

## MEMORANDUM

May 15, 2003

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Teacher of the Year Reception

The Teacher of the Year was announced today at a luncheon. The winner is Andrew Lark, an art teacher from the Starkville School District. He and his wife were both recruited by the Teacher Center. Lark is African-American. This is the second consecutive year that the teacher of the year from the Starkville School District has won teacher of the year at the state level.

In his remarks at the lunch, Lark commented that national standards are provided to them as teachers, and then asked the question of “why can’t we exceed them and set the standards for the rest of the nation?”

This is a good point to mention, that we are setting the standard in teacher pay, in Internet-accessible computers in the classroom, in nationally board certified teachers, and in preparation for No Child Left Behind.

The alternate for Teacher of the Year is Beth Fitts, from the Oxford School District.