

November 30, 2000

Bart Teal, Director
Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Institute
Nova Southeastern University
1750 NE 167th Street
North Miami Beach, FL 33162-3017

Dear Mr. Teal and Conference Attendees:

Greetings from the State of Mississippi. Thank you for this opportunity to address you regarding Mississippi's goals for education. A quality education is vital to our success in life and in business. Quality education leads to quality jobs, which improves the quality of life for every person of our state.

We must educate and train Mississippi's children and recruit exceptional teachers for our state. Our children demand and deserve the best education that Mississippi can provide. This spring we passed a bill, which will raise teacher pay in Mississippi to the Southeastern average. The teacher pay raise along with our goal to place an Internet-accessible computer in every Mississippi classroom by 2002 will have Mississippi on the right track to success.

As Mississippi enters a new century, we look forward to new opportunities. We will continue to improve education and provide our children with a bright future. We will continue to work together to make Mississippi an even better place to live, work and visit.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE