a dream into a reality. I also want to recognize the many volunteers, corporations and government leaders. I know that, without your gifts of time and money, this unique place would never have been built.

To all the citizens of Raleigh and beyond who have gathered in Moore Square Park today, the President and I send our best wishes for a wonderful grand opening celebration. As we step into the 21st century, each of us must play a more active role in our world. Exploris is leading the way. Thank you.