

June 26, 2001

Ms. Sue Van Slyke, Executive Director  
Hattiesburg Area Education Foundation  
P.O. Box 710  
5912 U.S. Highway 49 South, Suite D17  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-0710

RE: Forrest-Lamar Plan for Excellence

Dear Ms. Van Slyke:

This letter is written to express commitment and support from the Office of the Governor for the Forrest-Lamar Plan for Excellence initiative being proposed by the Hattiesburg Area Education Foundation (HAEF) to the Public Education Network. Education is a top priority for my administration. We are setting unprecedented goals and achieving unparalleled progress in Mississippi's public education system.

Kelly Riley will serve as the Office of the Governor's representative on the External Guidance Team. She will (a) monitor project activities and provide guidance on state-level policies and current research which may impact implementation, (b) help ensure equitable educational opportunities exist throughout Forrest and Lamar counties by monitoring the implementation of a community-wide strategic plan, and (c) potentially influence state-level policies by disseminating and publicizing the results of the project.

Thank you for inviting the Office of the Governor to participate in this initiative which will can serve as a model for other communities. Best of luck in your endeavors!

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr