

MEMO

TO: Executive Agency Directors
Dr. Richard Thompson, State Department of Education
Dr. Olon Ray, State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
Dr. Thomas Layzell, Institutions of Higher Learning
Larry Miller, Mississippi Authority for Educational Television

FROM: Kelly Riley, Policy Liaison

DATE: January 31, 2001

SUBJECT: Model programs for Southern Growth Policies Board's "Southern Innovators' Fair"

The Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB) has requested the Office of the Governor's assistance in identifying model programs in our state that can be highlighted in SGPB's fourth annual "Southern Innovators' Fair," which will be held in conjunction with SGPB's annual conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas, June 24-26. SGPB is seeking exemplary programs in the following four programs:

1. **Human Capital:** the skills and abilities that are a vital element in assuring economic growth and individual advancement and the reduction of inequality.

Suggestions:

- Entrepreneurial training programs
- Job readiness programs
- Community college initiatives
- Training programs developed through clusters

2. **Financial Capital:** financial resources/programs to facilitate the creation and expansion of entrepreneurship in the South.

Suggestions:

- Programs that utilize various forms of financing (i.e., angel, mezzanine, private capital, venture capital)
- Programs that raise capital online
- Programs that finance minority innovation

3. **Social Capital:** connections among individuals and entrepreneurs – social networks that give rise to trust and deeper collaboration.

Suggestions:

- Citizen groups working to solve community problems
- Mechanisms that allow businesses to network with each other

- Civic engagement initiatives designed to get people more deeply involved in their communities

4. **Intellectual Capital:** the ability to create, innovate and bring products to market.

Suggestions:

- Innovative linkages and partnerships to strengthen R&D
- State policies and programs

The Fair can accommodate three programs from each state. Innovators will be selected based on five criteria: originality of project, state representation, innovative funding arrangements, sustainability of their creative approaches, and economic and social impact at the state and regional level.

The Governor's Office will submit five nominations on behalf of the State of Mississippi. Due to approaching deadlines, **we must receive your nomination(s) by Tuesday, February 13.** You may submit two (2) nominations from your agency. **You must provide the following information for each nomination:**

- Program category (financial, human, intellectual or social capital)
- Program name
- Program description (75 words or less)
- Website (if applicable)
- Contact (name, address, phone, fax and email)

Please contact me at 359-2528, or via e-mail at kriley@governor.state.ms.us, if you have any questions regarding this matter. Thank you for your assistance.