

1/23/07 Press Release

GOVERNOR BARBOUR ENDORSES MISSISSIPPI IN MOTION PROGRAM

(Jackson, Mississippi) In support of a healthier Mississippi, Governor Haley Barbour and his appointed Commission on Physical Fitness and Sports today endorsed Mississippi in Motion.

Mississippi in Motion is a community outreach program designed to educate Mississippians on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and instruct them on ways to achieve.

This program was created by commission member, Tracy Stebbins, and used successfully in her community of West Point, MS in 2004.

Its success attracted the attention of the Mississippi State Extension Services as an excellent tool to provide assistance to other communities facing similar health issues. In 2005, the Mississippi State Extension Service successfully conducted 10 pilot programs throughout the state enrolling 3898 individuals.

This year, with the support of Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation and the Delta Health Alliance, they will begin programs in 20 counties across Mississippi. In addition, Mississippi State University will begin the program this year for all of its staff, faculty, and students.

“The potential impact this program could have on our state is tremendous,” states Governor Haley Barbour. “This program gives thousands of Mississippians the assistance they need, in their own community, to make healthier choices that will impact not only their health, but the health of their family, and more than likely, their financial health.”

Governor Barbour has clearly demonstrated his desire for a healthier Mississippi through his endorsement of other programs such as the “Healthy Kids” Initiative, “Let’s Go Walking Mississippi”, and the June 2006 Healthy Mississippi Summit. Today is another example of Mississippi’s concerned leadership implementing solutions to create a healthier Mississippi.

For more information on Mississippi in Motion, contact your local Mississippi State Extension office or Dr. Jane Clary at 662.325.5014.