

## Breaking News

### EFIB Search Committee Favors Ms. Doty

HATTIESBURG – An e-mail written by EFIB Chairman George Carter (to EFIB faculty) regarding the EFIB's search for a new Director of the CoB's Center for Economics Education has been provided to news staff at USMNEWS.NET. The contents of that e-mail are interesting, and deserve attention. That e-mail, sent out on 20-July-2007, is inserted below:

To EFIB Faculty:

The search for a Director of the Center for Economic Education and Instructor of Economics received two applications: Susan Doty and Corey Miller. The search committee (Bill Gunther, Akbar Marvasti and me) reviewed the applications of the two applicants. The committee thinks that Susan Doty's established position in the economics education network and experience in presenting economics education workshops makes her the preferred candidate and recommends her to the faculty. Please send me an e-mail as a vote on whether you support the search committee's recommendation that a letter offer be extended to Ms. Doty.

Susan Doty received an MBA with honors in 1982 from Bryant College. She has extensive experience in teaching economics education workshops. Since late summer 2004, she has conducted approximately eighty economics education workshops as professional development for K-12 teachers in Mississippi. The Mississippi Council for Economic Education keeps records of teaching effectiveness in the workshops, and Pam Smith, President of the Mississippi Council, has written a letter in support of Ms. Doty in which she testifies to Ms. Doty's teaching effectiveness. We also received letters of support for Ms. Doty from Joseph Peri, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the National Council on Economic Education, and Paul Grimes, Director of the Mississippi State University Center for Economic Education and Financial Literacy. In addition to economics education workshops, Ms. Doty has experience teaching collegiate economics courses at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and Syracuse University.

Corey Miller is a Research Associate II in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State. He has a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics (2000) from Mississippi State and 36 hours of Ph.D. economics coursework from Virginia Tech. Corey has been a Graduate Research Assistant, Research Associate I, and Research Associate II with the Mississippi State Department of Agricultural Economics since 1998, and he has a number of agricultural economics publications. He has no economics education background or experience.

I hope that your respective summers are enjoyable and productive.

Best,  
George

According to Carter, the search committee, consisting of economics professors Carter, William Gunther, and associate professor of economics Akbar Marvasti, received **two (2) applications** after opening a **national search** to fill the CEED position. One of these was received from Corey Miller (see above), a Research Associate II in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University. Miller, who does *not* hold a PhD in economics, has been with MSU's agricultural economics group for the past 10 years.

The second candidate is Susan Doty, wife of former CoB Dean Harold Doty and (currently) the lead economics educator for the CoB's CEE. As such, Doty is an in-house candidate with ties to a current CoB faculty (former CoB administrator). Like Miller, Doty lacks the requisite terminal degree in economics, though Carter and the search committee laud her "experience" teaching economics workshops to K-12 teachers throughout Mississippi. "Ms. Doty," as she is referred to by Carter, has collegiate teaching (economics) experience from the University of Arkansas and Syracuse University.

Finally, Carter's e-mail requests that departmental faculty in the EFIB respond by an "e-mail vote" as to whether or not they support the committee's preferred candidate, "Ms. Susan Doty."

Carter's e-mail raises a number of questions and concerns. First, by referring to Susan Doty as "Ms. Doty," instead of "Mrs. Doty," Carter seems to be hoping that EFIB faculty overlook/forget the fact that Doty is the wife of the CoB's former Dean, Harold Doty. While Carter may hope to accomplish that, referring to Doty as "Ms." or "Mrs." serves also to highlight the fact that Carter and the search committee hope to hire someone without a terminal degree in economics – someone many expect will earn somewhere in the neighborhood of \$70,000 per year.

Second, how far has the CoB (and USM) fallen that a national search in the EFIB produces what many will see as two *unqualified* candidates, one whose resume is mailed from Starkville and the other whose resume is faxed in from Canebrake? This is the second time in six months that a search for a new CEED has been a disaster, though this attempt is easily more troubling, at least in appearance, than the first. If this is what's to come from replacing former EFIB hiring guru Charles Sawyer with Akbar Marvasti and William Gunther, then there may be darker days ahead for the EFIB.

Third, where are these candidates' vitae? Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that they were not included in Carter's e-mail. It wouldn't be speculation to figure that faculty in the EFIB would like to see the candidates' academic track records. But, USMNEWS.NET readers should remember that Carter informed EFIB faculty that the search was underway only about three days before the search was closed and the committee formed its opinion on a preferred candidate.

Fourth, will Carter inform these two candidates of the existence of USMNEWS.NET? We ask that now because Carter did just that at the end of the first search for a new CEED just a few months ago. Candidates from Nebraska to California were each told by Carter that there were discontented faculty in the CoB, and that the candidates should visit USMNEWS.NET to learn more about it. Was this done in an effort to sabotage the first search, so that the fall-back position would be Susan Doty? If so, then USM's EEOC officer, Becky Woodrick, will become involved in that and the current situation.

Fifth, will Corey Miller pursue legal action when he learns that his credentials were downgraded openly (via the e-mail above) by Carter, while Carter openly presented “Ms. Susan Doty’s” case in the most favorable light? Again, Woodrick could be placed in an untenable position given the situation.

Sixth, the recommendation of Carter of an e-mail vote raises faculty governance concerns. E-mail votes provide no cover of anonymity, and Carter can use the e-mail voting procedure to monitor the choices made by *untentured* faculty in EFIB, a group that includes John Clark, Sami Dakhli, Matthew Hood, John Lambert, Farooq Malik, Akbar Marvasti, Daniel Monchuk, Sean Salter, and Weihua Shi, ranking it as the largest total for this category in the department’s history. Finally, even this aspect of the story will also have “Becky Woodrick implications” for Carter, the CoB, and USM.