

State of Mississippi



Amy Tuck
Lieutenant Governor

March 14, 2003

Mr. Ken Allikian
2003 NASPE Rooney Awards Chair
C/O The Council of State Governments
P. O. Box 11910
Lexington, Kentucky 40578-1910

Dear Mr. Allikian:

It is indeed a pleasure to endorse the nomination of Colonel J. K. "Hoopy" Stringer for the Eugene H. Rooney, Jr. Award. During his nine (9) years of service as the Executive Director of the Mississippi State Personnel Board he has made a tremendously positive impact on state government and its service to the people of Mississippi.

During his tenure, Colonel Stringer has transformed both the focus and substance of human resource management at the state level. Under his leadership, the State Personnel Board has undergone a metamorphosis, growing from a personnel management organization to a human resource development organization. Through his efforts, the State Personnel Board currently serves as an indispensable partner with the Legislative Branch in its overall efforts to address the state's most precious resource in providing service - its diverse workforce.

It has been said that a hallmark of leadership is that leaders see and move toward what others do not yet see. In that regard, Colonel Stringer is a leader of immense talents. He has forged deep partnerships with key players throughout state government, creating from these partnerships an overall atmosphere of trust and a web of resources all moving toward the same goal - a superlative workforce keyed on service. Moreover, he has led this partnership in finding courses of action to attain this goal. On this base, Colonel Stringer has erected a number of achievements, all of which are described in detail in the nomination document.

Colonel Stringer's actions have always reflected his integrity, his drive for excellence, his understanding of the power of consensus, and his utter selflessness in promoting the betterment of state government as a whole. He has consistently moved his agency toward the assumption of a pure service rather than control mentality. In this time of economic strain which plagues most states, the projects under Colonel Stringer's leadership continue to provide the state's workforce with energy, optimism and hope.

In summary, I wholeheartedly endorse Colonel Stringer for this prestigious award. While the written pages cannot adequately reflect the legacy of his service to our State, it is written on the face of the workforce. There can be no better or more lasting proof.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Tuck".

Amy Tuck
Lieutenant Governor
State of Mississippi