MEMORANDUM

November 7, 2002

TO: Tom Pittman

FROM: John Sewell

RE: Computers in the Classroom

The Computers in the Classroom initiative is scheduled to be complete by the end of December 2002. This initiative will place an Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom in Mississippi.

The State of Mississippi has partnered with the Maddox Foundation and the Public Education Forum of the Mississippi Economic Council in this effort. Funding has come from public and private sources, along with foundation funding.

The National Governors Association has confirmed that Mississippi will be the first state in the nation to accomplish this effort, saying that the state is "at the head of the wave of technological innovation."

Other support in the effort has come through ExplorNet, which is working with students across the state to build computers from scratch for the classrooms. Nearly 1,000 computers will be built by students, for students.