

June 8, 2000

Honorable Richard Riley
U. S. Department of Education
Federal Building #10
600 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Riley:

As Governor of the State of Mississippi, I am pleased to submit our Teacher Quality Enhancement application and to provide leadership in these significant activities to form a seamless K-16 educational system. Improving the quality of our teacher preparation programs and professional development will have a positive impact on the achievement of our K-12 students.

Mississippi's educational leadership and interested business and government leaders are making significant strides in forming partnerships to address the critical needs of Mississippi's public schools. Mississippi is implementing a new school accountability plan tied to student success in reading, mathematics, and science that will require teachers who are well prepared in these disciplines to effectively raise student achievement. The Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning has just completed a review of their teacher education programs and has pledged to strengthen these programs and to warranty their graduates.

An essential component of this effort is the active participation of key personnel in the Governor's Office, the Mississippi Department of Education, the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. Appropriate staff will be actively involved as the project seeks to identify and implement strategies to recruit, train, and retain Mississippi's teachers.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant application and for the services that your department provides to Mississippi. I look forward to working with the U.S. Department of Education to advance Mississippi's students and teachers.

Very truly yours,

Ronnie Musgrove