

April 12, 2001

Dr. George French
Department of Human Services
750 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202

Dear Dr. French:

I am writing to invite you to join me for a luncheon at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi on April 26, 2001. Mr. Jeff Dahl, Chief Operating Officer of the Beau Rivage, is sponsoring this luncheon to inform Gulf Coast business, educational, and community leaders about Jobs for Mississippi Graduates (JMG). Mr. Dahl and I have the pleasure of serving together on the JMB Board of Directors.

As you know, JMG's mission is to assist at-risk and disadvantaged youth in graduating from high school and in finding and keeping quality jobs for 12 months after leaving school through a school-to-work transition system. JMG is modeled after the national Jobs for America's Graduates, the nation's largest, most consistently applied model of school-to-work transition for at-risk youth. Approximately 500-550 Mississippi students are participating in JMG programs at 15 sites. These programs offer in-school and out-of-school services to students including instruction, mentoring, employability skills and placement assistance. Ken Smith, the founder and President of Jobs for America's Graduates, will also be with us to describe Mississippi's accomplishments with this program as compared to the 26 other states that work with Jobs for America's Graduates.

Partnerships with business are critical to JMG's effectiveness. I hope that the information provided at this luncheon will encourage you to join us in supporting the continued success of JMG. Please complete the enclosed reservation form and return it to Dr. Joe Haynes, JMG Executive Director, by Friday, April 20.

I hope you will join us for the luncheon to learn more about this exciting and successful program that can greatly impact the skills of the future workforce of Mississippi.

Very truly yours,

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