

For Immediate Release

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Area Business Leaders Contribute to “Computers in the Classroom” Initiative

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today thanked three area business leaders for their support of his “Computers in the Classroom” initiative, which aims to have an Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom by the end of 2002.

AmSouth Bank President Joe Carden, State Farm Insurance Agency Field Executive Marty Hosford and Union Planters Bank President and CEO Curt Gabardi are contributing a total of 850 computers to the effort. These computers meet the technical specifications of the State Department of Education for classroom instruction.

“We want our children to have every opportunity to compete in the economy of the 21st century – an economy that is borderless, wireless and global,” Musgrove said. “Today, these three businesses are demonstrating their commitment to our children and Mississippi’s future.”

The total gift of 850 computers, worth approximately \$850,000, consists of 500 computers from AmSouth, 123 computers from State Farm Insurance, and 227 from Union Planters. The computers will be placed in schools around the state within the next few weeks. By late fall, the “Computers in the Classroom” initiative will have surpassed the halfway point of its goal.