

October 9, 2003

Committee of Selection for the State of Mississippi  
c/o Mr. Marshall J. Bouldin  
Division of General Internal Medicine  
University of Mississippi Medical Center  
2500 North State Street  
Jackson, Mississippi 39216

Dear Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Rachel Hicks' application for selection as a Rhodes Scholar. Ms. Hicks served as an Education Policy Intern in my office during the summer of 2002.

Ms. Hicks worked on several projects, the most notable of which was her coordination of Mississippi's application to the U.S. Department of Education for a *Following the Leaders* grant. Mississippi was selected from twenty-eight applications as one of six states to receive this grant that is designed to provide the technology resources and hands-on guidance necessary to help states implement the mandates of *No Child Left Behind*. Rachel also served as a liaison with local school districts for my *Computers in the Classroom Initiative*, which resulted in Mississippi being the first state to have an Internet-accessible computer in every public classroom. Rachel was a very professional and efficient worker, often completing projects ahead of schedule.

Rachel is committed to changing this world through the classroom. She understands that good schools bring good jobs that build good communities. She is committed to her students in the Belmont area of West Philadelphia, as I know she will be committed to the students in the Mississippi Delta when she ultimately returns to our state to work in education, politics and civil rights.

I believe Ms. Hicks' tenacity to make a difference, as well as her principles and character, exemplify those of a Rhodes Scholar. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 601-359-4066 if you require any additional information or if I may be of further assistance. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr