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## **Possible Closure of Athletic Programs at MUW Illustrates Need for Funding of Higher Ed, Musgrove Says**

(Jackson, MS) – Responding today to a proposal by the Mississippi University for Women to eliminate their athletic programs as a cost-cutting measure, Governor Ronnie Musgrove said college athletics are an integral part of higher education and that adequate funding by the Legislature would address the needs at MUW.

“Our colleges and universities have already been cut by more than \$2 million in the past two years, and now the Legislature is calling for an additional \$1.2 million in cuts,” Musgrove said. “Academics have suffered, and now athletics are going to suffer.”

Musgrove commented that participation in intercollegiate sports is important to both the students and the institutions involved, because of the experience and financial potential found in sports.

“There’s been a lot of talk about putting a priority on education, but the simple fact is that the Legislature’s budget recommendations don’t back up the talk,” said Musgrove.

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