

Edits (denoted in bold, underlined text) to NGA text:

### **Higher Education**

Governor Ronnie Musgrove introduced members of the Steering Committee for Mississippi's Leadership Summit on Higher Education; the committee is charged with developing a vision for Mississippi higher education. Mississippi was chosen by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges as the first state to hold such a leadership summit.

### **Technology**

Following up on the Governor's State of the State address' promise to ensure Internet-accessible computers in every public elementary and secondary classroom in Mississippi, by the end of 2002, **more than ½ of the** machines are being installed in schools across the state **during 2001**.

**Bridget: We also submitted the following two items in our initial response to NGA.**

### **Ayers Settlement**

In the Summer of 2000, Governor Musgrove called upon the parties to the Ayers litigation to sit down and negotiate a settlement to the lawsuit filed 25 years ago to address discrimination in Mississippi higher education. The Governor initiated a dialogue that has resulted in a proposed Settlement Agreement that is supported by both plaintiffs and defendants. The Settlement Agreement contains over \$500 million for facilities and programs at the three historically African-American universities over a 17-year period, exceeding the requirements prescribed by the federal courts. A hearing on the fairness of the plan will be held before the federal judge in September, 2001. The settlement of this litigation will enhance Mississippi higher education system.

### **Teacher Pay**

Governor Musgrove worked during the 2001 Legislative Session to secure funding for the first-year of a five-year \$337.9 million plan to raise Mississippi teacher pay to the Southeastern average by the 2005-2006 school year. Mississippi's teacher pay average will go from \$31,900 to the predicted Southeastern average of approximately \$41,000 by the 2005-2006 school year. This is an approximate 30% raise. Governor Musgrove is committed to pay raises for our teachers and to Mississippi putting education first.

**Bridget: During a special session yesterday, the five percent trigger was eliminated on our teacher pay raise plan, so I would like to submit the following replacement**

**language for the above “Teacher Pay” language.**

HB 1134, passed during the 2000 Regular Session, provides for a \$337.9 million plan to raise Mississippi teacher pay to the Southeastern average by the 2005-2006 school year. The legislation included a provision that tied these raises to at least 5 percent economic growth. Governor Musgrove has consistently called for the removal of the five percent trigger. This five percent trigger was removed during an extraordinary session of the Legislature on July 23, 2001.