

March 20, 2003

Kelly,

Here is SREB Annual Meeting Program

Draft Proposal

- < *Goals for Education: Challenge to Lead*
 adopted last year; this Board meeting should keep emphasis on Goals and long-term states' efforts.
 - < Education First

 opportunities for Governor Musgrove to assert "Education First," the reasons it is important for all states, and how he is acting to make Education First in Mississippi. Obviously the ties to *Goals for Education* and to "we can lead the nation in educational progress"--and Education First ideas are apparent.
 - < Closing Gaps
 One of the key Goals' themes and the linch pin of state education improvement and accountability efforts as well as *No Child Left Behind*

 SREB and states' actions should be emphasized.
 - < Closing gaps in success at colleges and universities
 (There is a major problem here, especially for university students, and the Texas work is important for other states to know about.)
 - < Reading
 (One of the keys to closing gaps; use new NAEP results to push the case for more and continuing work.)
 - < Technology
 (The education technology Action Agenda announced by Governor Musgrove and the Executive Committee is a long-term effort. This Board meeting should be a part of this effort.)
 - < Leadership
 Ultimately education leadership will largely determine if we have qualified and effective teachers. The multi-year, multi-million dollars redesign of school leadership programs will be at a "telling point" in June. We think this may deserve time on the Board's agenda.
1. This is a draft of potential topics
 2. There is usually a tendency (ours) to try to put too much into too limited time span.

Mark