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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** DR. COLE  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** EXPLORNET  
**DATE:** 4/17/00  
**CC:** BOYD

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Per your request, I met with ExplorNet representatives Alice Denson, Vice-President of Expansion, and Ginny Klarman, North Carolina State Director, on April 6 in my office. Ms. Denson and Ms. Klarman are pursuing ExplorNet's establishing a state office in Mississippi.

ExplorNet is a 501©3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving technology in America's schools, particularly in traditionally under-served areas. ExplorNet's computer recycling program (CPR) is a workforce development course that teaches students the skills they need to upgrade donated computers to state-of-the-art standards. Now in its third year, CPR is active in more than 80 North Carolina schools. The program has expanded to North Dakota, where six schools will pilot the program this spring. The students deploy the machines they build into classrooms throughout their school district. The students can also serve as a tech-support team to maintain the computers. The program prepares the students for A+ Certification, an industry recognized training standard for computer service technicians.

ExplorNet's Technology Road Show provides a teacher-on-loan to travel the state and work with teachers and trainers in their own classrooms. ExplorNet provides software demonstrations, sample lesson plans and certificates detailing the continuing education requirements met during training. ExplorNet's *Trailblazer Magazine* provides teachers with lesson plans keyed to the State Standard Course of Study that integrate technology while emphasizing core subject skills.

The North Carolina Education Forum requested that ExplorNet pilot two sites here in Mississippi. Those two sites are in Hollandale (contact: Howard Sanders) and Laurel (contact: Ann Kich, 601-649-6391). Ms. Denson and Ms. Klarman reported that they have received calls and inquiries from other schools in the areas interested in the program. I inquired as to the money involved in setting up this proposed state office and they reported that ExplorNet will bring in \$100,000, with \$200,000 provided by the state, which can include in-kinds (i.e., office space). These funds would provide for individual seed grants to schools (grants to North Carolina schools were approximately \$12,000). Ms. Denson and Ms. Klarman foresee a small state office here in Jackson, with potential satellite offices in Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee.

I have additional information regarding ExplorNet in my office should you desire to review it. Ms. Denson and Ms. Klarman did provide references in North Carolina. I told them that you would be back in touch with them with the details of them speaking to the Task Force, if you so desired.

*Although ExplorNet appears to be a commendable project that provides excellent workforce training to students, it operates on the basis of repairing and upgrading donated computers. I believe the Governor's Taskforce for Classroom Technology is planning on soliciting bids for specified computers to ensure uniformity throughout the state or at least within regional areas.*