

To: BRADLEY TOWNES
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County schools invited to apply for technology funds

By RUSSELL HELMS
St. Clair News-Aegis

PELL CITY—State Representative Dave Thomas and Solutia, Inc. announced Monday the creation of a new technology and science education program. The program, funded by Solutia, formerly known as Monsanto, will provide \$250,000 annually for three years to school districts associated with its plant operations in Anniston, Decatur and Foley.

Concerning St. Clair County, the new program will consider fund requests from all public city and county school districts in counties surrounding Solutia's Anniston plant.

Representative Thomas has been instrumental in assessing needs of school districts in our area. He stated that he asked school administrators and teachers for a wish list of equipment they needed to increase the quality of learning in their schools. The schools responded with requests for software, computers, monitors, lab equipment and basic supplies such as beakers and test tubes.

Blake Hamilton, Solutia Site Manager in Anniston, stated that it is important that students in Solutia



Russell Helms/News-Aegis

SOLUTIA, INC TEAMS WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAVE THOMAS—Representative Dave Thomas and Steve Bradley announce the creation of a new educational fund for St. Clair County schools.

plant areas receive the best education possible.

Thomas emphasized that many corporations are looking for ways to involve themselves in state education. He hopes the Solutia program will serve as a model for other programs. "From all the teachers I've talked to," he said, "they're ecstatic about the program. School boards

and principals are always in need of resources."

Proposals should be submitted by June 1 and initial program grants will be made by early summer.

For more information and to apply write: Blake Hamilton, 300 Birmingham Highway, Anniston, Ala. 36201. The phone number is (256) 231-8427.

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