

The Governor's letter and picture would be featured on the front cover of the wrapper for the *American Careers* magazine customized for Mississippi this year. The 25,000 copies will be sent to 7th grade teachers for distribution.

Greetings:

The top priority of my administration is education, the foundation on which Mississippi is building its future. Now that your child is in middle school, he or she will soon be planning for high school and beyond. Mississippi offers tremendous occupational opportunities with a variety of career paths. This means your child can make a choice to live, work and raise families right here at home.

It is important that you, as parents or guardians, are well informed about the variety of options available to your child. I am pleased to offer this publication to assist in your discussions concerning career opportunities. Selecting and preparing for a career is a critical decision for teens and one with the potential to impact the rest of their lives.

The enclosed special edition of *American Careers* magazine is an excellent publication tailored to the needs of Mississippi parents and guardians. Included are articles that examine current and emerging career opportunities, the required skills today's young people will need for the new economy, and suggestions about helping your child plan for a career. The time you invest in reviewing the information contained here will be greatly beneficial.

Once you have had the opportunity to review the material, I trust you will take a moment and share your thoughts with me about this resource by completing and returning the postage-paid survey on the back of this wrapper.

Wise career planning now ensures a brighter future not only for your child, but also for our entire state. I wish you the best of luck as you assist your child with his or her education and career goals.

Governor Ronnie Musgrove