
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: NGA: MISSISSIPPI'S INTEREST IN HOSTING NATIONAL POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MEETING
DATE 10/30/01
CC: RENICK
BOYD

Dane Linn of NGA's Center for Best Practices' Education Division has asked me to present the following opportunity to you to determine your interest in Mississippi hosting a national forum on higher education accountability.

After leading the K-12 standards, assessment, and accountability movement of the 1990s, Governors are beginning to ask why higher education should not be held to similar expectations to demonstrate value and assure quality. To respond to Governors' growing interest in the issue, NGA proposes to host a national forum on postsecondary education accountability. The objectives of the forum are to:

- reflect on the lessons from a decade's worth of experimentation at the state level on postsecondary education accountability, including state report cards and performance-based budgeting;
- assess how current models fall short of new expectations for post-secondary education providers; and
- identify promising strategies for integrating state expectations for performance into public governance and finance.

Key themes of the meeting will include: supporting K-12 reform with linked accountability systems; integrating learning outcomes and other measures of quality into accountability systems; and linking economic and social indicators to postsecondary education accountability. In addition to presentations of research findings and lessons from states, the forum will include workshops for board members, college and university presidents, and policymakers. To assure that key stakeholders participate in the forum dialogue, NGA will seek meeting co-sponsorship with the Education Trust, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Association of Governing Boards, and the State Higher Education Executive Officers.

According to Dane, Tom Wacaster of the Phil Hardin Foundation has expressed an interest in the Hardin Foundation supporting/sponsoring the national forum here in Mississippi as a follow-up to the AGB Leadership Summit on Higher Education's *Public Agenda for Higher Education*. Would you be interested in NGA pursuing this possibility with the Hardin Foundation?

Yes _____

No _____