

*Building Opportunity in Mississippi Through Higher Education*, a forward-looking and goal-oriented agenda for all of our colleges and universities -- public and private, as well as two-year and four-year institutions, was released at the Leadership Summit on Higher Education on January 7. *Building Opportunity in Mississippi Through Higher Education* is focused on six major priorities recommending what higher education can do to advance our state. We must:

- raise the educational aspirations of our citizens
- get all of our children ready to learn by the time they begin school
- boost the quality of teaching and learning in our elementary and secondary schools
- increase college and university graduation rates
- dramatically expand adult life-long learning, worker training, and professional development,
- increase the level of activity in university research and development, and

*Building Opportunity in Mississippi* also provided a framework to sustain these commitments and strengthen accountability for this public agenda.

The leadership summit brought together Mississippi leaders of state government, the business community, and higher education, as well as other civic leaders of our state. This report will help advance Mississippi's competitiveness and improve the quality of life of our citizens.