



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™



Date: September 18, 2009

From: LaNell Kellum, Director
Mississippi Higher Education Initiative (MSHEI)

Re: Request for Proposals from Community-Based Projects

Attached is a copy of a Request for Proposals (RFP) from the Mississippi Higher Education Initiative, a partnership between Mississippi State University and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) working to raise educational attainment in the Mississippi Appalachian region.

Proposals are being solicited from Community-Based Teams in the Appalachian counties of Alcorn, Calhoun, Lowndes, Monroe, Oktibbeha, Prentiss, Tippah, and Tishomingo. Please consider applying for this grant or forward the request on to local economic development or government officials and/or a non-profit entity that you believe may be interested in applying.

Community-based teams seeking assistance through this grant must participate in the Pre-proposal Workshop that will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Starkville, Mississippi on October 7, 2009 from 10AM to 3PM. Travel will be reimbursed and lunch provided. *NOTE: For a proposal to be considered for funding, the community team must attend the Pre-proposal workshop.*

The purpose of projects funded through this grant opportunity is to encourage and facilitate high school students' completion of high school and enrollment in postsecondary education. To assist communities in addressing problems related to accessing higher education, funds have been made available for community-based teams to implement new or expanded strategies for improving high school students' access to and success in college. Mississippi State University's MSHEI serves as the agency through which these grants are made available.

MSHEI will award four to six sub-grants on a competitive basis to winning teams for the spring semester of 2009. In most cases, the lead community-based agency will receive the funds, not the school. These six-month grants may range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 for January to June of 2010. Upon successful completion of an initial project, second year funding is available with awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted either by mail or hand delivery and received by the closing date which is Friday, October 30, 2009 at 4:00 PM CST. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered.