SEARCH PROFILE:

PRESIDENT
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The Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and Jackson State University (JSU) invite inquiries, nominations, and applications for the position of President. Jackson State University, founded in 1877, is a historically black university in Jackson, the capital city of Mississippi. Jackson State's nurturing academic environment challenges individuals to change their lives through teaching, research, and service. Officially designated as Mississippi's Urban University, Jackson State continues to enhance the state, nation and world through comprehensive economic development, healthcare, technological and educational initiatives. The only public university in the metropolitan area, Jackson State's main campus is located near downtown. With nearly 7,000 students, Jackson State is the fourth-largest institution of higher learning in Mississippi and ranks among the top 20 HBCUs in the nation. JSU offers more than 90 bachelor's, master's, specialist's, and doctoral degree programs through traditional and online course offerings. Ranked #7 among top HBCUs in the country, JSU was named an Apple Distinguished School for 2013-15 and 2015-17 for uniquely implementing technology into the curriculum. JSU ranks in the top five in patents earned among HBCUs. The university is accredited by the Commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and is designated as a “High Research Activity” by The Carnegie Classification. Jackson State University continues to enhance the state, nation, and the world through comprehensive initiatives in education, community and economic development, healthcare, innovative research, and technology.

The University seeks a transformative leader who will build the institution’s future on the foundation of its rich history and invest in the university’s greatest assets – its faculty, staff, and students. The University further seeks a leader who will create a bold vision for the future, has a passion for its mission, and is indefatigable in the pursuit of excellence. The 13th President is expected to assume office in January 2024.
For nearly 150 years, Jackson State University has had a rich history of empowering diverse students to become leaders through educational excellence. Today, we continue that tradition through our collaborative and technologically advanced academic programs, while our urban location allows us to put learning into practice by serving our communities. Our student-centered approach makes JSU feel like a home away from home, and we offer a holistic college experience with numerous clubs, organizations, athletic events, and other extracurricular activities for all Tigers to enjoy.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are American establishments stretching back to the 19th century. These schools were created to provide higher education opportunities for Black Americans, many of whom were excluded from white-dominated institutions during the time of their founding. Today, HBCUs carry on that noble legacy by providing excellent education to diverse student populations. Jackson State University is proud to be part of this tradition. From our founding in 1877 as a seminary, to our present-day status as a doctoral research university, JSU remains committed to developing leaders and advancing society through transformative ideas.

Jackson State University has a distinguished history, rich in the tradition of educating young men and women for leadership, having undergone seven name changes as it grew and developed. Founded as Natchez Seminary in 1877 by the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the school was established in Natchez, Mississippi “for the moral, religious and intellectual improvement of Christian leaders of the colored people of Mississippi and the neighboring states.” In November 1882, the school was moved to Jackson; in March 1899, the curriculum was expanded, and the name was changed to Jackson College. The state assumed support of the college in 1940, assigning to it the mission of training teachers. Subsequently, between 1953 and 1956, the curriculum was expanded to include a graduate program and bachelor’s programs in the arts and sciences; the name was then changed to Jackson State College in 1956. Many students at Jackson State College became active in the civil rights movement. Work to gain integrated practice and social justice continued after civil rights legislation was passed in the mid-1960s. During an on-campus protest on May 14, 1970, two students were killed by police gunfire. An additional 12 students were injured by gunfire during the clash. A dormitory still bears the bullet marks fired on that day. Further expansion of the curriculum and a notable building program preceded the elevation of Jackson State College to university status on March 15, 1974. In 1979, Jackson State was officially designated The Urban University of the State of Mississippi. Presently, Jackson State University, a public, coeducational institution, is recognized as an R2 “Doctoral Universities: High Research Activity” institution based on the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. It is supported by legislative appropriations supplemented by student fees and federal and private grants.
JSU has purposefully worked to increase academic and student success and position its graduates to live ethical and meaningful lives and build a better world for future generations. The University’s mission guides these efforts:

The mission of Jackson State University, an HBCU and comprehensive urban research university, is to provide quality teaching, research and service at the baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctoral levels to diverse populations of students and communities using various modalities to ensure that they are technologically advanced, ethical, global leaders who think critically and can address societal problems and compete effectively.

Likewise, the University’s vision provides an overarching direction:

Building on its historic mission of empowering diverse students to become leaders, Jackson State University will become recognized as a challenging, yet nurturing, state-of-the-art technologically infused intellectual community. Students and faculty will engage in creative research, participate in interdisciplinary and multi-institutional/organizational collaborative learning teams, and serve the global community.

Jackson State University is committed to the following Core Values:

- **Tradition** – The University believes that its role as a historically black university inspires and exemplifies positive societal change.
- **Accountability** – The University believes in the principled exercise of leadership and the sanctity of the public trust.
- **Learning** – The University believes in an experimentally enhanced learning environment where teaching, research, and service are integrated and mutually reinforcing.
- **Nurturing** – The University is committed to creating a community, which affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences and supports the realization of their potential.
- **Service** – The University responds to the needs of society to the best of its ability and expects its graduates to do likewise.
- **Responsibility** – The University believes in and accepts its duty to enhance each generation’s capacity to improve the human condition.

The estimated economic impact of Jackson State University on the Jackson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes the counties of Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Copiah, and Simpson, is approximately $170.1 million in output, 2,086 jobs, and $56.4 million in labor income. With a population of over half a million, the Jackson MSA is the largest metropolitan area in the state of Mississippi. The operational expenditure of JSU has an estimated economic impact of approximately $63 million in output, 585.1 jobs, and $20.7 million in labor income. The JSU payroll has an estimated economic impact of approximately $54.7 million in output, 595 jobs, and $17.1 million in labor income. JSU student expenditures have an estimated economic impact of approximately $52.3 million in output, 906 jobs, and $18.5 million in labor income.

Recognized for excellence and value, JSU is known for its extraordinary faculty, its welcoming atmosphere, its embrace of diversity, equity and inclusion as core values, and its reputation for producing loyal alumni. JSU currently enrolls nearly 5,000 undergraduates and nearly 2,000 graduate students and boasts a 13:1 student to faculty ratio. JSU has 314 full-time faculty and 219 part-time faculty, of which 56% are female and 83% are from diverse backgrounds. 80.4% of the full-time faculty hold a terminal degree.

In Fall 2022, 97% of the student body came from self-reported diverse backgrounds, 60% were Mississippi residents, 67% were female, 38% were aged 25 and older, and 29% were graduate students. Within the undergraduate population more than 91% received financial assistance, most receiving Pell grants. Most recent first to second year retention rate was 73.7% and the six-year graduation rate was 38%.

As a campus and community, JSU is big enough to offer 47 undergraduate programs of study and 49 graduate and professional programs of study, including an Educational Specialist and 13 doctoral programs, yet just the right size to make quality connections and succeed on local, regional, and national levels.
Elevate - Jackson State University Strategic Plan 2021-2026 details how the university will meet the global challenges and expectations that are inherent in the changing landscape of higher education, and it serves as the roadmap for the University’s prioritizations, decisions, and resources, and for advancing Jackson State University as a recognized leader in higher education.

The Strategic Plan’s framework outlines the following six Strategic Goals:

I. **Student Success**
Jackson State University will become one of the most student-centered universities in the country by implementing relevant and appropriate student success strategies, developing students holistically and ensuring student Return on Investment (ROI).

II. **Academic Prominence**
Jackson State University will become one of the most respected and prominent academic institutions in the country by becoming a Top 10 U.S. News & World Report ranked HBCU, providing quality teaching using various modalities to develop technologically advanced, ethical, and global leaders, and having the largest and best HBCU online degree program offerings.

III. **Research Excellence**
Jackson State University will raise the level of research prominence by leveraging our "high research activity" status, increasing our research capabilities, growing strategic partnerships, driving innovation and economic development, and providing opportunities for faculty and students to engage in impactful collaborative research.

IV. **Athletics Prowess Through Enhanced Program Support**
Jackson State University will become one of the premier NCAA FCS sports programs in the country where student-athletes compete fearlessly on and off the field, are retained and graduate, have access to quality coaching, mentorship, and facilities, and are actively engaged in campus life beyond athletics.

V. **Improve Campus Aesthetics and Sustainability**
Retain and grow our status as one of the most beautiful and attractive urban campuses in the country by continuously investing in our physical plant and grounds, repairing, and renovating older facilities and building new structures in order to compete favorably for students, faculty, and staff.

VI. **Improve the Campus Culture and Enhance the JSU Brand**
Jackson State University will become nationally known for quality customer service, efficient and effective operations, nurturing, caring and competent faculty and staff, and alumni who readily give of their time, talent, and treasure, fulfilling our desire to be an exceptional community, city, and state resource and partner.
ATHLETICS

Home to the Tigers, JSU competes in 16 Division I varsity sports sponsored by the NCAA. JSU is a member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). The SWAC is considered one of the premier HBCU conferences in the country and currently ranks among the elite in the nation in terms of HBCU alumni playing with professional sports teams. The league continues to set the bar for college football attendance leading all Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) conferences for 44 of the past 45 seasons as of 2023. The SWAC has 12 member institutions across six contiguous Southeastern states.

In the 2022-23 athletic season, Jackson State won SWAC Championships in men's cross country, women's soccer, football, and women's basketball. JSU student-athletes posted a 3.101 GPA during the fall semester and graduated nearly 70 student-athletes during 2022-23.

Among the Fall 2022 highlights, Jackson State posted its first 12-0 football season in program history in route to its second straight SWAC title. The national spotlight shined bright as 12 Jackson State football games in 2022 were televised or video streamed. JSU football set the FCS attendance record for the second straight year averaging 43,500 fans.

In the last five years, JSU athletic teams have won 17 championships, including historic titles highlighted by men's basketball (2021), baseball (2021), football (2021 and 2022), and women's basketball (2022), going undefeated in conference play.

Academics is a pillar of the JSU athletic department. In 2019-20, six of JSU's Division I sports led the SWAC in APR scores: football, men's cross country, men's tennis, women's basketball, women's bowling, and volleyball. Football also ranked in the top five percent among the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). Overall, student-athletes posted a cumulative 3.29-grade point average. JSU received the 2019-20 SWAC Academic Success Award.

ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

Jackson State University has a strong contingent of competent alumni who are contributing to societal successes and are making strong and positive impacts in business, healthcare, government, social work, education, law, politics, entrepreneurship, science, engineering, military services, and social and community organizations, among other areas.

The Jackson State University National Alumni Association serves as a driving force in the effort to advance Jackson State University. For more than 90 years, the JSU National Alumni Association, Inc. (JSUNAA) has worked diligently to support Jackson State University. Having started with just a handful of alumni, today, there are more than 4862 dues-paying members and many more involved in affinity groups. JSUNAA has a solid working relationship with Jackson State University staff and mentorship for students currently enrolled. Additionally, a coalition with other HBCU alumni associations, which included the MS HBCU Alliance, was established to discuss common issues and to facilitate a supportive and collaborative environment.

Today, JSUNAA seeks to advance the vision and mission of Jackson State University by providing support for its academic progression into perpetuity through alumni engagement; student recruitment; and scholarships for students to receive an education of excellence that prepares them to be change agents and global leaders. JSU has over 50,000 living alumni.

The Jackson State University Development Foundation (JSUDF) is the University’s primary fundraising and gift receiving organization. JSUDF advances the mission of JSU by pursuing and securing private donation support from alumni, corporations and friends to benefit students, faculty, programs, and or facilities. The JSUDF Board of Directors provide oversight and support by actively promoting philanthropy and advocacy. The Board’s efforts combined with the JSU Division of Institutional Advancement provides target support to stewardship of gifts, increases philanthropic support and deepens stakeholder’s engagement. As of June 2022, JSUDF has approximately $66 million in assets under management.
LIFE IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Jackson is the capital city of Mississippi. The statewide Freedom Trail runs through the city, encompassing several historic sites that were significant in the civil rights movement. These include the Medgar Evers Home Museum and the landmark Mississippi State Capitol building. In leafy LeFleur's Bluff State Park, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science includes an aquarium and nature trails.

The city had a population of 153,701 at the 2020 census. Over 83% of the city is racially diverse. Jackson is the anchor for the Jackson metropolitan statistical area, the largest metropolitan area completely within the state and the 10th largest urban area in the Deep South. With a 2020 population estimated around 600,000, metropolitan Jackson is home to over one-fifth of Mississippi’s population. The city sits on the Pearl River and is located in the greater Jackson Prairie region of Mississippi.

Founded in 1821 as the site for a new state capital, the city is named after General Andrew Jackson, who was honored for his role in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812 and later served as U.S. president. Following the nearby Battle of Vicksburg in 1863, during the American Civil War, Union forces under the command of General William Tecumseh Sherman began the siege of Jackson and the city was subsequently burned.

During the 1920s, Jackson surpassed Meridian to become the most populous city in the state following a speculative natural gas boom in the region. The current slogan for the city is “The City with Soul”. It has had numerous musicians prominent in blues, gospel, folk, and jazz. The city is located in the deep south halfway between Memphis and New Orleans on Interstate 55 and Dallas and Atlanta on Interstate 20. Being at this location has given the city the nickname the “crossroads of the south”.

The city has a number of museums and cultural institutions, including the Mississippi Children's Museum, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, Mississippi Museum of Art, Old Capital Museum, Museum of Mississippi History.

THE CAMPUS

The main campus contains over 60 academic and administrative buildings on 235 acres. It is located at 1400 John R. Lynch Street between Prentiss and Dalton Streets.

Ayer Hall was constructed in 1903 and is the oldest structure on the main campus. It was named in honor of the first president of the institution, Charles Ayer. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. Green-Gibb Memorial Plaza was named in honor of the two young men who died in the Jackson State shootings in 1970. As a result of the landmark «Ayers Settlement” in 2002, the university, along with the other two public HBCUs in the state, has completed extensive renovations and upgrades to campus.

- Jackson State has six residence halls and a student apartment complex on the campus.
- Jackson State has satellite campuses in the Jackson Metropolitan area:
  - Universities Center (Ridgewood Road)
  - Mississippi E-Center
  - Downtown (100 Capitol Street)
STUDENT LIFE

Student Affairs at JSU works to engage, retain, and educate a diverse student population for success at Jackson State University and globally. We enhance learning by fostering critical thinking, ethical responsibility, leadership, civic engagement, and the cultivation of healthy lifestyles to create a transformative university experience.

Jackson State University offers over 100 registered student organizations. There are academic, residential, religious, Greek, and special interest groups. All student organizations are governed under the Student Affairs division. Jackson State is home to radio station WJSU-88.5 FM which plays jazz, gospel, news, and public affairs programming. The television station W23BC is known as JSUTV and airs on Comcast. The independent weekly student newspaper is called Blue and White Flash and the Jacksonian magazine features news and highlights about the university.

Greek Life: The National Pan Hellenic Council aids and fosters the welfare of the Divine 9 Greek letter organizations at Jackson State University. All NPHC organizations were founded on the principles of service, sisterhood/brotherhood and scholarship. Each fraternity or sorority is required to adhere to those principles and to promote academic excellence.

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
- Kappa Alpha Psi Sorority
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority
- Iota Phi Theta Fraternity

JSU is proud to be a military-friendly school. The institution eagerly assists all veteran and military students in continuing their education. To help and support veterans through their journey, JSU offers a variety of military-specific programs and counseling services:

- The Veteran & Military Student Support Center
- Veteran Career Transition Program (through the Career Services Center)
- Counseling Services
- Veteran's Work Study Program
- JSU Air Force ROTC
- JSU Army ROTC
- Out-of-State Tuition and Fee Waivers for veterans, dependents, and service-members.

TRADITIONS

- “The Sonic Boom of the South” Marching Band. The marching band began in the 1940s at what was then Jackson State College, under the directorship of Frederick D. Hall, who had directed a band at the college as early as the 1920s, in addition to the chorus and orchestra. Founded as the Jackson State University Marching Band, the name “Sonic Boom of the South” was adopted by the school in 1971, after having been suggested by band members. The first full-time band director, William W. Davis, was appointed in 1948. Davis had previously played trumpet in Cab Calloway’s band, and Calloway’s musical style and showmanship influenced Davis’s conceptualization of the marching band. The band at that time had around 20 members, increasing to 88 in 1963. Davis retired as director in 1971. He was replaced by Harold J. Haughton. Haughton was instrumental in the creation of the Prancing J-Settes, the band’s accompanying dance line.

- Jackson State University’s annual Homecoming Week includes the Street Jam, Parade through Downtown Jackson, concert and is capped off by a football game at Veterans Memorial Stadium. Homecoming festivities are well-attended attracting alumni and friends of the university to the Jackson Metro area for the weekend.
- Mr. and Miss Jackson State University is a storied tradition where students compete in a pageant to earn the crown and the title of Mr. and Miss JSU.
- The Biennial Thee Blue Tie Gala sponsored by the JSU National Alumni Association to raise funds for student scholarships.
- The Mary E. Peoples Scholarship Luncheon is a fundraiser hosted by the Division of Institutional Advancement. Named after longtime educator and former First Lady of Jackson State University, Mrs. Mary E. Peoples, the luncheon benefits the Mary E. Peoples Endowed Scholarship which provides supplemental financial assistance to students in need.
JSU’s 533 full-time and part-time instructional faculty members are committed to preparing students to make a meaningful difference in the world. Of the full-time faculty, 80.4% hold the highest degree in their field, and 56% are female. The Fall 2022 student-to-faculty ratio was 13:1. The University offers 47 undergraduate programs. At the graduate level, the University offers 49 graduate and professional programs of study, including an Educational Specialist and 13 doctoral programs.

With Jackson State’s distinctive mix of foundational and professional programs, our emphasis on teaching and learning serves two purposes. It is outcome driven, with specific areas of study focused on preparing our students to pursue studies in graduate or professional schools or to excel in real-world workplaces. It also encompasses the practices of critical thinking and intellectual exploration that will empower students to “teach themselves” in every sphere of life, long after graduation.

The University is organized academically into five academic colleges, the Honors College, and a Division of Graduate Studies:

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**
The College of Business delivers its undergraduate academic programs through two departments: Business Administration and Accounting, Finance & Entrepreneurship. The College offers the Bachelor of Business Administration with seven concentrations, two masters programs—Master of Business Administration and Master of Professional Accountancy, and the PhD in Business Administration with majors in Accounting, Economics, and Management. Minors in Business Administration, Finance, and Marketing are offered to non-business majors.

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**
The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), along with the university, had its origin in 1877. The college became fully accredited in 1972 by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

The vision of the College of Education and Human Development is to be the premier Urban institution of choice within the state of Mississippi, the region, and the nation for the preparation of teachers, counselors and mental health professionals, professional development specialists, school leaders, and other school related professional practitioners with the latest in technology, best practices and as responsive educators with adaptive expertise. The college is also designated as a provider institution and partner with the U.S. PREP National Center for Educator Preparation Transformation.

**The School of Lifelong Learning**, within the College of Education and Human Development is dedicated to providing quality education to adults. Jackson State University is redefining Lifelong Learning by developing cutting edge programs and seminars of interest to the community. The ultimate goal is to bring together the resources of the university, public and private schools, industry, government, and community to jointly address problems affecting quality of life.

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
The College of Health Sciences is committed to providing advanced quality education. The college provides a learning environment that supports interdisciplinary communication, development of professional public health concepts, values, and the resolution of healthcare issues. The college prepares outstanding leaders and practitioners in professional
careers in public health, healthcare administration, speech language pathology, communicative disorders, speech and hearing sciences, and social work.

The College of Health Sciences academic programs include four departments – Behavioral and Environmental Health, Communicative Disorders, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Health Policy and Management/Healthcare Administration — and a School of Social Work. The College offers the Bachelor of Science (Communicative Disorders, Healthcare Administration, and Social Work); Master of Science in Communicative Disorders; Master of Public Health; Master of Social Work; Doctor of Public Health; and Ph.D. in Social Work.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
The College of Liberal Arts is proud to give students a versatile and engaging education that prepares them for a variety of career options, develops them into leaders, and allows them to compete effectively.

The college’s 10 departments offer a rich array of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels in fields like journalism, media, psychology, political science, and public policy and administration. The college promotes innovative scholarship and creative expression, and encourages interdisciplinary learning and applied practice through institutes like the Margaret Walker Center and the COFO Center.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
CSET has distinguished itself with outstanding faculty and staff who provide both the quality education and science leadership necessary to achieve the highest possible level of excellence. The college is committed to implementing the University’s urban mission and focusing its intellectual and other resources on improving the quality of life for students, the surrounding community, state, nation, and the global community.

The college has seven departments: Aerospace Science; Biology; Chemistry, Physics & Atmospheric Science; Civil and Environmental Engineering & Industrial Systems & Technology; Electrical & Computer Engineering and Computer Science; Urban and Regional Planning; and Mathematics & Statistical Sciences.

The college offers Ph.D. programs in Chemistry, Engineering, Environmental Science, and Computational & Data Enabled Science & Engineering. The college’s dedicated faculty has a strong emphasis on undergraduate research and a continued commitment to recruiting highly motivated students and continued growth in innovative programs.

W.E.B. DU BOIS – MARIA LUISA ALVAREZ HONORS COLLEGE
The mission of the Du Bois-Harvey Honors College at Jackson State University is to provide an invigorating college curriculum and student experience that promotes the proliferation of creativity, supports intellectual inquiry and discovery, and enhances critical and analytical thinking among selected high-achieving scholars. Honor College graduates will be renown, technologically savvy, civically engaged, and contributing global citizens, laureates, and professionals.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
H.T. Sampson Library – centrally located on the main campus the library supports research and the academic programs of the University through a robust collection of print resources and full text electronic books, journals, and databases.

- African American Collection - The Sampson Library houses a rich and extensive collection of resources by and about people throughout the world who are of African descent.
- University Archives and Special Collections - the official University Archives is housed in the Sampson Library. Together with Special Collections, University Archives is devoted to maintaining a group of resources that document the growth and development of Jackson State University, as well as the history and achievements of African Americans.

BRANCH/SATELLITE LIBRARIES
- Cleopatra D. Thompson Curriculum Center – College of Education and Human Development
- Health Sciences Library – School of Public Health
- Information Services Library – School of Life Long Learning
- Jake Ayers Institute for Research Library – EPhD Program faculty and students
A top research university, Jackson State University conducts interdisciplinary research at the undergraduate and graduate levels to creatively address social needs in areas including healthcare, technology, economics, arts & culture, and business. Because of big ideas and innovative approaches, JSU has been designated a “high research institution (R2)” by the Carnegie Classification.

Jackson State University’s external funding exceeds $101 million. Federal research funding is over $86 million, including from the U.S. Department of Education, National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, National institutes of Health, and other agencies. State, private, corporate, and other external funding exceeds $15 million.

Through the Office of Research and Economic Development, JSU provides support for research opportunities and helps you bring your work into the world.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

MISSISSIPPI’S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING (IHL)
The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning governs the public universities in Mississippi, including Alcorn State University; Delta State University; Jackson State University; Mississippi State University, including the Mississippi State University Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; Mississippi University for Women; Mississippi Valley State University; the University of Mississippi, including the University of Mississippi Medical Center; and The University of Southern Mississippi. The Board Office, located in the Education and Research Center of Mississippi, is responsible for policy and financial oversight of the eight public institutions of higher learning. Contact information for the Board is at http://www.mississippi.edu/board/

Serving more than 87,000 students in an academic year, Mississippi’s public universities prepare students with the knowledge and skills to be the leaders, educators, entrepreneurs and problem-solvers of tomorrow. Two-thirds of the system’s students are Mississippi residents. With over 950-degree programs offered across the university system, more than 19,000 degrees are awarded each year. The programs available at the universities range from a wide variety of undergraduate disciplines to most professional fields. All eight universities offer master’s level programs. Six have programs at the education specialist level and six offer doctoral-level programs.

Mississippi’s public universities contribute to Mississippi’s economy through job creation and student spending. The university system contributes more than 59,000 direct and indirect jobs to Mississippi employment. The system’s expenditures generate $2.46 billion in economic impact in the state.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
The Board of Trustees is the constitutional governing body responsible for policy and financial oversight of the eight public institutions of higher learning. The Board first assumed its duties in 1944. There are 12 board members, representing the three Supreme Court Districts. Appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Mississippi Senate, the members serve nine-year terms. The terms are staggered so that only four members roll on or off the Board at the same time.
THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Commissioner of Higher Education is appointed by the Board and is responsible for administering the Board’s policies at the eight universities in the state of Mississippi. Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr. was appointed commissioner of higher education by the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and began serving in this role in July 2018. As commissioner, Dr. Rankins advises the IHL Board on all matters pertaining to governing Mississippi’s eight public universities and academic medical center. Dr. Rankins also supervises and evaluates the chancellor and presidents of the universities within the IHL system.

Prior to being named commissioner, Dr. Rankins served as the 19th president of Alcorn State University. Under his leadership, the university enrolled its largest freshman class in its history and increased the average ACT scores of entering freshmen for three consecutive years. The university achieved its highest ever ranking by College Consensus as the #7 best HBCU and #1 best public HBCU in the nation.

Dr. Rankins previously served in various roles in the IHL Executive Office, including deputy commissioner, associate commissioner for academic and student affairs, and director of academic affairs. While serving as deputy commissioner, Dr. Rankins also served as acting president of Mississippi Valley State University. Prior to his appointment at IHL, Dr. Rankins served on the faculty at Mississippi State University (MSU), where he was a tenured associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and extension specialist with the MSU Extension Service. A native of Greenville, Mississippi, Dr. Rankins received a Bachelor of Science degree from Alcorn State University and both Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Mississippi State University.
LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE (CONT.)

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE
Reporting directly to the President are the members of the Executive Cabinet, including Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Business & Finance, Vice President for Research & Economic Development, Vice President for Student Affairs, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Vice President and Director of Athletics, Associate Vice President for Marketing & Communications, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement & External Affairs, Executive Director of Human Resources, Executive Director of Campus Operations, General Counsel, and Chief Information Officer.

The Faculty Senate provides official representation for all faculty members of the University in matters which affect the general welfare of the University and its educational purposes and effectiveness. The Faculty Senate also provides consultative services to the President of the University by considering all matters referred to it by the President of the University. Further, the Faculty Senate considered matters of university-wide interest, encourages the intellectual growth and development of faculty, promotes the material well-being of faculty and students, considers all matters of academic policy, and considers non-academic matters affecting the professional status and performance of the faculty.

The Staff Senate is the official representative body of the staff of the University. It strives to create stronger bonds within the staff and encourage cooperation among staff, faculty, students, administration, and the Board of Trustees for the benefit of the University. It provides an opportunity for all staff members at Jackson State University to have an interactive role in defining and maintaining a workplace that encourages input from all staff in creating a harmonious environment.

The Student Government Association (SGA) is a crucial part of student life at Jackson State University. The SGA serves as the voice of the student body, representing their interests and concerns to the administration. SGA provides students with an opportunity to become involved in their university community and to make a positive impact on their campus. SGA also plays an important role in shaping university policy, through initiatives and projects aimed at improving student life and the overall campus community.

Shared Governance: Shared governance means and requires the full participation of the faculty, staff, and students on all matters that directly or indirectly affect the academic environment at the University. These matters include, but are not limited to, curriculum, course content, degree requirements, class schedules, evaluations, representation on other units or bodies, discipline and dismissals of faculty/staff/students, fair academic policy and fair faculty/staff/student representation on search committees for university administration. Administrations will act on such recommendation and provide timely and reasonable rationale for any modification or rejection of input received.

FINANCIAL MATTERS
JSU’s operating budget for FY2023 exceeds $205 million, of which $63 million comes from state appropriations. External funding from research and sponsored programs totaled over $101 million in FY 2022. The endowment is valued at nearly $50 million. The University and the JSU Development Foundation invest significantly in student success.
LEADERSHIP AGENDA

The 13TH President of Jackson State University (JSU) will be a transformative leader who builds the institution’s future on the foundation of its rich history and invests in the university’s greatest assets – its faculty, staff, and students. Guided by the principles of shared governance, the President will have an unwaivering commitment to academic and research excellence, student success, economic development, and community engagement. The President will lead JSU’s forward trajectory through addressing key priorities:

- **Resource Development:** Participate in fundraising and other extramural funding and activities to support faculty and staff development and student success, and to update infrastructure.
- **Public Engagement:** Lead university efforts to participate in solutions to local environmental, health, and economic challenges. Leverage the University’s intellectual assets to make inclusive contributions to national and global research and educational agendas.
- **Brand Building:** Reaffirm the university’s commitment to the highest standards of academic and operational excellence through focused, consistent messaging to external constituents. The President will signal this commitment to internal constituents by embodying the University’s values.
- **Enrollment Growth:** Develop and implement an ambitious strategic enrollment management plan to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.
- **Research Enterprise:** Promote and build upon the University’s Carnegie R2 Research designation by encouraging and supporting faculty, staff, and student participation in research initiatives.
- **Shared Governance:** Promote accountability to the principles of shared governance, using best practices and good faith, through active listening and transparency. Foster an optimistic and collegial environment by building trust and a spirit of teamwork.
The University seeks a leader who will create a bold vision for the future, has a passion for its mission, and is indefatigable in the pursuit of excellence. The position affords an exceptional opportunity to create a compelling vision that marshals the collective talents of the faculty and staff to advance JSU’s position as a premier urban research university. The ideal candidate is someone who possesses a combination of knowledge, skills, and characteristics embodied in the following descriptions.

- Record of successful executive-level leadership at a complex organization.
- Future-oriented thinker who can integrate JSU’s values, assets, and aspirations into a clear and compelling vision.
- Transformational leader who can lead by example to inspire faculty, staff, and students to act and deliver on a bold vision.
- A deep understanding of the importance of the mission of HBCUs in the higher education landscape, and a commitment to JSU’s continued prominence as a nationally ranked urban research university.
- Sound judgment and impeccable personal and professional integrity.
- Champion of shared governance and transparency.

- Ability to foster an environment of trust and collegiality.
- Demonstrated success of increasing enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.
- Record of responsible stewardship of operational budgets and experience with strategic resource planning and allocation to achieve academic excellence and ensure the financial health of the institution.
- A successful record of resource and partnership development through attracting philanthropic support, securing grants and contracts, and building innovative partnerships with other institutions and with businesses and foundations.
- Ability to communicate the JSU value proposition passionately and tirelessly to external audiences, including foundations, corporations, and potential donors.
- Political savvy to engage local, state, and federal officials in the development of key partnerships and to advocate for support.
- An advocate for research, scholarly and creative activities, and academic innovation to enhance student success and advance the research enterprise.
- Ability to be accessible and engaged with students, faculty, and staff coupled with visibility in the community.
- Doctoral degree from an accredited institution is preferred.
APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES AND NOMINATIONS

The search for President of Jackson State University is being assisted by Academic Search. Applications should consist of a substantive cover letter addressing the expectations of the University and the position of President; a current curriculum vitae (CV); and a list of five professional references with contact information and a brief description explaining the working relationship of each to the applicant. References will not be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate.

Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted in confidence to JSUPresident@academicsearch.org. Although the position is open until filled, to ensure full consideration by the Search Committee, applications should be received by August 21, 2023. Confidential discussions about this opportunity may be arranged by contacting Dr. Bill Kibler, Senior Consultant, at bill.kibler@academicsearch.org or Dr. Maria Thompson, Senior Consultant, at maria.thompson@academicsearch.org.

Jackson State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or other factors prohibited by law in any of its educational programs, activities, services, admissions, or employment practices.
ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Jackson State University in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations. Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute. For more information, visit [www.academicsearch.org](http://www.academicsearch.org).

Committed to IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING LEADERS by providing the highest level of EXECUTIVE SEARCH to our higher education partners.