
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: SREB DECEMBER 13 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
DATE: 12/17/01
CC: FILE

I attended the SREB December 13 Executive Committee meeting on your behalf. The following items were discussed/acted upon at the meeting:

- Treasurer's Report: Senator Howard Lee reported that SREB had received a good 2001 audit report from Deloitte & Touche and that the organization was not experiencing any financial difficulties.
- Regional Contract Program Fees for 2004 and Fee Guidelines: SREB fees are increasing at a lower rate than both resident and non-resident tuition and fees. The Board approved the staff's recommendations that 1) SREB use state actions in setting their resident tuition and fees for health professions programs as a guideline and 2) that the annual percentage increase in resident tuition and fees over the past five years be used as a guideline in setting 2005 contract fees in 2002.
- Learning Connections for SREB States: Each state participating in *Learning Connections* would have its own version of *Georgia Learning Connections* to connect to a regional bank of lesson plans and instructional standards that are linked to its own academic standards. However, the project is experiencing delays due to a breakdown in negotiations between the GA Department of Education and CEISMC (at the Georgia Institute of Technology), which provides technical support for *Georgia Learning Connections*. Four states (GA, AL, SC and DL) had signed letters of agreement with SREB to participate. Due to these delays, Alabama has requested its funds be returned to help build a state portal in Alabama. South Carolina is announcing its own teacher site and the availability of [AOL@School](#) in January. Delaware continues to fully support *Learning Connections*. The Executive Committee voted to have the staff call a special meeting of SREB states now building websites with lesson plans and instructional materials in order to explore ways of sharing these resources among states.
- Informational reports: The Committee heard status reports on the Algebra end-of-course test development, SREB *Goals for Education—Beyond 2002* (to be finalized by annual meeting), closing the achievement gaps, and the SREB leadership initiative

(JSU's School of Education is participating in this). All projects are progressing as scheduled.

- No. 1 in the South: Governor Barnes shared the attached "statement" which was prepared by SREB staff in response to a Senator's questioning why his state would be aiming to be just as good as or better than other Southern states. He asked, "Why would we want to be first among the worst?"

The attached shows that times have changed. There was a time just a couple of generations ago when being first in the South could mean being last in America. There was a time when no one in America would have suggested that being No. 1 in the South in education would have meant being a national leader. The challenge is to build on this momentum and progress without losing sight of just how much more needs to be done.

I've given copies to Lee Ann and John for their reference. SREB recommended that the info be used in speeches and be distributed to media outlets.

- Annual Meeting: The SREB annual meeting will be held June 23-25 in Atlanta. I've given these dates to Jill and asked her to put them on your calendar.