

January 13, 2002

Ms. Marsha Meeks Kelly
Executive Director
Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service
3825 Ridgewood Road
Suite 601
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

Dear Ms. Kelly:

I write to enthusiastically support the Campus Link AmeriCorps program application being put forward by the Mississippi Center for Community and Civic Engagement. The goals set forth by this proposed initiative include an after-school mentoring program designed to increase academic efficacy, build awareness of college opportunities, and reduce risky behaviors among middle school students. The program will provide services to middle school students – an area of great need in Mississippi.

The proposed initiative reflects a focus on the Mississippi several of the priorities identified by a 40-member steering committee on higher education co-chaired by Governor Ronnie Musgrove. Specifically, the priorities of bolstering the quality of teaching and learning in elementary and secondary schools, increasing college graduation rates, and raising the educational aspirations of citizens will be addressed by this program.

Please insert one or more of the following: (a) CONTRIBUTIONS you can make to the Campus Link program (if possible, include the financial value of this contribution), (b) how your program or constituency might BENEFIT, and/or (c) a personal note concerning your experience with the Campus Link program.

I hope that you will give this proposal serious consideration. The strategies outlined by the Center for Community and Civic Engagement will provide much needed academic and social support to low income and under-achieving students, engage citizens in community-building activities, and provide children and their families with information about postsecondary academic opportunities.

Thank you for your efforts to foster high-quality national service programs in Mississippi. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at **YOUR PHONE NUMBER**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

