

April 11, 2001

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Dear Finance Committee:

As you know, education is at the forefront of my vision for an ever-improving Mississippi and improving the access to today's technology is paramount. With nearly a half a million children attending public schools in Mississippi, we must prepare our children for the technology frontier.

Currently, seven computer manufacturers are installing 6,325 computers in schools across Mississippi. This is just over one-half of the computers needed to place an Internet-accessible computer in every public classroom. We will be able to bring the world to our children and take our children to the world through this initiative. With this year's commitment, Mississippi is on track to be the first state to meet this goal. Teachers will receive training on the use of computers and learn how to facilitate their use in the classroom. Educators have already developed tools and interactive web sites to enhance the public school curriculum.

Carolyn Shanks of Entergy is helping lead the effort to raise financial support for this project. We will travel the state recognizing supporters and focusing attention and support for this project and ask that you join in our quest to bring the world to our children's classroom learning experience.

I hope that you will attend our kick-off celebration at the Governor's Mansion on April 25, 2001 at 6:30 P.M. Please RSVP to Ms. Peggy Howard of the Public Education Forum at (601) 969-0022.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/mtb