

**Minutes from Listening Session with the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
and
Trustees Blakeslee and Robinson; Interim Commissioner Lucas
Friday, February 20, 2009
SBCJC Board Room**

The following are desired characteristics of Mississippi's next Commissioner of Higher Education as articulated by the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges:

- We need a Commissioner with youth, not someone near retirement.
- He/she will need to add to what he/she already knows; he/she must have time to serve.
- From the community college perspective, we need a Commissioner who understands and appreciates the community college system.
- Dr. Lucas has helped with this relationship. There is no barrier between IHL and the community college system.
- We need a Commissioner who sees the community and junior colleges as an asset and co-equal partner in educating the citizens of our state.
- We are looking for a Commissioner who sees us as a partner and talks to us on a regular basis.
- We want to find someone who knows who we are.
- We need a united front on industrial development between IHL and the CJC's.
- You will need someone who is well-liked.
- You will need someone who has legislative respect and support.
- The Commissioner can't rely on the institutions to "do it all."
- You need a good communicator; someone who can hit the ground running.
- We appreciate your asking us. We want our students to make a seamless transition from the community college to a public university. The new Commissioner must enable this transition.