
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: "CONVERSATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE SOUTH" PANEL DISCUSSION
DATE 6/4/02
CC: DAVIDSON

This session is designed to launch a new line of discussion about the future of the South. It will focus on the intersection between workforce development (this year's theme) and leadership development (next year's theme). Although the panel discussion starts at 10:00, it will be taped so **you need to be in the room at 9:45** to get wired for sound and last minute instructions.

Governor Hodges will moderate this "town meeting" style panel discussion. I've included the panel description provided by SGPB. You need to be sure to include the following in your remarks:

- Your first question will be an open-ended invitation to comment on your overall vision for the future. Mention your priorities of education, healthcare, economic development and public safety. Weave the Computers in the Classroom (i.e., technology) into your comments.
- The next few questions deal with political will for workforce improvements. Stress partnerships between the public and private sectors. Cite Nissan and *Site Selection* magazine's acknowledgement of Mississippi's accomplishments. As to the educational aspect of workforce development, mention the Leadership Summit on Higher Education as an example of public/private partnership and the Summit's recommendations that encompassed early childhood through graduate school, increased research and development and an economic culture that is available to all, regardless of socio-economic status.
- The next questions deal with leadership development. Leadership is your theme for next year. The focus here is on involving more business and volunteer leaders from a cross-section of the population. I think you need to mention your efforts to reach out and seek input from all Mississippians – Capitol for a Day and 1-on-1 with the Governor.

(Remember that Southern Growth has been selected by Pew Partnership for Civic Change to serve as one of ten national implementation partners for a new

grassroots leadership development program entitled *LeadershipPlenty*. The program focuses on building the capacity of people from all walks of life to work together to solve community problems. Southern Growth will coordinate efforts to deliver the program in the South, starting with five pilot sites in Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi (at USM's Center for Community and Civic Engagement), the Tennessee Valley, and Virginia.)