

February 23, 2000

Corporation for National Service
1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Box HE
Washington, DC 20525

Dear Learn and Serve America Selection Committee:

Please accept this letter as indication of my support for the Learn and Serve America Higher Education Consortium application being submitted by the Office of Academic Affairs at the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL). This proposal will create "Lighthouse" partnerships between K-12 schools, community agencies, and higher education institutions throughout the state. These partnerships will focus on developing effective after-school programs that employ service-learning as a teaching strategy, while providing meaningful opportunities for youth to serve.

I was pleased to address the 1998-1999 AmeriCorps graduates at Jackson State University and support the efforts to expand and improve the Corporation for National Service opportunities for young children by integrating service experiences into structured curricula. The Learn and Serve America grant submitted by IHL will facilitate long-term systemic reform by providing professional development for college faculty and by bolstering pre-service teacher preparation.

I believe that this proposal submitted to Learn and Serve America will add a key element to strengthening the quality of Mississippi's educational institutions. I am pleased to offer support for this project.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr

cc: Dr. Thomas Layzell
Dr. William McHenry

