

January 27, 2003

The Honorable Bob Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor Ehrlich:

As Chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board, I want to welcome you to membership on the Board. As Governor, you are a member of the Board of America's first compact for education. SREB, an interstate organization focused on state education issues, was established by action of Southern governors and legislatures over fifty years ago to enable Southern states to work together to pool their resources and accomplish together what they cannot do alone. Maryland was among the original signers of the Southern Regional Education Compact that includes 16 states. More recently, for example, Maryland colleges and universities joined with more than 300 public and independent colleges and universities to form SREB's *Electronic Campus*, the nation's largest higher education electronic marketplace, with 8000 courses and 250 degree programs available on-line.

As Governor, you serve *ex officio* as one of Maryland's five representatives on the Board. Other Maryland members and term completion dates are: Delegate Henry B. Heller (2003), Donald N. Langenberg (2004) and Karen R. Johnson (2005) and Arthur Dorman (2006). Each year on June 30 a term on the Board expires, and you will have the opportunity to reappoint that person or you may appoint someone else to the term. The only stipulation is that the SREB Compact requires that each state must have at least one educator and one legislator in its representation on the Board.

Senator Dorman represented Maryland on the Board's Executive Committee last year. State Treasurer Nancy Kopp chaired the SREB Commission on Education Goals and was an active member of the Board before leaving the General Assembly. Delegate Henry Heller serves on SREB's Legislative Advisory Council for a specified term by virtue of being a legislative member of the Board. Maryland has a vacancy on the Council, created when Senator Dorman did not return to the legislature.

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You may also name additional legislators to the Council to serve at your pleasure. A state's membership on the Council should have representation from both chambers. The Council advises the Board on legislative matters and serves as a permanent steering committee for SREB's Annual Legislative Work Conference at which legislators and educators meet to discuss matters of mutual interest. Legislators who serve on the Council value their membership for the information and perspectives they receive as well as the network of legislative colleagues they develop.

I know that SREB President Mark Musick will be glad to answer any questions about Maryland's membership on the Board and Legislative Advisory Council and will want to seek an appointment with you to review Maryland's participation in the Board's programs which benefit Maryland's citizens.

In the meantime, I hope you will mark your calendar for the Board's 2003 Annual Meeting to be held June 22-24 at the Driskill Hotel in Austin.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr

cc: Mark Musick, President
Southern Regional Education Board
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