
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SGPB'S 2003 REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF THE SOUTH FOR THURSDAY MORNING RADIO INTERVIEW
DATE 5/28/03
CC: MAYO

SGPB provided us today with an advance copy of the 2003 Report on the Future of the South: *Reinventing the Wheel, New Models for Southern Leadership*. I have briefly skimmed it and have the following comments for your radio interview in the morning. I'm also attaching Lee Ann Wilder's, Communications Director for SGPB, suggested talking points for you.

- Talking points:
 - Citizen leaders are finding new ways of addressing community challenges.
 - At the core of the movement towards new leadership models is an emerging awareness that quality of life issues are inseparable from economic development issues.
 - The quantity and quality of a community's civic engagement and social capital directly impact both quality of life and economic opportunity.
 - SGPB sees leadership as including many who would routinely be thought of as "followers."
 - If you're willing to work with others to improve your community, if you're willing to make a commitment and keep it, then you are a leader. Communities (and the region) should work together in every aspect of building prosperity.
 - The region has an abundance of people to make things happen. We (communities, states, the region) need to tap into every resource (including human capital and leaders) available.
 - The South must strengthen civic engagement throughout our region by developing leaders at the grassroot level, recruiting more Southerners to assume leadership positions and increasing the diversity of those leaders by engaging minorities, immigrants, our churches and our region's youth.

- Report is the result of work of SGPB's Council on the Southern Community.
- Report discusses the special challenges associated with leadership and civic engagement facing the region's work. The Council convened 75 regional leaders for a 2-day retreat in Research Triangle Park, conducted 7 focus group meetings, and administered an online survey. The report encompasses the comments/insights of more than 600 Southerners.
- Resulted in the addition of 1 new goal and 2 new objectives to SGPB's Statement of Regional Objectives:
 - Goal: Build the civic capacity of Southern communities to respond to emerging opportunities and challenges with new models of leadership, engagement and social capital.
 - Objective 1: Build a broader base of people willing and prepared to assume leadership roles in Southern communities, including those from traditionally underrepresented populations.
 - Objective 2: Develop courageous, accountable leaders who are guided by ethics, informed by knowledge of economic and cultural change and insistent upon inclusive approaches to community action.
- Report highlights community and statewide programs throughout the region that are tapping into resources, fostering new relationships and partnerships and working together for the advancement of their area. Mission Mississippi is highlighted (p. 27). The report discusses (p. 12) Tupelo's "secret" to its transformation as an economic and community development model – its citizens learned to work together.

I'm attaching a copy of the full report, as well as the conference program. The program includes a summary of those state leadership/civic engagement programs that will be highlighted and honored Sunday at the conference. MS's two honorees (pp. 26 and 27) are the Mississippi Center for Community and Civic Engagement at USM and The Montgomery Institute in Meridian.