

MISSISSIPPI MINUTE (GUY AUSTIN, 957-8877 / 6:00 A.M Monday)

Mississippi's economic history is focused primarily in agriculture. The economy of the 21st century, however, is broadening this focus.

If we are to compete in the global marketplace, the sources for feeding and nurturing our competitiveness must change. The soil and water for this marketplace are found in the forms of research and development.

It's no secret the best minds in research and development have been leaving our state. It's time to reverse the flow, and we can do it through the Mississippi Brain Trust.

The premise is simple: Commit \$20 million a year over 10 years to recruit and retain the very best minds in Mississippi. These funds would be provided through a competitive grant process, and matched dollar for dollar by the institutions to help ensure accountability.

The result is obvious: The role of universities and community and junior colleges in driving our economy will be unparalleled in our history.

Over the years, we've invested hundreds of millions of dollars in buildings at our schools. It's time to invest in the people.

I'm Ronnie Musgrove, and this has been the Mississippi Minute. Thanks for listening.