

“BRAIN TRUST”—Research Challenge Trust Fund

Developing Mississippi’s intellectual infrastructure include building a reservoir of professors to develop new ideas and prepare our workforce for the high technology, highly skilled jobs of today and tomorrow.

Program Objective: Provide \$200 million in matching funds for university and college research and training to aid in the recruitment and retention of the world’s best intellectuals.

- Beginning with Fiscal Year 2004 and for the next 10 years, \$20 million in bonds will be financed for use in strengthening Mississippi’s intellectual capacity by endowing chairs and professors at Mississippi’s universities and colleges, funding graduate student assistantships, sabbaticals with business and industry, and major equipment purchases. These state funds will be matched on a 1:1 basis by each university and colleges participating increasing the value to \$400 million.
- By bringing more scientists, engineers, and professors to our state’s universities and colleges, we are spurring more innovation for our state’s economy.
- Under this plan universities and colleges will see a \$400 million increase for research and teaching positions over the next 10 years. These professors and researchers will develop Centers of Excellence and Advanced Technologies on our campuses that will provide more momentum for our state’s economic development engine.

Building Mississippi’s Intellectual Assets

- Successful entrepreneurial “hot spots” such as Silicon Valley; Route 128 in Massachusetts; and Austin, Texas, share a common element—the presence of top-flight research universities.
- Building Mississippi’s intellectual capacity at our state’s universities and colleges is a must for us to build the best educational system—Pre-K to Ph.D.
- Recruiting the world’s best and brightest professors and researchers is essential to growing our state as a player in the world’s markets—regardless of the market—biotechnology, engineering, polymers, medical research.
- In addition to recruiting and retaining major professors, the Mississippi Brain Trust Fund will provide funds for graduate assistantships to cultivate our own emerging scholars.