It's Time to C.A.R.E. about Higher Education in Mississippi!

Consider that the state Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) do not receive local support like K-12 schools and the community and junior colleges do.

- Mississippi's universities depend on their partners in the Mississippi Legislature for adequate funding.

Add $26 million to the on- and off-campus funds preliminarily appropriated by the Senate and $38.7 million to the on- and off-campus funds preliminarily appropriated by the House to adequately fund IHL's $52 million formula-driven request.

- Doing so will enable IHL to create a raise pool for faculty and staff. Faculty currently make about $10,000 less than their peers in the region. These dollars will assist operational budgets, which will keep tuition at a reasonable level.

Remember IHL's other line item budgets, such as the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the agriculture units at Alcorn State University and Mississippi State University.

- All Mississippians benefit from the state's higher education budget—students, taxpayers, Mississippi's businesses, farmers and the rural population, and the state's poorest citizens. An investment in higher education is Mississippi's best investment!

Endorse the $125 million bond bill. It's a capital idea!

- IHL needs money to repair and renovate its facilities, many of which are more than 25 years old. Safe, comfortable buildings, conducive to learning, are critical to a quality education.

Show You C.A.R.E. about Higher Education in Mississippi. Support Mississippi's Public University System!

Any questions? Call Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Thomas Meredith at 601.432.6623 or E-mail: commissioner@ihl.state.ms.us