
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS' (NBPTS) OFFER TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING SUPPORT FOR WORLD CLASS TEACHER PROGRAM DUE TO BUDGET REDUCTIONS
DATE: 2/6/01
CC: SIMMONS

NBPTS has contacted us regarding the potential budget reserves to the World Class Teacher Program. I spoke to Stan Urser (248-594-4488) late Friday afternoon and he discussed NBPTS' desire to assist us in raising any shortfall in funding for the program.

Mississippi has 6 World Class Teacher Program sites, with an Administrator and 4 mentors at each site. 5 of the 6 sites are funded through the Department of Education's budget. The 6th site is funded by private entities in the Delta. This program received \$615,000 in FY 01. The program provides mentoring for teachers pursuing National Board certification and it also provides professional development in areas such as standards and assessment to National Board pre-candidates. Urser reported that the program increases the passing rate for the National Boards from below 50% to above 60% and also results in a higher number of pre-candidates choosing to undergo National Boards.

Urser stated that there are no rules governing NBPTS' offer to assist us in identifying other funding sources. He suggested that a first step be to pull together leaders from the local funding community to discuss identifying funds for the World Class Teacher Program. (He mentioned Nissan, casinos, Weyhauser, MCI/WorldCom.) He requested that I obtain answers to the following questions:

1. Can you take a leadership role in this effort?
2. If you cannot take a leadership role, who would you recommend to lead this effort?
3. Who would be the top 10 individuals and/or organizations that you would suggest NBPTS contact for potential funding?
4. If you support this initiative, what would be your desired timeframe for soliciting funds?

Please advise as to your responses to the above. I will be happy to discuss this with you further at your convenience.