

MISSISSIPPI HAS BEEN SETTING THE STANDARD FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW WHEN IT COMES TO ADVANCEMENTS IN EDUCATION – AND THIS PAST WEEK BROUGHT MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE WORK WE'RE DOING FOR EDUCATION IN MISSISSIPPI.

OUR EFFORTS TO BETTER PREPARE OUR CHILDREN RECEIVED HELP IN THE FORM OF A \$12.5 MILLION GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

KNOWN AS THE GEAR GRANT, ITS MISSION IS TO ENSURE THAT DISADVANTAGED MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE PREPARED TO PURSUE AND SUCCEED AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL.

APPROXIMATELY 8,500 STUDENTS IN 34 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS THE STATE WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS PROGRAM.

MISSISSIPPI HAS ALSO BEEN CHOSEN AS ONE OF SIX STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE “FOLLOWING THE LEADERS” PROJECT, DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AND HANDS-ON GUIDANCE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE MANDATES OF THE NEW “NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND” LEGISLATION.

SINCE MY FIRST CAMPAIGN FOR THE STATE SENATE 15 YEARS AGO, IMPROVING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM FOR OUR CHILDREN HAS BEEN MY PERSONAL PASSION. WE ARE MAKING GREAT PROGRESS.

I'M RONNIE MUSGROVE, AND THIS HAS BEEN THE MISSISSIPPI MINUTE. THANKS FOR LISTENING.

