

May 2, 2001

Kenneth W. Tolo, Director  
Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
1990 K Street NW, Room 8022  
Washington, DC 20006  
*VIA FACSIMILE*

Re: Application No. 84.116A – *The River Program*

Dear Mr. Tolo:

I am pleased to offer my support to Delta State University and Mississippi Valley State University in securing a Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. *The River Program* is a joint initiative between these two universities, one historically white institution and one historically black institution. *The River Program* involves a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding river culture and ecology as it relates to Mississippi's history.

*The River Program* will incorporate the sciences and humanities. This program will serve as a model for curriculum reform at both universities and will invigorate learning for students by introducing them to integrated learning communities and collaborative learning. *The River Program* promises to be an exciting initiative involving not only science and humanities, but also cooperative efforts to address racial understanding for students from these two universities.

I believe that *The River Program* is worthy of your resources. I urge you to contribute to this innovative venture between these two universities. I am pleased to offer support for this project. Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr