

Goals for Education: Challenge to Lead

The *Goals for Education* are the blueprint for SREB programs and initiatives for the next several years. They provide the vision and the specifics to help state leaders shape long-term efforts to improve education.

SREB staff will implement the work plan in the 2002-2003 budget; plan emphasis on Goals work in the agenda for the Legislative Advisory Council meeting in November; report to the Executive Committee on December 2-3 on Goals-related actions; plan the 2003 Annual Board meeting to emphasize *Goals for Education* issues; propose 2003-2004 budget with specific *Goals for Education*-related actions; share information about state actions related to Goals with SREB Board members, Legislative Advisory Council members and other state leaders with the aim of multiplying these actions; and be very focused on opportunities, or creating opportunities to bring media attention to *Goals for Education* issues.

The issues and areas that are of special interest to Governor Musgrove can be identified so that SREB staff can suggest actions or take ideas from the Governor and propose directions.

Doctoral Scholars Program

1. Announcement of National Science Foundation grant to SREB-States Doctoral Scholars Program. A press announcement involving Governor Musgrove, either as part of a speech, as a press conference-type announcement or a written press release featuring a statement by the Governor could be planned. Jennifer Riley, the 100th Doctoral Scholars graduate (Mississippi), offers a Mississippi angle for the announcement.
2. The Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, October 24-27, 2002, Arlington, Virginia. Governor Musgrove is scheduled to preside at the luncheon meeting/plenary session at noon on October 25th with 700 doctoral scholars and faculty mentors. Personal letters from the Governor to approximately 45 table hosts have been sent. The Governor will make remarks and present Rockefeller Foundation officials for comments.
3. SREB Annual Board Meeting 2003. There is a possibility that the 200th Doctoral Scholars graduate may be achieved and, if not, we will be close. Staff will propose a session at the Board Meeting similar to that in which Governor Musgrove participated at the 2001 Board Meeting that recognized Jennifer Riley as the 100th graduate.
4. Mississippi's support of Doctoral Scholars has been set back by state budget shortfalls. Currently seven Mississippi doctoral students remain in the program, down from 22 two years ago. No new scholars entered the program in academic years 2001-2002 and 2002-03.

SREB Technology Initiatives

1. The *Electronic Campus* has grown from 104 courses in the fall of 1998 to over 8000 in the fall of 2002. If we can plan an event to bring attention to this development, perhaps a joint press conference via a video conference hookup between Governor Musgrove and Governor Patton (he "threw the switch" to begin *Electronic Campus*), is this something Governor Musgrove would be willing to do? We could aim for press coverage in Mississippi and Kentucky and a wire service story that would play in other states.
2. Generating private support (philanthropic and possibly corporate) for SREB technology initiatives. The SREB *Electronic Campus*, Educational Technology Cooperative, Distance Learning Policy Laboratory, American TelEdCommunications Alliance and **EvaluTech** are examples of technology initiatives that are operating today. While there has been over one million dollars of non-state funds raised for these programs, we are aware of many instances elsewhere that have accomplished much less and received much more support. It is time to make a concerted effort to attract more non-state support for SREB technology initiatives. The first step in this could be planning by Mark Musick and Board Vice-Chair Paul Stanton for a presentation

to the Executive Committee meeting in December.

3. Recommendations from the Distance Learning Policy Laboratory. More than two years of work is culminating in the recommendations of the Distance Policy Laboratory on a series of issues related to distance learning. Staff will propose that this be placed on the Executive Committee's agenda in December. The Legislative Advisory Council will receive and discuss recommendations at its November meeting. The challenge to the Board and Legislative Advisory Council is to determine the priority issues for SREB to attempt to spark state and campus actions. The Distance Policy Laboratory is meeting in September in a session intended to finalize its recommendations.

The 2003 SREB Annual Board Meeting, June 22-24, Austin, Texas

Goals for Education should be at the center of the Annual Meeting. Staff will propose agenda items after the Executive Committee meeting. Texas has one of the most visible "closing the gaps" campaigns. This is one of the three underlying themes of *Goals for Education*, so we anticipate using the Texas programs as a backdrop for some of the Board Meeting discussions. Initial plans are to present the Lamar Plunkett Award at the opening session on June 22 as was done in 2002 when Governor Winter received the award. Governor Musgrove should preside at the award presentation.

Logistics

1. Executive Committee appointments.
At least one Board member in every state has been proposed to the governor of each state to serve on the Executive Committee. To date a number of responses have been received from governors, all positive, except for Alabama, where we received an inquiry about the Governor's options. We anticipate an Alabama response in a few days. Governor Huckabee has accepted the invitation to serve. Governor Warner has not responded, according to SREB staff information. At present, nineteen persons have been proposed for the Committee. Membership may be a maximum of 20 Board members.
2. Preparation of correspondence. Is this working satisfactorily?
3. Proposed letter from Governor Musgrove to other SREB states' governors as follow up to SGA discussions of high-speed electronic networks for research universities. SREB staff have suggested a possible letter from Governor Musgrove about state educational networks. Mark Musick will have a draft for September 10 meeting.