
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: IHL REQUEST FOR YOU TO CALL SENATORS LOTT AND COCHRAN
DATE: 9/5/02
CC: MAYO

Dr. Bill McHenry of IHL has been notified by the USDE that Mississippi should receive official notification on September 13 that we will be awarded a GEAR UP grant this year. We have applied for the grant for the last 3 years. Mississippi's proposal requested \$12,422,260 in federal funding over five years. Core components include:

- The mission of Mississippi's GEAR UP program is to ensure that disadvantaged middle school and secondary school students in Mississippi are prepared to pursue and succeed in post-secondary education.
- GEAR UP is a partnership between MDE, SBCJC and IHL designed to assist Mississippians' access to higher education. The Mississippi Education Partnership (MEP), a 501(c)(3) comprised of the executive directors of IHL, SBCJC and MDE, will oversee the project. The MEP is a perfect fit with the Higher Education Summit recommendations. (see org chart)
- Program activities will be implemented in 32 of the state's lowest socio-economic districts (see attached map), will involve approximately 8,500 students, and will include:
 - comprehensive tutoring and mentoring
 - teacher, counselor, and administrator professional development
 - outreach and family involvement
 - summer academic enrichment and transitional programs
 - tuition assistance

This is a wonderful opportunity that will help us encourage lower socio-economic students to further their educations and to start establishing a mind set among young people that college is a real possibility.

I have served on the GEAR UP steering committee and have conveyed that you would like to participate in the announcement of the grant. Lee Ann is working with Pam Smith at IHL to try to set the press conference up for September 16 so that you can participate. You need to be at this press conference because 1) this is going to change higher education in Mississippi and 2) the AG's office has been involved with the mentoring component of the project and I'm sure he'll be at the press conference touting his accomplishments.