
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: SEWELL
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND FOR 10/25/02 SREB EVENT
DATE 10/22/02
CC: FILE

The Governor is speaking at 12:00 during lunch this Friday at the Ninth Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring at the Doubletree Hotel Crystal City in Arlington, VA. Here is some background:

- The Institute is sponsored by The Compact for Faculty Diversity which is comprised of the New England Board of Higher Education, the Southern Regional Education Board, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and participating colleges/universities and state agencies that attend the Institute. (Governor needs to recognize all of these.)
- The Institute is conducted in cooperation with the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the National Science Foundation/Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate, the Ronald McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Minority Ph.D. Program. (Governor needs to recognize these for their support.)
- The Institute receives special funding from the Coca-Cola Foundation (He should recognize).
- The Issue (according to the program): Minority students attain graduate degrees and enter academia at far lower rates than nonminority students. As a result, people of color have limited opportunities to contribute to academia and the professoriate. This problem also has serious implications for all students, for whom faculty members serve as influential mentors and role models and whose educational experiences are enriched by diversity. More than ever, graduate education is critical to economic success and positions of national and international leadership.
- The Compact (according to the program): The Compact for Faculty Diversity addresses the shortage of minority faculty members in colleges and universities by providing racial/ethnic minority students with the support – academic and

social as well as financial – that they need to pursue doctoral degrees and become college teachers. By supporting and encouraging these students, the Compact for Faculty Diversity works to increase the percentage of minority students who earn doctorates and to diversify the pool of qualified candidates for faculty positions at colleges and universities. As a result, more minorities will be available to serve as faculty and mentors.

- The Institute (according to program): The annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring is a key component through which the Compact for Faculty Diversity achieves its objectives. The annual institute gives doctoral candidates opportunities to share insights and tips for success in graduate work; to network with other doctoral candidates and faculty representatives; and to enrich their research and teaching skills. Faculty members who attend the institute receive help in developing mentoring skills and strategies and in working to ensure departmental support for underrepresented students.
- The Southern Regional Education Board's Doctoral Scholars Program was developed with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts and The Ford Foundation. Now in its ninth year of operation, the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program supports more than 200 scholars, who attend 67 institutions in 23 states. SREB states share resources, work to expand their minority applicant pool, support qualified candidates with financial assistance for up to five years of graduate study, and assist graduates and higher education institutions in identifying employment opportunities. The program has maintained a retention rate of more than 90 percent, and more than 70 percent of its graduates have begun academic careers.
- Mississippi has had ten SREB Doctoral Scholars. The Governor will be introduced by Dr. Jeanetta Tankson, one of these ten who was also one of SREB's first 100 Doctoral Scholars. She received her Ph.D. from MSU and was the first African-American female to receive a Ph.D. in animal physiology from MSU's Poultry Science Department. Jeanetta has stated that, "The Doctoral Scholars program acts as a catalyst in that all of the scholars come together once a year and get rejuvenated by the accomplishments of other students who have succeeded in earning their Ph.D.s."
- The Governor should mention that Mississippi had the honor of actually having the 100th SREB Doctoral Scholar – Jennifer Riley who completed her doctoral work at MSU in Industrial Engineering/Ergonomics and Human Factors. The first 100 scholars were honored during SREB's 2001 Annual Meeting in Atlanta and the Governor was present to honor Jennifer and the other 99 doctoral scholars. Jennifer's quote for the 2001 luncheon program was, "The SREB Doctoral Scholars Program, for many talented and motivated persons interested in

faculty positions, eliminates the major obstacle of a lack of financial means to reach goals that might otherwise be unattainable.”

- I’m attaching a SREB report on the results of the program that you can use for additional background.
- The Governor generally needs to speak on making education available, affordable and effective for all. He can bring in all the education impacts our future, economic development stuff.
- The Governor will need to recognize those organizations who are hosting a luncheon table. These organizations did not provide financial support, rather they are donating the time and experiences of an executive to talk to doctoral students seated at the table. The Governor will need to recognize the hosts by the corporation and the individuals representing those organizations. I have a preliminary list at this point, but they are going to provide the final list when we arrive with phonetic spelling of each person’s name.