

June 20, 2001

Dr. Cathy Grace
The Early Childhood Institute
Mississippi State University
P.O. Box 9705
Mississippi State, MS 39672

Dear Dr. Grace:

I am aware that The Early Childhood Institute is submitting a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for funding to implement the Mid-South Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program. The program's two major performance goals of promoting a stronger education system for current early childhood educators and promoting school readiness and better language and reading outcomes for young children are of great importance to early childhood care and education in Mississippi.

The Mid-South Early Childhood Educator Development Program is comprised of a partnership between three universities, six community colleges, Mississippi Educational Television, SERVE, Inc. and the Civitan International Research Center. The work of the partnership will improve the literacy skills and quality of care and education of children prior to their entrance into school. The partnership will also utilize distance technology to increase childcare workers' access to high quality professional development.

I support the objectives of the Mid-South Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program and I wish you well on your grant application.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr