

**For Immediate Release**

November 26, 2001

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## **Governor Musgrove Makes Surprise Visits to Teachers**

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove paid surprise visits to Jackson-area teachers today. Musgrove made the visits to congratulate teachers who had earned their National Board Certification this year. A total of 405 Mississippi teachers earned the certification for the 2000-01 school year.

“I wanted to have the chance to personally thank these teachers for their commitment to our children, and congratulate them on helping set a standard for excellence in their profession,” Musgrove said. “Because of their hard work, Mississippi is looking at a brighter future.”

Mississippi has 1,159 teachers with National Board Certification, the sixth highest number in the country.

Mississippi was also the first state in the nation to offer more pay to teachers with national board certification.

Musgrove visited with the following teachers:

- Zorean Neal and Sheryl Sloop at Brandon Elementary;
- Lynda Flynn, Betty Mahaffey, Michelle Smith, Cindy Castille and Melissa Grantham at Madison Avenue Elementary;
- Mary Washington-Branson at Callaway High School;
- Lynne Cox at Mississippi School for the Deaf.