

July 6, 2001

Marcelle Dessommes Patterson  
Gulfport School District  
Bayou View Middle School  
212 43<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Gulfport, Mississippi 39507

Dear Ms. Patterson:

Please accept my personal congratulations on receiving the 2001 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Your dedication and commitment to teaching the youth in your community is to be commended.

As Henry Brooks Adams said, "*A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.*" Dedicated teachers impact not only the lives of their students, but also impact their communities, their state, and their country. With the hard work and commitment of leaders like you, we will continue making great strides toward making Mississippi America's State of Promise.

Allow me to join my fellow Mississippians in recognizing your contributions. Again, congratulations to you and best wishes for continuing success.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/kfg