

A letter from Governor Ronnie Musgrove:

We are investing in our people and making Mississippi, America's state of promise. Entrepreneurship is an important part of economic growth in Mississippi and will be an integral piece of the new economic plan we are currently developing for our state.

The National Governor's Association Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for governors across the nation to learn and listen from one another about innovative approaches to education, healthcare, children's services and economic development.

The highlight of the National Governor's Association (NGA) Annual Meeting was the announcement that MS has been chosen to develop a model for growing businesses, which other states across the nation will use. Governors' across the nation recognize the potential and promise Mississippi holds.

National Governors' Association Center for The Best Practices officials announced at the meeting that MS has been chosen to participate with nine other states in a policy Academy on Entrepreneurship. MS competed with other states to be selected for the academy and was the only southern state to be selected to participate.

We are proud of Mississippi's proposal, created under the direction of the Governor's office. I know new businesses in Mississippi mean new jobs for Mississippians. We can build homegrown businesses, and we can create homegrown prosperity. This is a great opportunity for MS to explore new and innovative ways to promote entrepreneurial efforts in our state.

A national forum on entrepreneurship will be held at the conclusion of the academy uniting governors and their policy advisors, legislators, business leaders and entrepreneurs to engage in a national dialogue about the importance of building entrepreneurial capacity in the states. They will be looking to MS for leadership as we identify and develop new ways to support Mississippians starting new businesses right here at home. Once again, other states will use our good ideas as we take the opportunity to showcase our success stories. When completed, the policy will be distributed by the National Governors' Association Center for Best Practices to all states for their use.

Participating in NGA allows us to share with other states the advancements we are making in MS. Issues like raising teacher pay to the southeastern average, creating an action plan and advertising a plan to promote the Children's Health Insurance Program, creating a Classroom Technology Task Force to place a computer in every classroom by the end of the year 2002 and developing a new economic development plan that will bring new industry, business and jobs for the people of Mississippi top the list of new developments we shared with other governors.

All governors bring the good and the tough issues facing their states to the table. Listening and learning, we can assess where MS stands in comparison to other states. Frankly, we are doing better than some might think.

We have made great strides to move MS forward, but we still face challenges in education, healthcare, economic development and areas that directly affect your lives – the lives of every family in every MS community. We will continue to utilize every resource available that will aid us in our efforts to develop new programs and create innovative initiatives, which will improve the quality of life for all people of MS. It is our mission to make MS, America's state of promise and we won't stop when we get there.

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