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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** SEWELL  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** RECEPTION FOR NEW NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS: JANUARY 17, 4:00-6:00  
**DATE** 1/14/02  
**CC:** MAYO  
KINNEY

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The Governor is hosting a reception for Mississippi's new 405 National Board Certified Teachers this Thursday, January 17, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. We've had approximately 275 RSVP for the event and Cora has ordered cake for 350. The reception is simply an opportunity for us to thank the teachers. There is no formal ceremony or presentation of certificates. We will serve cake and punch.

I'm using the same format that we used for last year's reception:

The Governor and Dr. Thompson will give brief comments to the honorees at 5:00 p.m. The Governor speaks first. We selected 5:00 in hopes that some of the television stations might broadcast the reception "live at 5." The reception got coverage from all 3 Jackson stations last year at 10:00. I've requested that Steve Joyner of MDE (9-1028) have the sound system set up for the remarks at 5:00 p.m.

The Governor indicated on Friday that he doesn't want to use written notes for his comments, but that he wants a strong message. I suggest:

- **Although we are facing difficult economic times, our priorities should drive the budget and not vice versa. Education must be a priority.**
- Mississippi ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation with the number of new board certified teachers.
- Mississippi was the first state to offer financial incentives to teachers completing the process.
- NBCTs exemplify cream of the crop teachers, but this is not to say that Mississippi does not have excellent teachers who have chosen not to complete the process for various reasons.
- We are proud of the job they are doing in our classrooms and the role they are playing in shaping the future of Mississippi.