
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: COALITION FOR MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
DATE: 1/21/01
CC: SIMMONS

William Winter and Dr. Charles Alexander, Principal Investigator for the Delta Rural Systemic Initiative, have contacted this office concerning the creation of a coalition to zero in on math, science and technology education. They have held meetings with Dr. Richard Thompson, Dr. Tom Layzell, Dr. Olon Ray, an official of the Stennis Space Center, a number of business leaders (Dwight Evans, Don Meiners, John Palmer and others), the Public Education Forum and Mississippi Technology, Inc. (MTI). These parties have all indicated support for the concept, but no one has the official authority to create the suggested coalition.

Winter and Alexander suggested that you issue an executive order creating an 11-member Coalition for Math, Science and Technology Education to create a common agenda to improve math, science and technology education in order to prepare Mississippi workers for the new economy. The Coalition would work with the Public Education Forum, MTI and other existing organizations to achieve its mission. The Coalition should have balanced representation from the public and private sectors. MTI could recommend private sector representatives to you. You would appoint these private sector representatives and the Chair of the Coalition. The Commissioner of Higher Education, the Director of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, the State Superintendent of Education, the Executive Director of MDA, and the Director of Operations at Stennis Space Center should represent the public sector on the Coalition.

The Coalition could appoint a twenty-five member advisory committee, comprised of persons involved in technology and education (e.g., a middle school science teacher) to provide background information and to comment on proposals.

Winter and Alexander suggested the following action/steps:

- Approve concept and select Coalition (Governor)
- Advise key legislators of the project (Governor and Coalition Chair)
- Work with outside experts to develop draft education agenda (Coalition)
- Appoint Advisory Committee (Coalition)
- Prepare initial draft of education agenda (Outside experts)
- Review and comment on draft education agenda (Coalition and Advisory Committee)
- Final revisions and approval of education agenda (Governor and Coalition)
- Summit/meeting to promote agenda

Please advise as to if you would like to discuss the creation of such a Coalition.