



Higher Ed Day - April 5, 2007! - We encourage everyone to attend!

On Thursday, April 5, 2007, the Higher Education Partnership, representing the advocacy voice of the students, faculty, staff, alumni and other university supporters, will host the annual Higher Education Day Rally in Montgomery at the Alabama State House. The day's events begin at 11:00 a.m. with Montgomery's largest annual advocacy rally. The rally will feature students, faculty, alumni, university presidents, and other voices from Alabama's public universities. The over 1500 attendees will carry a message to the state's elected officials: **"Equitable Funding Opens Doors of Opportunity."**

As has unfortunately become too commonplace, there appears to be momentum for the universities to be on the short-side of the fund distribution formula. When looking at the distribution of the proceeds for the proposed capital bond issue, there is a historical precedent for the universities to receive around 40 percent of the funding. Yet, the current proposals show the universities receiving around 28 percent. University students, faculty, staff, alumni and others cannot stand idle and allow this to happen.

UNIVERSITIES- Equitable Funding Opens the Doors of Opportunity for ALL!

The message of the importance of higher education will be clear as people consider these key points. The public universities seek an equitable distribution of funding. We appreciate the value of Pre-K through 12, two-year and four-year education. We know that ALL education funding must move forward if ALL of Alabama is to benefit.

Alabama universities...

- 1. have an IMPACT ON EVERYONE'S ECONOMY.**
 - a. By reversing the trend and setting up a growth in the percentage of Alabamians with four-year degrees, **ALL of the state will benefit from the expanded capacity to have a diversified economy.**
 - b. A better funded university network will provide **greater opportunities for ALL to obtain college degrees. (Alabama is at 22.3% while the United States is at 27.7%)**
 - c. Industrial growth is currently high (see the automobile industry). However, as technology changes, the state must be consistent in its investment in workers. **Higher education provides training for workers and research for technology.**

- 2. are focused on MEANINGFUL "QUALITY OF LIFE" RESULTS.**
 - a. With the growing availability of electronic higher education. It is very important for ALL of the people of the state to know that they are investing in quality products. The **public universities meet and exceed state and national accrediting standards.**
 - b. Further, university campuses provide outstanding **venues for social and cultural development that are not found through electronic means.**

The Higher Education Partnership reminds you that every person counts on Higher Ed Day.

To make sure that the success of the past few rallies is not forgotten, the university supporters must continue to show that we are vocal, involved constituents. Higher Education Day is the most important symbol of the unified voice of the universities. Now, we must reinforce that **WE ARE HERE TO STAY!** Join us at the Alabama StateHouse on April 5.

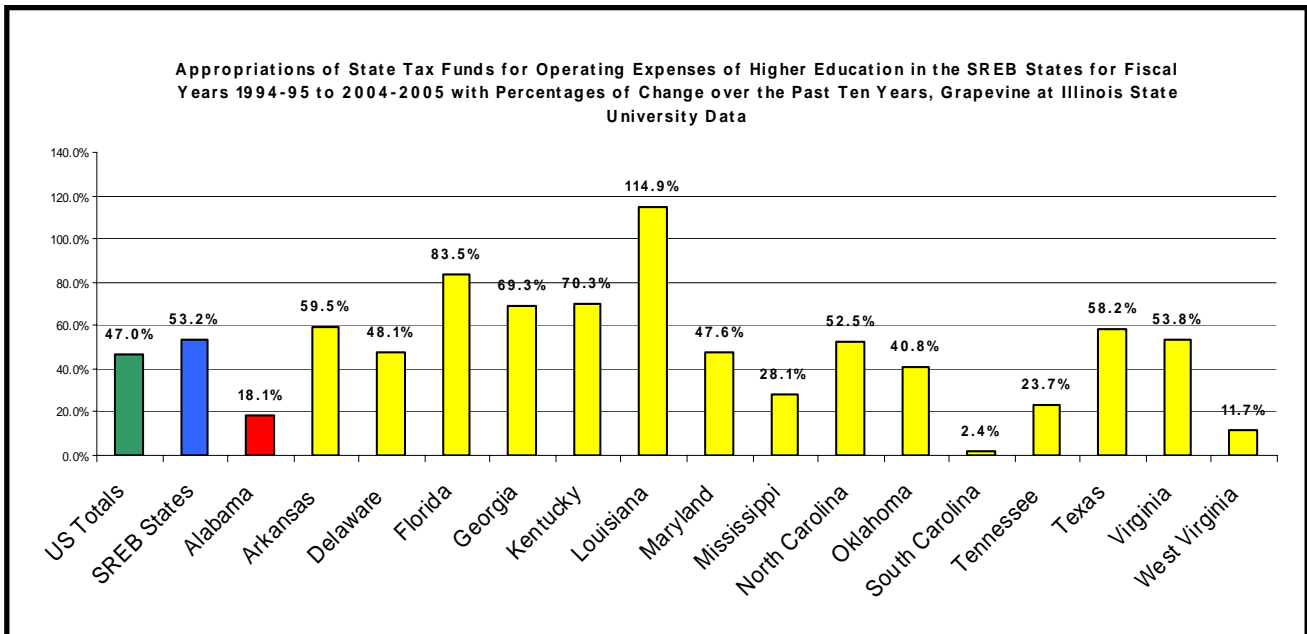
Make plans to come to Montgomery for Higher Ed Day at 11:00 a.m. on April 5. Lunch is provided.



3. will accomplish more with ADDITIONAL REVENUE

- a. Higher education will provide **greater opportunities for ALL to obtain college degrees. (Alabama is at 22.3% while the United States is at 27.7%)**
- b. Higher education will impact **per capita income**, which in turn, impacts **quality of life**.
 - i. In 2005, Alabama’s per capita income equaled 29,136. The national average was 34,586. **Low per capita income** impacts the less fortunate, in a serious way.
 - ii. Of particular interest are the youngest in our population. Currently Alabama has an average of 17.6 percent of its **children in poverty**. The national average is 12.4 percent.
- c. Higher education funding parallels the changes in employment growth.
 - i. From 1994 to 2004, **Alabama grew in employment by 6.3 percent**. However, during the same 10 years, **employment growth nationally was 13.2 percent**.
 - ii. Growth in funding for the public universities followed a similar pattern. From 1994 to 2004, **funding growth for the Alabama universities was the third lowest in the region at 18.1 percent**. **Funding growth nationally was at 47 percent for public universities**.

4. will become a greater resource for meeting the challenges that face ALL Alabamians.



Remember-Remember

Higher Ed Day transportation is coordinated by SGA and campus STARS committee. Make plans NOW for April 5!