
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON FORREST-LAMAR COUNTIES' LEADERSHIP TEAM
DATE: 6/26/01
CC: RENICK

Tom Schnaubelt of USM's Center for Community and Civic Engagement has requested that I serve on the External Guidance Team for the Hattiesburg Area Education Foundation's "Forrest-Lamar Plan for Excellence Initiative." The Center for Community and Civic Engagement is going to serve as a research consortium for the team.

The External Guidance Team will facilitate strategic planning during the course of FY 02 across economic, cultural, geographical and political boundaries to develop a community-wide plan for educational excellence in Forrest and Lamar counties. Planning will build on the recognition that a new, state system of tests and accountability changes the context for school-community conversations, increasing the need for public understanding about conditions, resources, practices and policies that can affect student achievement.

The planning process is designed to support the growth of an informed citizenry prepared, not only to understand school report card data, but common predictors of student achievement. Planning will result in citizens who have increased understanding about what excellence in education means and about changes that can increase opportunities for all children to learn at higher levels, especially the community's poorest children who typically have had the fewest opportunities.

Schnaubelt reported that the team will meet primarily via conference calls, e-mail and a list-serve, so there should be no travel expense involved. Please sign the attached draft letter of intent for my participation if you wish for us to participate.