

NEWS RELEASE

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Mississippi Civil Rights Commission calls for letters of intent or nomination

The Mississippi Civil Rights Commission is now accepting letters of intent or nomination for positions on the Civil Rights Education Commission. Individuals who would like to serve or would like to nominate someone to serve on the Commission should forward a letter and support documentation to State Superintendent of Education Dr. Hank M. Bounds by Friday, October 27, 2006 for consideration.

The Commission was established by Senate Bill 2718, which was passed during the 2006 Legislative Session. As directed by the legislation, the Commission will include 11 members, including two members from each of the four Congressional Districts and three at-large members. A joint committee formed by the William Winter Institute at the University of Mississippi, Tougaloo College, the Oral History Project at the University of Southern Mississippi and Jackson State University will review the applications and make the selections. The committee is seeking broad representation of various constituencies from across the state.

“We hope to have educators, historians, elected officials and others who have a strong knowledge of the Civil Rights Movement,” said Governor William Winter. “Mississippi has many citizens with the life and professional experiences that make them ideal candidates for serving on this Commission.”

The letters of intent or nomination should include both personal and professional information that would indicate a high level of knowledge of the civil rights movement and its

historical context. The Commission is charged with providing or assisting education officials and other organizations with information, coordination and modification of courses or programs that include the Civil Rights Movement and help the Mississippi Department of Education implement the following five guidelines.

- Provide assistance and advice to K-12 schools with respect to the Civil Rights Movement and human rights education and awareness programs;
- Survey and catalog the extent to which civil rights and human rights education exists in the state curricula;
- Inventory civil rights memorials, exhibits and resources that could be used in classrooms and other educational programs;
- Compile a list of volunteers who are willing to share their knowledge and experiences concerning the struggle for civil rights;
- Prepare reports for the Governor and the State Legislature on the inclusion of civil rights studies into the educational systems of the state.

“The work of the Civil Rights Education Commission is very important to the future of our state,” said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Hank M. Bounds. “If Mississippi is to grow and prosper, our children must have a thorough understanding of one another and our shared history.”

The Commission will reflect the diversity of the state so that all groups have a voice in how civil rights education is developed. All members of the Commission must be residents of Mississippi.

“We are looking forward to working with the Commission on Civil Rights Education to turn a new page in Mississippi History,” said Dr. Susan M. Glisson, Director of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation. “As our students receive more information through civil rights education, they will gain knowledge and with knowledge comes understanding.”

Letters of intent or nomination should contain a resume, curriculum vita, biographical sketch and any other documentation, such as articles or books published on Civil Rights. The letters should be postmarked by Friday, October 27, 2006 and mailed to:

Dr. Hank M. Bounds
State Superintendent of Education
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205

Attn: Commission on Civil Rights Education

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