

July 25, 2003

Mr. Drew Scheberle
Interim Project Director
Center for State Scholars
400 W. 15th Street, Suite 408
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Scheberle:

I am pleased to offer my support to the Public Education Forum of Mississippi's application to the Center for State Scholars for funding and technical assistance to implement the Scholars Initiative in Mississippi.

Education is my administration's top priority. Mississippi has made significant investments in our educational system to ensure that our students are prepared to compete in today's global economy. The coursework set forth in the Scholars Initiative will enhance our students' ability to compete. I am offered the opportunity across the state via my public speaking engagements and meetings to encourage support for the Scholars Initiative with educational and business leaders. Kelly Riley, my Education Policy Liaison, has assisted in the development of this application and will be happy to attend the strategy session with key leaders.

I am pleased to offer support for this project. Please do not hesitate to contact Kelly Riley at 601-359-2528 if you require additional information from my office.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr