

June 1, 2001

Dr. Rodney Cocking, Program Director
Developmental and Learning Sciences
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Cocking:

I am pleased to offer my support to Mississippi State University's School of Human Sciences in securing a planning grant from the National Science Foundation for the development of a children's research center.

Mississippi's families and children have faced a myriad of challenges that are directly tied to economic and social indicators. Mississippi State University seeks to develop a children's research center to conduct multidisciplinary, integrative research to provide analysis and recommendations to policy makers for improving the quality of life of our state's children.

Mississippi State's primary objectives for the planning grant will bring research partners and policy makers together to format a plan of action for the research center, identify a funding stream for center operations, synthesize existing needs assessments and identify research priorities. Mississippi State recognizes that successful development of an effective children's research center must include all stakeholders.

I believe that Mississippi State University's proposal is worthy of your resources. The planning grant will be the first step in providing a central data collection and research center that focuses on improving the quality of life for Mississippi children and their families. Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Very truly yours,

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RM:klr