



Mississippi Valley State University President

The President of Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) reports to the Commissioner of Higher Education for Mississippi's Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL). The President works with a wide range of internal and external constituents to provide overall leadership for the University. The President is expected to build upon the existing traditions, distinctions, and strengths of the University as it provides greater services to the Mississippi Delta and the Southeast region, while incorporating a global perspective to MVSU's curricular offerings and student experiences.

IHL and MVSU seek a President who demonstrates successful senior leadership experience, a comprehensive understanding of strategic planning, resource development, personnel management, fundraising, enrollment management, and budget planning. The successful candidate must be prepared to lead a dynamic and growing university. The President is expected to strengthen the University's current and future educational and outreach programs that are geared toward developing responsible citizens who are sensitive to the needs of a pluralistic society.

THE UNIVERSITY

Vision: The vision of Mississippi Valley State University is to attain preeminence in the quality of its students' educational experience and its graduates. In addition, the University wishes to create the optimal living and learning environment that validates its conceptualization as the *Valley of Scholars*. The institution endeavors to produce ethical and capable students who are exceptionally prepared for graduate and professional schools and the world of work in a global society.

Institution Profile: Mississippi Valley State University had its beginning in 1950 as Mississippi Vocational College with a mission/goal of educating teachers for rural and elementary schools, and to provide vocational training. The name of the institution was changed to Mississippi Valley State College in 1964. The College was authorized to offer the liberal arts degree as well as the science and education degrees. The institution's name was changed to Mississippi Valley State University in 1974 and began offering its first masters degree in 1976.

Mississippi Valley State University is one of eight public universities within IHL. The University offers concentrated study in the arts, business, education, humanities, public services, pre-professional health services, social sciences, sciences, social work, and technology. Additionally, the University offers Master of Science degrees in environmental health, elementary education, criminal justice, business administration, special education, and rural public policy, as well as a Master of Social Work and a Master of Arts in teaching.

MVSU emphasizes the study and applications of technology, basic and applied research, service learning, health and wellness, and economic development. The University expanded its emphasis to incorporate an international focus on governmental, economic, and cultural affairs. Out of this concept, the Delta Research and Cultural Institute provides the avenue for faculty and students to engage in theoretical and applied research on subject matters related to the cultural, social, economic, and political concerns of the Delta. The Greenwood Center, an off-campus site, was opened in January 1996; and another off-campus site, the Greenville Higher Education Center, was opened in 2001.

Location: Mississippi Valley State University is located on a 450-acre tract of land in Itta Bena, Mississippi, which has a population of 2,200. Located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, Mississippi Valley State University is approximately eight miles from Greenwood, which has a population of 18,900; and approximately 50 miles from Greenville, which has a population of about 45,200. The University is approximately 100 miles north of Jackson, and 135 miles south of Memphis, Tennessee.

Institution Type: Historically Black University; Carnegie Masters I Institution

Budget: The University's annual budget is approximately \$42.7 million.

Students: As of spring 2008, total enrollment was approximately 3,000, with females making up 68 percent of the total enrollment. Over 81 percent of students come from surrounding Delta counties, and 68 percent of students commute to the campus. The most popular undergraduate majors are business administration, social work, elementary education, health, physical education and recreation, and criminal justice.

Employees: The University has a total of 543 full-time employees and 74 part-time employees, of which 147 are full-time faculty members. Sixty-eight percent of the faculty hold doctoral degrees. It has an annual payroll of \$22,940,847.00.

Accreditations: Mississippi Valley State University is accredited by the following organizations:

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Council on Social Work Education
- Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs
- National Association of Schools of Music
- National Association of Schools of Art and Design
- American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance/The National Association of Sports and Physical Education
- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
- National Accreditation Council for Environmental Health Curricula
- National Collegiate Athletic Association
- State Department of Education of Mississippi

Athletics: The University is a member of the NCAA Division I and the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). The University football program is classified as NCAA Championship Subdivision. The University offers intercollegiate teams for men in baseball, basketball, cross-country, football, golf, tennis, and track and field; and intercollegiate teams for women in basketball, cross-country, golf, tennis, track and field, soccer, softball, volleyball, and bowling.

THE CANDIDATE

Education: An appropriate terminal degree and academic credentials sufficient to garner respect from the University and external constituents.

Characteristics: Specifically, the President should possess the following attributes:

- Political savvy with skills in advocacy, marketing, and public relations, and the ability to effectively represent the University to various constituencies, including the Board of Trustees, the Commissioner of Higher Education, alumni, legislators, accrediting agencies, corporate and government partners, and the community-at-large;
- A compassionate personality; approachable, good sense of humor; reliable, active listener, and the ability to effectively relate to all groups;
- Demonstrated expertise as a fundraiser, with previous successful experience in personal solicitation and the ability to successfully manage and execute a capital campaign;
- A student-centered philosophy with a holistic approach that addresses the needs and interests of the student population;
- One who values and respects the expertise of others and believes in shared governance that maximizes the departmental

effectiveness for the betterment of the University while promoting accountability;

- Intellectual, analytical, and ethical qualities that command respect to both internal and external constituents;
- Accreditation experience and the ability to be proactive in the planning and prioritizing necessary to obtain proper university credentials;
- Appreciation of the challenges and opportunities presented by NCAA Division I athletics and the University's membership in the Southwestern Athletic Conference;
- A consensus-builder with a decisive approach to management with results-oriented experiences and leadership ability necessary to implement a strategic plan based on a shared vision and goals; and
- Strong, clear, and effective communication skills as well as interpersonal skills and experience in working with students, staff, faculty, administrators, and community leaders.

Job Responsibilities:

- Managing existing resources and generating new resources to meet future challenges, demonstrating a balance between fiscal and operational affairs and academic and technological priorities;
- Refining, prioritizing, and/or executing a short and long-term plan focused on continued growth and improvement of overall academic, administrative, research and capital projects of the institution;
- Building mutually beneficial partnerships with K-12 schools, other colleges/universities, local and regional communities, and other external constituencies to provide a supportive environment for all students and those interested in lifelong learning opportunities;
- Establishing and overseeing procedures to maintain quality, equity, and accountability in all University activities, including selecting and promoting faculty and staff and developing and managing human, financial, and physical resources;
- Supporting and increasing faculty research, scholarship, and creative activities;
- Enhancing the quality of faculty, staff, and student life through the infusion of a global perspective;
- Continuing the development of the Centers of Excellence that incorporates instructional research and service functions;
- Increasing enrollment and retention of high-quality, diverse students;

- Demonstrating a commitment to diversity, including the internationalization of the campus and support for international programs;
- Increasing and enhancing the use of technology in administration, instruction, research, fiscal management, and student services;
- Building and supporting academic living/learning communities; and
- Demonstrating the ability to maintain important traditions, yet serving as the driving force behind change that will translate into a notable, positive impact on the University and surrounding region.

HOW TO APPLY

Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc. is assisting the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning with this search. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. Application materials should include a letter addressing how the candidate's experiences match the position requirements, a curriculum vitae or resume, and contact information for a least four references. Submission of materials as a MS Word attachment is strongly encouraged.

Confidential inquiries, nominations, and application materials should be directed to:

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Mississippi Valley State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. For more information on MVSU, visit the web site: www.mvsu.edu and for more information on the Board's presidential search at MVSU, visit www.mississippi.edu.