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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** BOYD  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION, K-16  
**DATE** 6/22/00  
**CC:** FILE

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Thirteen of Mississippi's fifteen community and junior colleges and seven of its eight institutions of higher learning comprise Mississippi's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network. The Network provides a variety of education and business services to small businesses (less than 500 employees) including counseling, workshops and information services. Resources are available to assist in business plan development, market analysis, capital sources location, technology transfer, innovation development, federal grant location, and other managerial and technical support services.

Local SBDCs are a one-stop resource center for a variety of counseling, workshops and information services for existing businesses and start-ups. Business counseling is the most requested form of assistance. Business owners and entrepreneurs seek help in improving their prospects for success in today's complex business environment. Local SBDCs help businesses to develop and update business plans, create marketing strategies, and improve managerial skills. The Network also conducts workshops throughout the state at locations convenient to the general population and small business community. Topics are designed to address the many aspects of operating and maintaining a small business profitably.

Two of Mississippi's institutions of higher learning also offer academic centers for the study of entrepreneurship. Alcorn State University's Center for the Study and Development of Entrepreneurship serves small businesses, aspiring entrepreneurs, and others in Southwest Mississippi. Jackson State University's Center for Entrepreneurial Studies provide opportunities for students that promote a greater awareness of entrepreneurship or self-employment as a career option and education support for economic empowerment. The Center's four major goals are: (1) coordinate a concentration and certificate program in entrepreneurial studies, (2) implement community-based entrepreneurial outreach programs and awareness activities, (3) market a research institute which feeds into the School's Center for Business Development and Economic Research as well as the Center for Urban Studies, and (4) establish an infrastructure for continuous improvement of entrepreneurial partnerships and funding which link resources of foundations, entrepreneurs, federal, state and local agencies. The

Center seeks to expand on the successful initiatives of our nation's entrepreneurship programs.