

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove Announces Expansion of “Operation About Face” Program**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has announced the expansion of the “Operation About Face” program, a mentoring initiative geared toward economically disadvantaged youth. Already established in Hattiesburg, the program is expanding to Greenwood, Aberdeen and Pascagoula.

“There are many challenges to be faced in life, and for young people, those challenges sometimes seem insurmountable,” said Musgrove. “We are focused on helping them tackle and beat the challenges, and one of our best tools for this work is ‘Operation About Face.’”

The program is operated in Mississippi through a partnership between the Mississippi National Guard and the Mississippi Development Authority. It focuses on teaching life skills such as budgeting, balancing a checkbook, and job skills necessary for successful careers. Mississippi National Guard personnel serve as mentors for the program.

The “Operation About Face” program was unveiled in May 2002, and the first class of students graduated in Hattiesburg on June 28. Two main goals for the Hattiesburg class were established, calling for 72 percent of the students to complete the course and for 72 percent to improve math and reading skills.

Both goals were met, with a 96 percent graduation rate and 96 percent of the class demonstrating improved skills.

“Through the ‘Operation About Face’ program, we are going to help steer our young people in the direction of their dreams and toward the life they imagine,” Musgrove said.

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