

Dear Educator,

On September 27, 2000, I officially launched Fast Forward Mississippi, Mississippi's School-to-Careers Initiative. Since its beginning, my office, in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Education, Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Economic Council, Mississippi Parent Teachers Association, and State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, has worked diligently to ensure the provision of appropriate educational opportunities within our State in order to prepare our students for constructive participation in society, immediate employment, and/or further education.

These State Partners recognize the importance of teachers being able to relate purpose and meaning to the lessons they teach. Through School-to-Careers and Mississippi State University's Research Experiences in Industry Initiative, we have provided teacher internships that have enabled our teachers to experience industry and its application to the classroom. Additionally, we have provided several Institutes that offered helpful assistance in establishing partnerships between our schools and our communities.

Now we would like to make one more valuable resource available to teachers. *Making It Work* has been created to provide fourth through eighth grade teachers with lesson plans that exhibit the correlation between learning and the workplace while being faithful to the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks. Each lesson will highlight a new career for students and address one or more of the required teaching competencies in Mathematics, Language Arts, Science, and/or Social Studies. We hope teachers will use this document to assist our children in achieving their educational and career aspirations.

We know the importance of your hard work in preparing our students to Fast Forward into productive careers and fulfilling lives. Thank you for all you do for Mississippi's children.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

Other signatures