
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM MSU EARLY CHILDHOOD INSTITUTE FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR GRANT
DATE: 6/20/2001
CC: FILE

Dr. Cathy Grace of MSU's Early Childhood Institute has requested a letter of support for a U.S. Department of Education grant for training early childhood teachers in childcare centers through the community college system in six (Coahoma, Copiah, Adams, Lauderdale, Pike, Panola) Mississippi counties and one (Crittenden) county in eastern Arkansas.

The Mid-South Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program will address three critical areas: 1) development of a career ladder of professional development opportunities which will significantly alter the way individuals are prepared for teaching young children; 2) improvement in strategies currently used in teaching children 3-5 years of age; and, 3) upgrading the knowledge and credentials of teaching faculty in senior universities and community colleges who prepare teachers of young children.

The proposal is a partnership between MSU, USM and Alcorn State, as well as six community colleges, Mississippi Educational Television, SERVE, Inc. and The Civitan International Research Center to improve the literacy skills and quality of care and education of children prior to their entrance into school and to maintain a leadership program whereby individuals are prepared to guide early childhood practice at the state and local level. The project has two major performance goals: to promote a stronger education system for current early childhood educators through the development of an innovative career ladder approach to better professional development in the targeted areas and to promote school readiness and better language and reading outcomes for young children 3-5 years of age.

MSU has to submit the proposal Friday. I am attaching a letter of support for your signature should you decide that you want to provide such a letter in order to save time. Thanks!