

June 19, 2001

«Title» «First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Address»
«City», «State» «Postal_Code»

Dear «Title» «Last_Name»:

Exciting times are just around the corner for Northeast Mississippi. The CREATE Foundation is coordinating and co-sponsoring the Northeast Mississippi Leadership and Emerging Technology Symposium on July 27, 2001 with the assistance of the Appalachian Regional Commission, Bancorp South, North Mississippi Medical Center, and Cooper Tire. This event is designed to address the latest technology trends and the emerging cyberculture that is reshaping the world in which we live. This is an opportunity to gain the leadership skills needed to learn how leading edge technology can transform a community and county for economic development and growth opportunities and to discover how to prepare to meet and profit from the high tech challenges of the global digital future.

The symposium will feature three renowned speakers:

- **Dr. James Canton**--an internationally recognized futurist, digital entrepreneur and public speaker. He is President of the Institute for Global Futures, a San Francisco-based think tank that advises Fortune 1000 companies on the impact of leading-edge technologies on customers, markets and the economy. Dr. Canton is the author of *Technofutures: How Leading-Edge Technology Will Transform Business in the 21st Century*.
- **Dr. Willard Daggett**--known for his worldwide efforts to move education systems toward more rigorous and relevant skills and knowledge and knowledge for all students, he is President of the International Center for Leadership in education. Dr. Daggett has held both teaching and administrative positions at the secondary, two-year college, four-year liberal arts college and university levels and is the author of twelve textbooks, four books on educational leadership and numerous articles in professional publications.

- **Mr. Clifton Taulbert**--lecturing throughout the United States, Europe, Japan and Central America he is lauded as a well known, respected and captivating voice on building communities wherever people are. Dr. Clifton has authored four books including the internationally acclaimed memoir, *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*, *The Last Train North*, *Watching our Crops Come In* and the *Eight Habits of the Heart*. He also has written for national and international publications and was the co-producer of the award winning film, *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*.

Knowing how important understanding these issues can be to a community and county, the Appalachian Regional Commission will be sponsoring key leaders and individuals as well as representatives from organizations dedicated to economic development from the 22 ARC counties as its guests at this symposium. «First_Name», you have been identified as one of these key people; therefore, I would like to invite you to be ARC's guest at this important event. Please contact the Appalachian Regional Office in Tupelo (662.844.1184) to secure your reservation and meal ticket. Please make your reservations by July 15 to be assured of a place at this all-day symposium. If you need additional tickets for friends, relatives, or staff members they may be purchased for \$75 per ticket from CREATE.

I hope you will join other leaders from around the state to hear first hand about the future of technology and its impact on business and society. Please make your plans to come and participate in this important event that can provide much needed information to help Northeast Mississippi position itself to meet the demands of a global society and economy.

Very truly yours,

Ronnie Musgrove

RM:MM:kfg
Enclosure