

FACSIMILE

TO: Senator Terry Burton
Senator Alice Harden
Representative Joe Warren
Representative Charles Young
Blake Wilson, Mississippi Economic Council
Dr. William Lewis, Public Education Forum

FROM: Kelly Riley, Policy Liaison

DATE: May 9, 2000

SUBJECT: May 12, Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant Planning Meeting

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants seek to make lasting changes in the ways we recruit, prepare, license, and support teachers. The Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants Program has been allocated \$7.9 million for the State Grant Program in FY 2000. Based on last year's average awards, the Department estimates that it will make 6 State Grant awards of approximately \$1.5 million each per year. State grants seek to promote statewide teacher education reform activities through the linkage of K-12 and higher education institutions and systemic policy and practice changes.

I am coordinating Mississippi's grant application on behalf of the Office of the Governor. The grant application booklet itself emphasizes that commitment from the state's chief executive and other key legislative, education and higher education leaders is critical in achieving the objectives of the grant. **Thus, we are inviting your input in developing Mississippi's grant application, which is due June 12.**

I met with representatives of the Mississippi Department of Education, the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, and the Institutions of Higher Learning this morning to discuss the grant process. **Our next planning meeting will be held this Friday, May 12, at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room on the 20th floor of the Sillers Building.** You are invited to attend this meeting to provide your input as to the policy and practice activities of the proposal. We will provide travel vouchers for legislators.

Please contact me at 359-2528 if you have any questions regarding this meeting.