

The pathway to growth for our state is through the university system.

- While Mississippi Public Universities compete in some ways, we are working to advance the state together.
- Mississippi must have a strong system of universities to help advance the state; it cannot be accomplished on a bargain-basement budget. Mississippi's economy will not grow if the hand that feeds it, the university system, is starved.
- Flat funding for the system is detrimental for our universities and our state.

Mississippi Public Universities must have the resources necessary to succeed.

- Although state revenue has increased by more than \$100 million since 2009, revenue for the university system has decreased by \$30 million during the same time period.
- Mississippi Public Universities manage their resources well and are good stewards of the taxpayers' funds. While our universities are very efficient and work hard to streamline operations and save money whenever possible, there comes a point where less is less and quality will suffer. Then, our universities will not be able to compete for faculty or students. All levels of education contribute to the betterment of the state and must be properly resourced to succeed.
- Universities spend \$779 less per FTE than a decade ago. They are very efficient organizations.

Faculty compensation is a key component of attracting and retaining the best faculty and staff at our universities.

- The individuals we have teaching, guiding and leading our students have a tremendous influence on them, which has a ripple effect as students graduate and become leaders in their chosen fields and communities.
- The faculty salaries earned at Mississippi universities are less than those their peers earn at similar institutions in other states in the Southeast. For example, the University of North Alabama pays its faculty members an average of \$1500 more per year than Mississippi State University. We have been losing ground in this area for many years. Each year that we remain stagnant and universities in other states raise salaries, the gap widens.
- Additional funding over FY15 provided by the Legislature for FY16 will be directed to faculty and staff salaries. The universities have reduced their operational budgets based on available resources.

Tuition rates at Mississippi Public Universities are less than the tuition rates at similar institutions and other states, making them far more accessible than peer institutions.

- The tuition increases were approved one year ago, except Mississippi University for Women, which reserved the option for an increase during the approval process.
- There is no correlation between the tuition increases and the Legislative Budget Recommendation. The tuition rates were approved for almost all of the universities the fall of 2013. The tuition increase for MUW was presented to the Board for first reading in October, prior to the release of the LBR.

Changes Over 5 Years

Credit Hour Production	↑ 8.7%
Unduplicated Headcount	↑ 3.7%
Non-Resident Enrollment	↑ 27.7%
Online-Only Courses	↑ 34.4%
Hybrid Online Courses	↑ 34.3%
Degrees Awarded	↑ 10.9%
Undergrad STEM Degrees	↑ 34.6%
Graduate STEM Degrees	↑ 18.5%
MS General Fund Collections	↑ 12.1%
IHL Appropriations	↓ -5.3%
Appropriations per FTE	↓ -29.3%
IHL Average Faculty Salaries	↓ -6.9%