

January 27, 2003

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Governor of Georgia
State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Perdue:

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. You, like me, are no stranger to SREB. We were both senators who benefited from SREB's information and advice in reports, meetings, and probably from staff responses to questions and requests for assistance. Mark Musick has told me that you were a member of the SREB Legislative Advisory Council and a user of the Board's work, particularly in those years you were given the opportunity to participate in SREB meetings. I can assure you and your staff that as governor you will find valuable assistance at SREB.

You know that SREB was established by action of Southern governors and legislatures over fifty years ago so Southern states could work together to pool their resources and accomplish together what they could not do alone. More recently, for example, Georgia colleges and universities joined with Mississippi's institutions of higher learning and with more than 300 public and independent colleges and universities to form SREB's *Electronic Campus*. The *Electronic Campus* is now the nation's largest higher education electronic marketplace, with 8000 courses and 250 degree programs available on-line. Georgia was among the original signers of the Southern Regional Education Compact that includes 16 states.

As Governor, you serve *ex officio* as one of Georgia's five representatives on the Board. Other Georgia members and term completion dates are: President Michael F. Adams (2003), Paul C. Broun (2004), Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith (2005) and Representative Kathy B. Ashe (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.

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Senator Jack Hill serves on SREB's Legislative Advisory Council and was elected vice-chair of the Council by his fellow senators and representatives. Senator Hill and Representative DuBose Porter serve on the Council as gubernatorial appointees and do not serve a specified term. Representative Kathy Ashe serves on the Council by virtue of being a legislative member of the Board.

Chancellor Meredith and Representative Ashe are serving on SREB's Executive Committee this year.

Georgia will receive about \$1,270,000 for 2003-2004 from SREB states for providing services through SREB's contract-for-services program at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. You are a testimony to the long-standing quality of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Georgia also saves with SREB by purchasing contracts for student spaces at other institutions, thereby eliminating costly duplication of programs for Georgia. The Southern College of Optometry and the University of Alabama in Birmingham provide spaces for Georgia residents in optometric medicine and Nova Southeastern University provides spaces in osteopathic medicine.

I know that SREB President Mark Musick will want to seek an appointment with you to review Georgia's participation in the Board's many programs which benefit Georgia'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. I attended my first SREB Board Meeting as governor my first year as governor. I hope you will also plan to do so.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr

cc: Mark Musick, President
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