

January 27, 2003

The Honorable Brad Henry  
Governor of Oklahoma  
State Capitol  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Governor Henry:

As Chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board, I want to welcome you to membership on the Board. As Governor, you are a member of the Board of America's first compact for education which was established by action of Southern governors and legislatures over fifty years ago to enable Southern states to work together to pool their resources and accomplish together what they cannot do alone. You, like me, are no stranger to SREB. We were both legislators who benefited from SREB's information and advice in reports and probably from staff responses to questions and requests for assistance. Oklahoma was among the original signers of the Southern Regional Education Compact that includes 16 states. More recently, for example, Oklahoma colleges and universities joined with more than 300 public and independent colleges and universities to form SREB's *Electronic Campus*, the nation's largest higher education electronic marketplace, with 8000 courses and 250 degree programs available on-line.

As Governor, you serve *ex officio* as one of Oklahoma's five representatives on the Board. Other Oklahoma members and term completion dates are: Dr. Floyd Coppedge (2003), Representative Carolyn Coleman (2004), Dean Judith Coe (2005) and Representative Joan Greenwood (2006). Each year on June 30 a term on the Board expires, and you will have the opportunity to reappoint that person or you may appoint someone else to the term. The only stipulation is that the SREB Compact requires that each state must have at least one educator and one legislator in its representation on the Board.

Dr. Coppedge represented Oklahoma on SREB's Executive Committee last year and was vice-chairman of the Board. Senator Penny Williams serves on SREB's Legislative Advisory Council. Senator Williams is a gubernatorial appointee and does not serve a specified term. Representative Carolyn Coleman and Representative Joan Greenwood serve on the Council for a specified term by virtue of being legislative members of the Board.

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The Council advises the Board on legislative matters and serves as a permanent steering committee for SREB's Annual Legislative Work Conference at which legislators and educators meet to discuss matters of mutual interest. Legislators who serve on the Council value their membership for the information and perspectives they receive as well as the network of legislative colleagues they develop.

SREB's Regional Contract program, which began in the early years of the Board, enables states to share costly programs for health professionals and to postpone--or even avoid--duplicating some of these programs. Thousands of people in states without schools of dentistry, osteopathic medicine, podiatry and veterinary medicine have earned degrees at nationally recognized colleges and universities. Oklahoma receives funds from SREB states for providing services through SREB's contract-for-services programs. Collectively, Northeastern State University School of Optometry, the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Dentistry will receive more than \$140,000 for 2003-2004.

I know that President Musick will want to seek an appointment with you to review Oklahoma's participation in the Board's programs which benefit Oklahoma's citizens.

In the meantime, I hope you will mark your calendar for the Board's 2003 Annual Meeting to be held June 22-24 at the Driskill Hotel in Austin.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr

cc: Mark Musick, President  
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