

For Immediate Release

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Governor Turns State Spotlight On Higher Education In Mississippi

Jackson, Miss. – During a week focusing on education in Mississippi, Governor Ronnie Musgrove introduced members of the Steering Committee for Mississippi’s Leadership Summit on Higher Education, who are charged with the responsibility of developing a vision for higher education in Mississippi. The State of Mississippi has been chosen as the first state to hold a Leadership Summit on Higher Education by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB).

“The purpose of the Summit is to outline what all of higher education, public and private, two-year and four-year institutions can do to advance the competitiveness of our state and to improve the quality of life of our people,” said Governor Musgrove. “We can best do that by bringing together leaders of state government, the business community and higher education to work together to develop a vision for Mississippi’s future – economically, culturally, socially and educationally.”

Aubrey Patterson, President and CEO of Bancorp South and Governor Musgrove will co-chair the steering Committee. Other members of the committee include Clinton Bristow, Alcorn State University; Fred Carl, Viking Range; Angie Dvorak, Mississippi Technology, Inc.; Bill Farmer, Time Warner Cable; Tim Ford, Speaker of the House; Ricki Garrett, State College Board; Bryce Griffis, State College Board; Bill Hunsburger, The Clarion Ledger; Robert Khayat, University of Mississippi; Tom Layzell, Institutions of Higher Learning; Joe Lee, Tougaloo College; Denotee Martin, D. E. Magee, State College Board; Denotee Martin Contractors, Inc.; Starkey Morgan, Holmes Community College; Clyde Muse, Hinds Community College; Carl Nicholson, State College Board; Roger Parrott, Belhaven College; Olon Ray, State Board for Community and Junior Colleges; Bud Robinson, Millsaps College Board of Trustees; Leo Seal, Hancock Bank; Rowan Taylor, State Board of Education; Richard Thompson, Mississippi Department of Education; Amy Tuck, Lieutenant Governor; George Walker, State Board for Community and Junior Colleges; Amy Whitten, State College Board; William Winter, Watkins, Ludlam, Winter & Stennis.

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“By bringing together a variety of people with different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives, we are ensuring that we cover every aspect of higher education and its importance in our state and nation,” said Governor Musgrove.

“Throughout this administration we have developed public/private partnerships, which have proven to work and deliver successful outcomes. Successes, like the state’s new economic development plan, The Advantage Mississippi Initiative and the success we are having with the Computers In The Classroom Initiative show that Mississippi can accomplish anything when leaders of business, government and education work together.”

The steering committee will develop and propose a set of education priorities, which will be presented to a larger group of Mississippians for their input and endorsement. AGB’s Center for Public Higher Education Trusteeship and Governance will facilitate the entire process. “Most importantly, this is a process that is developed by Mississippians – for Mississippians,” said the Governor.

Governor Musgrove closed the announcement by saying, “This is a great day for education in Mississippi, and we look forward to the work ahead as we define a vision and direction for higher education in the State of Mississippi.”

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