

November 4, 2002

Ms. Cheryl Shipman
The ARCH
3601 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6224

Dear Ms. Shipman:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Rachel Hicks' application for selection as a Truman Scholar. Ms. Hicks served this past summer as an Education Policy Intern in my office. I found her to be very professional and responsible. Rachel was a very efficient worker, often completing projects ahead of schedule.

Ms. Hicks worked on several projects this summer, 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 will make Mississippi the first state to have an Internet-accessible computer in every public classroom by the end of this year.

Based on my discussions with her, I know that Rachel is looking forward to a career in public service. She is planning to serve with Teach for America in the Mississippi Delta. Rachel would like to receive her juris doctorate via Harvard's Program in Civil Rights, after which she would like to return to Mississippi to work in education, politics and civil rights.

I believe Ms. Hicks' commitment to public service, as well as her principles and character, exemplify those of a Truman 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