

For Immediate Release

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Governor Announces Installation of Computers In Schools Across State

Jackson, Miss. - "6,325 Internet-accessible computers are being installed in schools across the State of Mississippi," announced Governor Ronnie Musgrove at a press conference held at the State Capitol today. "In my inaugural State of the State Address, I dared Mississippians to imagine computers at the fingertips of every Mississippi school child, and with the installation of these computers we are more than half way to meeting our goal."

Governor Musgrove set a goal to place an Internet-accessible computer in every public elementary and secondary classroom in Mississippi by the end of 2002, and charged the members of his Classroom Technology Task Force with the job of accomplishing this goal. Members of the Governor's Classroom Technology Task Force and representatives of the six selected computer vendors joined Governor Musgrove for the press conference.

The six computer vendors are Bull Computers, Business Communications, Inc.; Dell Computer Corporation; Government Computer Sales, Inc.; Howard Computers; Logista (Compaq Subcontractor) and Apple. The computers supplied by these companies were offered at substantial discounts, and vendors provided value-adds such as web sites, educational software and teacher training at no cost to the state or local school.

The Mississippi Department of Education surveyed schools to determine the number of classrooms with computers and Internet connections in May 2000. Of the 30,033 public classrooms in Mississippi, there were 12,602 classrooms without a computer and 6,871 classrooms without an Internet connection. "By placing these computers in classrooms across our state, we are giving teachers another tool to enhance the learning environment for our children," said the Governor. "We are giving our students the means to open doors that provide countless learning opportunities for them."

In the coming weeks Governor Musgrove and Carolyn Shanks, CEO and President of Entergy Mississippi will kick off a campaign to secure the funds needed to install the remaining computers. "We are on track to make Mississippi the first state in the nation to have a computer in every classroom," said Governor Musgrove.

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