

# Interview Resources

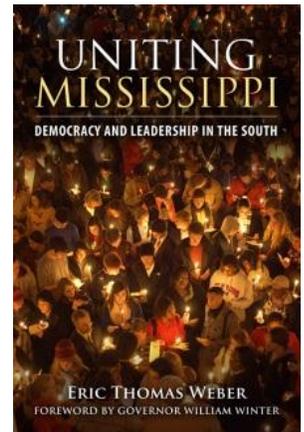
## **Bio talking points – Dr. Eric Thomas Weber**

- is associate professor of Public Policy Leadership, working at the Univ of MS since 2007;
- has his Ph.D. in Philosophy;
- has written 4 books, including *Uniting Mississippi*;
- teaches courses in Ethics and Public Policy and in the Philosophy of Leadership;
- has won research, teaching, & service awards from the MS Humanities Council & U of MS.



## **Product summary – *Uniting Mississippi: Democracy and Leadership in the South***

- looks at one of the deep challenges for democracy -- achieving unity despite great freedom;
- presents a new way of looking at poverty and educational frustration;
- focuses on Mississippi, but is relevant around the United States and anywhere poverty and educational difficulties frustrate moral and economic progress;
- begins with a Foreword by the Honorable Governor William Winter, known for racial reconciliation and creating kindergarten programs in the public schools;
- was released in paperback in local bookstores and online in September of 2015.



## **Interview topics - suggestions / angles**

Ethics & the Law | The Virtues of Leadership | Leadership and Democracy | Education & Moral Progress  
Race and Unity | How Can One Learn or Teach Leadership? | Public Policy and Individual Action for Change

## **Sample interview questions and prompts**

- The United States is a highly polarized society, so what would it mean to "unite Mississippi"?
- Isn't Mississippi a lot more united than it was 50 years ago? If so, why do we need more unity?
- What is democratic leadership?
- Tell us about some of the examples that you address in the book, like corporal punishment and sex education. How can these issues be addressed with democratic leadership?
- If there have been generations of challenges and divisiveness, how can leaders foster greater unity?
- What role do symbols play in trying to unite Mississippians? Are they important?
- In the book, you talk about four virtues of good leadership. Can you tell us about them?
- Some say that leadership is born, not taught. Can leadership be taught? If so, how?
- What can individuals do to make a difference for Mississippi's future?
- What policy initiatives can public officials put in place that will unite Mississippians and lead to the more prosperous future you envision for Mississippi?
- When we hear over and over about Mississippi's troubles, how can we have hope for a better future for the state?
- The cover of the book features a photo of a candle-light gathering. Can you tell us about that and what it means for the book?