

**The Governor's Education Achievement Award for K- 12** will be awarded to the *Hayes Cooper Center for Math, Science, and Technology-* Merigold, Mississippi.

Hayes Cooper located in Merigold in the heart of the Mississippi Delta is a magnet school and the state's only charter school. As a center for Math, Science, and Technology, Hayes Cooper's curriculum is infused with these three crucial components. Housing an earth science lab including two fresh water ponds, along with two newly refurbished computer labs and the district's innovative gifted program, Hayes Cooper offers a hands on approach to learning. A Whole Schools Arts Initiative grant created an impetus for the inclusion of the arts. 2001 test scores in the upper elementary grades were among the highest in the state. Parental and community involvement together with a dedicated faculty, and innovative teaching techniques provide students with an enthusiasm for learning.