

December 15, 2003

Dr. Jody Spiro
Senior Program Officer
The Wallace Foundation
2 Park Avenue, 23rd Floor
New York, New York 10016

Dear Dr. Spiro:

Please accept this letter as indication of the State of Mississippi's interest in applying for a State Action for Education Leadership Project (SAELP) II grant.

Mississippi's SAELP team has the experience and interest to address the issues described in your Request for Proposals. I am designating Dr. William McHenry as our state contact. Dr. McHenry has engaged in initial discussions with various partners and secured their interest. Some members of our team participated in a leadership development forum in Atlanta, December 4-5. In addition, partners are meeting today to discuss leadership challenges faced by Mississippi schools. Our partners will be comprised of representatives of our three educational agencies, legislators, local superintendents, executive branch staff and university leadership program staff. Dr. McHenry will be happy to provide you with a detailed list of names of Mississippi's partners. You may contact Dr. McHenry by mail at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211 or by phone at 601-432-6501.

Mississippi's partners will submit an initial concept paper by January 16 to SAELP11@wallacefoundation.org. Mississippi will also have representatives at The Wallace Foundation's SAELP/LEAD conference on January 28-31, 2004, in Tampa, Florida.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Our partners look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr

