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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS WINTER 2003 BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD IN JACKSON  
**DATE** 4/23/02  
**CC:** FILE

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You received the attached letter from Betty Castor, NBPTS President, notifying you that the Board's Winter 2003 Board of Directors' meeting will be held here in Jackson at the Hilton on February 28-March 2, 2003.

Castor is requesting that you identify a member of our staff to work with Pat Sinelli of her staff to plan your participation in this meeting. I'm assuming this will be me, but I just wanted to make you aware of her request. Please advise if you wish differently.

I've provided Jill with a copy of the letter to put the dates on your 2003 calendar.

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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD MEETING THIS WEEKEND  
**DATE** 2/26/03  
**CC:** FILE

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Regarding the NBPTS board meeting here in Jackson at the Hilton this weekend:

1. You'll remember at last Friday's event that the Counselors expressed some concern regarding the possibility of them having to be certified by NBPTS. You offered to arrange a meeting with them and NBPTS directors/staff. Peggy Caldwell, Executive Director of the MS School Counselor Association, called Monday and said that they really just wanted to meet with you and/or me some time this week to discuss the situation. Given your schedule, they have agreed to meet with me this Thursday.
2. You are scheduled to participate in 3 NBPTS events while the Board is in town:
  - 1:00 Friday – Greet Directors and others: NBPTS's preliminary agenda had the Directors Only meeting scheduled from 1:00 – 3:15 and you were going to greet the Directors at this meeting. I received the final agenda this morning and this meeting has been bumped until 1:30 – 3:15. You have to hand out Excellence in the Arts awards at 2:00, so rather than greeting the Directors during their meeting, you need to stick your head in the NBPTS lunch buffet and shake some hands at 1:00 on your way out of the Hilton (You'll already be there for the Tougaloo lunch.)

I will not be at the Hilton at this time, as I'll be downtown at the Crowne Plaza at the NBPTS' Stakeholders Luncheon (for legislators, business community, etc.) giving an overview of our "Education First" budget and the 2003 legislative session.

- 3:30 Friday – Give greetings at the Opening Plenary: You are listed on the agenda and will be recognized to greet everyone.
- 9:30 a.m. Saturday – Plenary Session II: The focus of this session is State and Local Outreach, as well as teacher quality provisions of NCLB. Peggy Swoger with the World Class Teaching Program will give an overview of Mississippi's

outreach effort and will recognize you for any comments you'd like to give. I've attached an overview of the World Class Teaching Program for your information. Your talking points should include:

1. Mississippi had 321 new National Board Certified Teachers in 2002 (ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in 50 states).
2. Mississippi has 1,459 total NBCTs, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation.
3. We believe that our continued investment in NBCTs is critical to ensuring that our children have a qualified teacher leading their classroom.
4. We are proud of our teachers that undergo rigorous National Board certification and we want them to know that we are proud of them. You personally host a reception for our new NBCTs each year. You had the honor of hosting this year's reception on February 5, the same day you signed the Education First appropriation bills.
5. Investing in education, including our teachers, is an investment in our future and we don't want to short change our future.

## **Mississippi World-Class Teaching Program**

The MS World-Class Teaching Program (WCTP) was established by legislation at Mississippi State University in 1996. The program guides and supports groups of selected candidates through the year-long National Board Certification (NBC) process. The master teachers selected for the mentoring program meet twice a month with a National Board Certified teacher, usually on Saturdays, to discuss details about compiling the portfolio, sharing ideas, sharing drafts for feedback, and critiquing each others videotapes.

The program is based on the premise of the National Writing Project that “the best teacher of a teacher is another teacher.” This mentoring process has been shown to improve teachers’ chances of certifying. During the pilot year (1996-97), 54% of the participants certified. One reason the mentoring is so effective, is that teachers can talk with each other about directions, format, teaching ideas and receive feedback on their work. Also, mentors provide one-to-one feedback on drafts and videotapes. The feeling of not being alone with this arduous process is very comforting and reassuring. The Mississippi Public Education Forum recognized the MS World-Class Teaching Program with an “Award of Excellence” in 1997, and the work of this program has been featured on Mississippi ETV “Learning Connections.”

In addition to the mentoring groups, the World-Class Teaching Program offers a summer preparation course for teachers interested in becoming candidates for NBC. This is a four-day intensive study of the national teaching standards in the various certification areas. CEU’s are available for this course.

The World-Class Teaching Program operates at 6 sites in Mississippi: MSU, USM, USM/Gulf Coast, Ole Miss, Delta State and JSU.

(NOTE: Peggy Swoger is the Director of the Program at Mississippi State, having come to Mississippi in 1996 when she retired as a junior high English language arts teacher in Birmingham, Alablama. She was a founding member of NBPTS and served on the Board for 2 terms.)