

Computers in the Classroom Initiative

In his first State of the State Address, Governor Musgrove dared Mississippians to imagine computers at the fingertips of every Mississippi school child. Governor Musgrove created the Governor's Classroom Technology Task Force with the sole purpose of accomplishing the Governor's goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every public elementary and secondary classroom in Mississippi by the end of 2002. On February 15, 2001, Governor Musgrove announced the installation of 6,325 Internet-accessible computers in schools across the State of Mississippi. The installation of these 6,325 computers puts the Task Force more than half way to meeting its goal.

As a two-term Senator and Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, and as Lieutenant Governor, Governor Musgrove has worked diligently to lay a strong foundation for education and to take sound and innovative measures to strengthen the schools within our state. Technology and the World Wide Web offer exceptional educational resources for Mississippi's school children and teachers. The public and private sectors, working together, have the capability to make technology and Internet resources available to Mississippi's school children and teachers.

Governor Musgrove's initiative achieves two objectives: (1) enhancing the educational experience for Mississippi students and (2) helping bridge the digital divide for all Mississippians. To date, no state has accomplished this goal.

Ayers Settlement

In the Summer of 2000, Governor Musgrove called upon the parties to the Ayers litigation to sit down and negotiate a settlement to the lawsuit filed 25 years ago to address discrimination in Mississippi higher education. The Governor initiated a dialogue that has resulted in a proposed Settlement Agreement that is supported by both plaintiffs and defendants. The Settlement Agreement contains over \$500 million for facilities and programs at the three historically African-American universities over a 17-year period, exceeding the requirements prescribed by the federal courts. A hearing on the fairness of the plan will be held before the federal judge in September, 2001. The settlement of this litigation will enhance Mississippi higher education system.

Teacher Pay

Governor Musgrove worked during the 2001 Legislative Session to secure funding for the first-year of a five-year \$337.9 million plan to raise Mississippi teacher pay to the Southeastern average by the 2005-2006 school year. Mississippi's teacher pay average will go from \$31,900 to the predicted Southeastern average of approximately \$41,000 by the 2005-2006 school year. This is an approximate 30% raise. Governor Musgrove is committed to pay raises for our teachers and to Mississippi putting education first.