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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** BOYD  
**SUBJECT:** MCVS AMERICORPS AND POWERUP GRANT  
**DATE:** MAY 31, 2000  
**CC:** SIMMONS

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Donna and I met with Marsh Meeks Kelly, Abdul Aziz, Nathan Slater and *Juanita Sims Dody* to discuss an Americorps grant opportunity. The sales pitch to us was simply this: If the Governor signs on to this grant application for Americorps volunteers, Senator Lott can deliver up to 2,000 Gateway computers to be placed in 50-100 locations statewide from the PowerUp Foundation (see memo dated 5/23/00). Kelly, et al, proposed using this in conjunction with your Classroom Technology Task Force.

Under their plan, the PowerUp Foundation will provide computers as long as 2 technical support people are provided per site (e.g., 2 per site could equal 200). These support positions would be funded through the National Corporation for Volunteer Service (Doty) and a successful grant proposal under the Commission's digital divide grant (\$5 million available). Additionally, the National Civilian Community Corps may have up to \$5 million available for training the Americorps technical support people. MMK notes that combined effort has verbal commitments from PowerUP, NCCC, NCVS, and Senator Lott's Office. She just needs your blessing to proceed.

In addition to providing computers, PowerUP is also proposing to provide a youth development curriculum for use with their computers. This curriculum has not yet been provided for review by your staff.

Ideally, the Americorps technical support folks would serve as a first line for SDE's 10 regional network engineers and be available to pull wires in the 6,871 classrooms not currently wired for Internet-access. The wire costs would be covered by E-rate funding through ITS and SDE. However, each school district or the State Department would be responsible for allocating \$1,500 per Americorps volunteer as specified under the cash-matching requirement (15%).

**POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

As this effort will further the success of your goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom, it will also spread the credit to Senator Lott's Office who helped broker this deal. If we can use the Americorps volunteers to pull wires across the state in the coming year, I believe that this would be a very good collaboration. Even if we are unable to use Americorps volunteers for this purpose, the additional 2,000 computers would account for 16.6% of the computers needed to attain the Task Force's goal.