

For Immediate Release

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Mississippi Chosen as the First State for a State Leadership Summit on Higher Education

Jackson, Miss. – The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) has chosen Mississippi as the first state for a State Leadership Summit on Higher Education. AGB staff visited Mississippi to assess support and interest in such a summit that would develop a “public agenda” for higher education. AGB staff stated that Mississippi and its leaders are eager to develop a future orientated public agenda for higher education that meets the needs of Mississippi and its citizens.

“The nation and the world have noticed Mississippi’s commitment to education,” said Governor Musgrove. “We are on our way to becoming the first in the nation in many areas concerning education. It is time that we receive the positive recognition we deserve, but most importantly, the recognition our students deserve.”

The purpose is to outline what all of higher education (public, private, two-year and four-year institutions) can and should do to advance Mississippi’s competitiveness and to improve the quality of life of our citizens. “Mississippi’s success in the era of knowledge and information will depend on the graduates, research and service from our colleges and universities,” stated the Governor. The leadership summit and the process leading up to it will bring together these leaders on a neutral common ground for a candid and goal-oriented dialogue about the future of the State.

The Committee for the project will meet over a nine-month period. Forty-seven Mississippi leaders of state government, the business community and higher education, as well as other civic leaders have been invited by Governor Ronnie Musgrove to serve as a Steering Committee for a new initiative in Mississippi -- a State Leadership Summit on Higher Education. Governor Musgrove will co-chair the Steering Committee with Aubrey Patterson, Chairman and CEO of Bancorp South.

AGB is dedicated to strengthening the performance of citizen boards of public and private higher education. Its Center for Public Higher Education Trusteeship and Governance promotes improved communication among leaders in higher education, state government, and others who are working to make higher education more efficient, effective and accountable. The Center serves as a facilitator, convener, and provider of consulting services and technical assistance.

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