

~~Strikethrough~~ print represents deleted text since May 12, 2006, Annual Meeting.

Bold and italicized print represents added or modified text since the May 12, 2006, Annual Meeting.

RESOLUTION

DELTA EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Delta Council remains committed to the Delta Education Initiative, a five-component plan to improve K-12 public education in the Delta by attacking the teacher shortage; by impacting the development of birth to five-year old children; by training a new generation of school administrators; and by providing the necessary technology tools. Jointly developed by Delta State University, the superintendents of the 34 Delta school districts, and Delta Council, the program strives to establish an accountable method for measuring progress in primary and secondary education.

The five separate components of the Delta Education Initiative are: Birth to Kindergarten Model Program; Undergraduate Scholarship Program; Graduate Scholarship Program; Administrator Paid Sabbatical Program; and Technology Education.

Through the efforts of U.S. Senator Trent Lott and U.S. Senator Thad Cochran, \$1.5 million was allocated for Year I of this program in Fiscal Year '01. This enabled Delta State University to begin working on all items of the program except for the Birth to Kindergarten Model Program. ~~Delta Council and the school districts have asked for a \$3 million appropriation for Fiscal Year '06, enabling work on all items to continue progressing.~~

We are proud of the accomplishments of this program as it completes its fifth year of continuous funding. As a result of this program, licensed and highly-trained new teachers are located in 12 Delta counties. More students are currently on scholarship and will be among the Delta teacher corps in future years.

There is ample evidence that the public-private partnership between Delta State University, Delta Council, and the federal government is demonstrating accountable and attainable educational improvements. We encourage the Congress to expand the Delta Education Initiative to its full potential. Delta Council commends Delta State University for the commitment which has been made to higher education in the Delta.