

For immediate release

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Governor Establishes the Governor's Task Force for Classroom Technology

Jackson, Miss.- Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced the formation of the Governor's Task Force for Classroom Technology today at a press conference at the State Capitol. The task force is a time-limited commission with the sole purpose of accomplishing the Governor's goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every public elementary and secondary classroom in Mississippi by the end of 2002.

The task force will be co-chaired by Governor Musgrove and Dr. Richard Thompson, State Superintendent of Education. Other members of the task force are David Litchliter, Information Technology Services; Dr. William Lewis, Forum for Public Education; Helen Soule, Education Technology Council; Nathan Slater, State Department of Education; Blake Wilson, Mississippi Economic Council; Robin Costa, Maddox Foundation; Tom Pittman, AOL & Pittman Family Trust; Carolyn Shanks, Entergy; John Lovorn, The PACE Group; Dr. Jayne Sargent, Mississippi Association of School Superintendents; Deloise Jones, Kathy Brookshire and Vanessa Barnes, Mississippi Public School Teachers; Larry Miller, Mississippi Authority for Educational Television; Yvonne Steadman, State Parent Teacher Association. There will also be two representatives from the State Legislature.

The Governor has charged the task force with three goals, which are to support legislative initiatives to fund the project, raise private sector awareness and financial support and execute the initiative. "During my State of the State Address, I dared Mississippians to imagine computers at the fingertips of every Mississippi school child," said Governor Musgrove. "Through this task force we will make this educational opportunity a reality for the future leaders of our state."

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