

MEMORANDUM

March 19, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Appalachian Regional Commission project at Tupelo Middle School

CC: Phillip / Lee Ann

The ARC awarded a \$200,000 grant to Tupelo Middle School for an entrepreneurship project. With this grant, Tupelo Middle School set up five classes of Excel Technology with about 50 seventh and eighth grade students. The classes are taught by Jennifer Robison.

The attached sheet explains in detail the project and what the kids have done with it.

Mabel Murphree, Jennifer Robison and Reed Loden, an eighth grader participating in the project, arrived back from Washington today. They were there to present the project to the ARC and receive an award for their work. Tupelo Middle School was the only middle school in 13 states to take part in a competition and of 27 projects submitted, there were six winners.

Several people at the meeting said Reed Loden's presentation was the best, and they were impressed with his maturity.

One other point: Linda Clifton said questions were asked of the participating schools about the level of support from their governors. One school told of how they bused their students to see the governor, but Linda said Tupelo Middle School boasted of how you have been to their school twice to see their project. This went over extremely well.

During the visit to Tupelo Middle School, you will be given a tour of the classroom, meet with the students and have them demonstrate the work they've been doing.