

MISSION

Board of Trustees of State



Institutions of Higher Learning

Richard Crofts, Commissioner

STATEMENTS

July 2005

Foreword

In March 2000, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning adopted the first system *vision statement* for Mississippi's public universities. This statement calls for a "strong public university system with eight distinct, mission-driven universities."

To highlight distinctiveness and achieve mission orientation without the angst of prior role and scope initiatives, the Board adopted a set of *planning principles*, established a common format, and took time to allow each university to develop and present its own statement. The planning process concluded with the adoption of the final Board and university *mission statements* in May 2004.

For the Board, the process provided a clearer articulation of its own mission as well as a better understanding of each institution's role and scope, primary service area, graduate programs, priorities, and commitments. For the universities, the development of focused and up-to-date mission statements afforded a framework to guide them in best serving the people of Mississippi.

The vision and the supporting mission statements presented herein position Mississippi's public higher education system for dynamic progress well into the 21st century.

William S. Crawford
Member, Board of Trustees, 1992-2004

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Mission Statements

State Institutions of Higher Learning

The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL System), under the governance of its Board of Trustees, will operate as a strong public university system with eight distinct, mission-driven universities, and will enhance the quality of life of Mississippians by effectively meeting their diverse educational needs. In so doing, the IHL system will be characterized by, and become nationally recognized for, its emphasis on student achievement and on preparing responsible citizens; its adherence to high academic standards and to quality in instruction, research, service, and facilities; and its commitment to affordability, accessibility, and accountability.

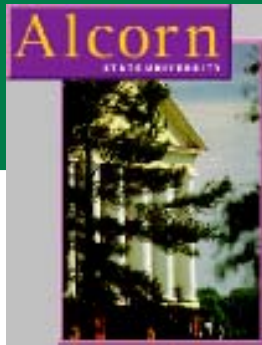
Board of Trustees

The purpose of the Board of Trustees is to manage and control Mississippi's eight institutions of higher learning in accordance with the Constitution and to see that the IHL System mission is accomplished. To do so, the Board will operate a coordinated system of higher education, establish prudent governance policies, employ capable chief executives, and require legal, fiscal and programmatic accountability. The Board will annually report to the Legislature and the citizenry on the needs and accomplishments of the IHL System.

Operating Principles

The IHL planning process is grounded in six principles, or core values, which undergird the ongoing work of universities and of the trustees.

1. **Higher Education Matters.** Universities are the wellsprings of civilization and human capital. Ours must be vital for our citizenry to thrive.
2. **Planning Begins With Self-Assessment and Research.** The divides of history, geography, wealth, and culture are particular threats to diverse institutions and trustees. A willingness to honestly and collegially address issues is central to IHL planning. Well-researched, factual information leavens disputes into discussion.
3. **Successful Institutions Focus on Their Assets.** Our universities are home to rich traditions, diverse environments, and exceptional talent. By nurturing and building on these assets, each of our institutions can flourish within the IHL system.
4. **System Planning Requires Collaboration.** As diverse institutions and individuals, we need to pay attention to building institutional cooperation, eschewing insidious competition, broadening leadership, and promoting collaborative decision-making. Collaboration must also extend to other agencies and organizations, particularly other education entities.
5. **Viable Institutions Incorporate Resource Stewardship and Accountability in All Functions.** Trustees and universities have a duty to be good stewards. Accountability and evaluation ensure integrity and effectiveness and will be reviewed annually.
6. **Equity and High Expectations Should Undergird All Aspects of Higher Education.** Given our state's troubled past and systemic educational shortcomings, we need to employ equity and embed high expectations in all our work. These core building blocks will anchor a foundation upon which lasting successes can be built for all levels of education.



Alcorn State University

Clinton Bristow, Jr., President

VISION

The vision of Alcorn State University is to be a premier land-grant university that prepares students well for graduate and professional schools, especially in the sciences, and that effectively serves as the epi-center of development for its region through its research and communiversity-outreach efforts.

MISSION

An historic land-grant institution and Carnegie Master's I institution, Alcorn State University meets the educational needs of residents in southwestern Mississippi, neighboring northeastern Louisiana parishes, and other locales by providing strong undergraduate instruction in small classes over a wide range of baccalaureate programs; by providing selected master's programs in agriculture, business, education, nursing and science with research focused on biotechnology, energy, meat, ecology, value-added agriculture, and advanced technologies; and by preparing students for graduate and professional schools, especially in the sciences. Students are also prepared to be responsible citizens with a strong work ethic. Complementing Alcorn's educational purpose is its commitment to public service, exemplified by its "communiversity" outreach initiatives and agricultural research and extension programs targeting families with small farms and limited resources.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Yesterday to Tomorrow

An historic black land-grant university with a proud heritage, ASU cherishes its past while pursuing the educational, economic, and ethnic diversity that will enhance its tomorrow. Thus, ASU will utilize the Ayers settlement to build for tomorrow through new programs and facilities, while honoring its longstanding commitment to develop knowledge and

wealth among the disadvantaged.

Meeting Regional Educational Needs

ASU assumes primary responsibility for meeting the diverse higher education needs of the southwestern region of Mississippi and the bordering parishes in northeastern Louisiana. Beyond its primary service region, the university also serves students from throughout Mississippi, other states, and countries. Thus, the university will fulfill its instructional mission through small classes and by emphasizing strong undergraduate and limited graduate programs. ASU will develop additional graduate programs in specific areas of need and opportunity particularly for non-traditional students at its Natchez and Vicksburg sites.

"Communiversity"

Through its "communiversity" concept, ASU proactively provides outreach programs and services that are geared toward assisting and meeting the educational, economic, recreational, and cultural needs of the immediate community, the region, and the state. Thus, as an example, the university will provide a variety of professional development opportunities for elementary and secondary schools designed to improve performance in reading, mathematics, science, and on standardized examinations.

Supporting Small Farmers

A key heritage of the university is its land-grant commitment to family farmers. Thus, the university will serve families with limited resources and help small family farmers improve their standard of living through agricultural research and extension programs.

Improving Research

In addition to its ongoing research activities in biotechnology, energy, meat, ecology, farming, and alternative crops, ASU is constantly looking for ways to broaden its research function. Thus, the university will move toward advanced technologies, high value agriculture, health and nutrition.



VISION

Students at Delta State University will learn and grow in an environment that fosters discovery and creativity. The institution intends to be the best regional university in America as it combines a heritage of academic strength with a robust commitment to serving people and communities, particularly in the Mississippi Delta.

MISSION

As a regional Carnegie Master's I university located in Cleveland, Mississippi, Delta State University serves as an educational and cultural center for the Mississippi Delta, emphasizing service to the Northern Delta counties and its campus centers in Clarksdale and Greenville. The University offers undergraduate, graduate and continuing education programs of study leading to baccalaureate and master's degrees in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, and the School of Nursing, as well as a Doctorate in Education. Emphasis is placed on excellence in instruction, followed by service and research, in the creation of a community of scholars. With special attention to small classes, a friendly environment, and a broad liberal arts foundation, the University encourages significant student-faculty interactions. Delta State provides programs and services that promote intellectual, cultural, ethical, physical, and social development. Students from different cultural, socioeconomic, and ethnic backgrounds will develop the ability to respect and evaluate the thoughts of others; to develop, assess, and express their own thoughts effectively; and to use the techniques of research and performance associated with their disciplines.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Commitment to Quality in Academic Programs

Acknowledging its beginnings as a teacher's college, the University sustains excellence in teacher education while also continuing to expand offerings in traditional as well as new areas of study. From the

core disciplines such as arts, humanities, and sciences to unique programs such as commercial aviation and community development, the University is committed to meeting the ever-changing and evolving needs of the students it serves. It sustains quality in those programs by maintaining accreditation of all programs for which an accrediting agency exists.

Commitment to Learning, Scholarship, and Student Engagement

Delta State Provides programs that cultivate intellectual curiosity and promote scholarship among its students. Through a state-of-the-art library supplemented by a campus network of computer labs, students have access to a full range of information resources in support of learning. The University also acknowledges the importance of student engagement as central to successful learning. Toward that end the University has dedicated its quality enhancement plan as required for regional accreditation to increased student engagement. In support of community engagement and service-learning experiences for students, the University has created an office and a faculty role to sustain those efforts.

Commitment to Teaching and Faculty Development

The quality of Delta State's academic programs is central to its educational mission. That quality is affirmed through a dedicated faculty with credentials appropriate to their discipline. The University supports high standards of quality among its faculty and maintains those standards through the Technology Learning Center, a modern faculty development office dedicated to the application of technology to teaching, and through the Kent and Janice Wyatt Faculty Development Program, a University Foundation initiative that provides resources for faculty growth.

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Respect for People and Ideas

Delta State promotes mutual respect, teamwork, fairness, and integrity. The University is diligent in working to create a climate where students, employees, and constituents are valued and nurtured. Through an ongoing re-engineering project the University converts these principles into action.

Commitment to Regional and Economic Development

Delta State, in partnership with various organizations, will advance community and economic development in the Delta region to improve the quality of life and raise the educational level of its citizens. Special at-

tention is given to collaboration with our educational partners: Mississippi Valley State University, Coahoma Community College, Mississippi Delta Community College, the Mississippi Department of Education, and the K-12 schools of the Delta. Moreover, the Delta Center for Culture and Learning, the Capps Archives, the Center for Business Research, and the Center for Community and Economic Development provide a structure to ensure University participation in promoting and celebrating the unique heritage of the Delta while also addressing the longstanding social, economic, and cultural challenges that inhibit advancement.



VISION

The vision of Jackson State University is to be a model urban learning community for highly motivated students from diverse backgrounds, where original research and experiential learning are integrated into rigorous and internationally prominent teaching, research and service learning programs.

MISSION

A Historically Black Carnegie Doctoral/Research Intensive public institution of higher learning located in the metropolitan area of Jackson, Mississippi, Jackson State University educates a diverse student population from Mississippi, most other states and many foreign countries by providing a broad range of baccalaureate programs and a variety of masters and doctoral programs in its six Colleges: Business; Education and Human Development; Liberal Arts; Lifelong Learning; Public Service; and Science, Engineering and Technology. The learning process at Jackson State is enhanced through experiential learning in urban and rural areas throughout the city, state, nation, and global communities. Jackson State is a learning community for highly capable, as well as capable but under prepared students who require a nurturing academic environment.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

JSU's adherence to the following Operating Principles will enhance the University's ability to effectively serve students, thereby ensuring productive graduates.

Values Based Learning Community

The University's core values are infused in every aspect of its existence: *tradition*, its history inspires and exemplifies positive societal change; *accountability*, the principled exercise of leadership and the belief in the sanctity of the public trust; *learning*, an environment where teaching, research and service are integrated and mutually reinforcing; *nurturing*, a community which affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences

and supports the realization of their human potential; *service*, responding to the needs of society and expecting our graduates to do likewise; *responsibility*, accepting our duty to enhance each generation's capacity to improve the human condition.

Individualized Learning

Jackson State has implemented a system of assessment, diagnosis and planned matriculation that tailors the learning experience to the needs of the student, whether he or she is a freshman entering from high school, a non-traditional or working full time student, or a junior college transfer.

Meeting Regional Learning Needs

Jackson State has primary responsibility for the higher education needs of central Mississippi. Its students, however, come from throughout Mississippi, most of the United States, and several foreign countries. The institution has locations throughout the city of Jackson: a 250-acre main campus, information technology, public health and health sciences, and lifelong learning satellite campuses. The College of Lifelong Learning also offers credit and non-credit courses at several Community Colleges primarily in central Mississippi.

e-City

e-City is a living/learning urban studio comprised of a 5-square mile area contiguously surrounding Jackson State University. It is a mutually beneficial, university-based economic and human development initiative where students engage in experientially enhanced learning through partnerships with the U.S. Department of Education, the Mississippi Department of Education, the Fannie Mae Foundation and Corporation, the City of Jackson, Jackson Public Schools and private and

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not-for-profit businesses. Concomitantly, the University serves as a lifelong learning resource for city employees, teachers, other professionals and community groups.

Fostering Research

Jackson State University recognizes that research, both basic and action, is a key component of not only learning, but economic development as well. The University is internationally known in the field of

computational computing and has a breadth of research activity across all disciplines. It is expected that the Schools of Engineering and Public Health will continue to grow. Multi-disciplinary funded research in general is expected to expand, particularly in the areas of education and human development, communications technology, epidemiology, environmental health, homeland security and nanotechnology.



VISION

The vision of Mississippi State University is to be an accessible, responsive, and inclusive land-grant university that is engaged with the many constituencies it serves in delivering excellent programs of teaching, research, and outreach that improve the lives and opportunities of the citizens of the state, region, and world.

MISSION

Mississippi State University is a public, land-grant, doctoral, research university classified as Doctoral/Research-Extensive by the Carnegie Foundation. Its mission is to provide access and opportunity to students from all sectors of the state's diverse population and to offer excellent and extensive programs in instruction, research, and outreach. Enhancing its historic strengths in agriculture, natural resources, science, and engineering, Mississippi State entered the twenty-first century with additional strengths in a comprehensive range of graduate and undergraduate programs. These include architecture, the arts, business, education, the humanities, the social and behavioral sciences, and veterinary medicine. The Meridian Campus focuses on meeting the needs of place-bound students and working adults through upper division and graduate programs in education, business, liberal arts, and social work. The university's educational programs emphasize the exploration of ideas and the discovery, application, and dissemination of knowledge. The university embraces its role as a major contributor to the economic development of the state through targeted research and the transfer of ideas to the marketplace, aided by faculty-industry relationships and by interdisciplinary initiatives. Building on its land-grant tradition, MSU extends its resources and expertise throughout the entire state for the benefit of Mississippi's citizens. Through integration of its programs in learning, research, and service, through traditional scholarship, through statewide extension and outreach, and through engagement with business, industry, government, communities and organizations,

the university is committed to maintaining its tradition as the People's University.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Access and Excellence

Mississippi State University will provide access and opportunity to students from all sectors of the state's diverse population. The university promotes citizenship and leadership in its students and fosters in them an understanding of their history and culture, an appreciation of the arts, a tolerance for opposing points of view, a facility with written and spoken language, an understanding of scientific principles and methods, a command of modern technologies, a competence in critical thinking and problem solving, a commitment to life-long learning, and a spirit of inquiry. MSU will provide mentoring and support to the students admitted to maximize their chances of success and to help Mississippi reach and surpass the national average in the percentage of our population that holds a college degree, and will provide access for working and place-bound adult learners, particularly through its Meridian Campus and distance learning programs. The university will develop competent and informed citizens and professionals who are equipped to lead in the world of work and in their communities through traditional academic programs, experiential learning, and opportunities for leadership development and community service.

Statewide Mission

Mississippi State University will serve the State of Mississippi and beyond through its broad range of

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instruction, research, and outreach functions. The university maintains four strategically located research and extension centers around the state and has staff in every county of Mississippi. The institution regularly enrolls students from each of the state's eighty-two counties and is actively engaged with business and industry, agriculture and natural resources, schools, communities and organizations in every part of the state.

Research and Economic Development

As a principal research university in the Southeast, MSU will continue to build on existing strengths in engineering and agricultural sciences and pursue emerging opportunities in other fields that match the university's areas of expertise and the needs of the state, including automotive research and development, computational sciences, biotechnology, early childhood learning, biological engineering, remote sensing, and alternative energy sources, among others. The university will contribute to the development and

revitalization of communities throughout the state through programs such as those of the Carl Small Town Center and the Stennis Institute of Government and through projects such as the creation in downtown Meridian of the Riley Education and Performing Arts Center.

Outreach and Service

MSU will continue to build on its land-grant tradition and statewide presence through partnerships with business and industry and the agricultural sector, with communities and organizations, and with others. The university will strengthen its numerous partnerships with K-12 schools and community colleges, continue to play a major role in preparing the state's school teachers and other education professionals, reach out to the youth of the state through 4-H and other programs targeted toward youth development, and serve non-traditional students through non-traditional means.

VISION

Building on its long tradition of excellence in liberal arts and professional education, as well as its historic focus on academic and leadership development for women, Mississippi University for Women will continue to be a university that prepares both women and men for successful lives by providing a high-quality education in a personalized learning environment.

MISSION

A Carnegie Master's II public institution, Mississippi University for Women provides high-quality undergraduate and graduate education for women and men in a variety of liberal arts and professional programs, while maintaining its historic commitment to academic and leadership development for women. MUW provides education in Business and Communication, Education and Human Sciences, Fine and Performing Arts, Health and Kinesiology, Humanities, Culinary Arts, Nursing, Science and Mathematics, utilizing small classes and emphasizing a personalized learning environment. The graduates of MUW are prepared for competitive careers and excellent graduate and professional schools. MUW provides educational opportunities throughout Mississippi and the United States while addressing the unique educational and public service needs of northeast Mississippi and adjoining counties in northwest Alabama.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

MUW provides high-quality instructional programs that emphasize teaching and learning.

With faculty and staff of the highest caliber, MUW is dedicated to providing a campus environment for students that encourages lifelong learning, strong career preparation, and personal growth. Graduates are expected to have skills in communication, technology,

and critical thinking, as well as an awareness of self, gender-related issues, cultural diversity, and responsible citizenship.

MUW is student oriented.

MUW provides small classes and emphasizes personalized student attention, so that each student will have the opportunity to succeed. MUW offers a student-life program that stimulates learning and leadership development.

MUW values research, scholarship, and creativity.

While MUW is primarily a teaching institution, the university supports research, scholarship, and creativity to enhance the professional development of faculty and staff in order to better prepare students.

MUW is committed to diversity among its faculty, staff, and students.

The faculty, staff, and students of MUW represent the global society in which we live. MUW believes that diversity allows students to grow in their understanding of self and others.

MUW endorses sound organizational principles.

MUW is committed to operational efficiency, collaborative strategic planning, institutional effectiveness, and creative problem solving.

MUW meets regional, state, and national needs for higher education.

MUW responds to the needs of the local community by providing cultural activities; programs for intellectual, professional, and social development; and by assisting in economic development. MUW extends its outreach to the state and nation using multiple delivery methods, including the internet and other advanced systems.

MUW is committed to public service.

MUW forms partnerships with businesses, as well as with educational, governmental, public service, and charitable organizations, to create opportunities that provide economic and social advantages for the institution, community, and region.



Mississippi Valley State University

Lester C. Newman, President

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 ultimately 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.

MISSION

Mississippi Valley State University, located in Leflore County, is a Carnegie Master's I institution, which provides accessible, relevant and quality academic and public service programs. While the University has historically drawn the majority of its students from throughout the Delta, the institution recognizes the need to provide greater services to the south and east Delta areas. MVSU, which recognizes the need to be efficient, effective and productive in all of its operations, offers concentrated study in the arts, business, education, humanities, public services, pre-professional health services, social sciences, sciences, social work, and technology. Master's level programs are offered in criminal justice, elementary education, environmental health, special education, and teaching. The University also endeavors to provide additional programs that are vital and unique to the needs of the population it serves. MVSU emphasizes the study and applications of technology, basic and applied research, service learning, health and wellness, and economic development. The University expands 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 matter related to the cultural, social, economic and political concerns of the Delta.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

The Foundation of Excellence

Mississippi Valley State University remains committed to its original mission of preparing teachers for elementary and secondary schools and to preparing students to engage in other meaningful and productive careers. MVSU values and strives to gain multi-cultural diversity and to achieve curricular advances that place it in the forefront with high-quality and high-demand technological and professional programs. The programmatic directions incorporated in the Ayers Agreement have produced master's level programs in special education, computer science, bioinformatics, leadership administration, and business administration. Ayers also brings a broadening of the undergraduate curriculum, including an expansion of the teacher education offerings.

Meeting Regional Educational Needs/Maintaining Historical Relationships

MVSU recognizes the Delta area and bordering counties as its primary service areas; however, the University also realizes the need to attract students from geographically diverse areas, both nationally and internationally, including those areas with which it has constituent relationships through alumni and family heritages and collaborative ventures. MVSU sees the need to have strong partnerships with K-12 schools in the Delta and to provide a supportive environment for non-traditional students and those interested in life-long learning opportunities. Educational offerings in learning centers off the main campus help the University provide community-based students greater access and more flexibility in program

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Mississippi Valley State University

Lester C. Newman, President

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offerings and course schedules.

Community Service/Service Learning

MVSU is an engaged institution that strives to develop responsible citizens who are sensitive to the needs of a pluralistic society. Community Service/Service Learning is an integral part of MVSU's mission and is carried out through community involvement by administrators, faculty, staff and students and by bringing community people to the campus for programs and services. The Community Service/Service Learning component of each student's educational program also complements the public service mission of the University.

Centers of Excellence

As a means of bringing focus to the academic programs and services that project the direction of the institution, MVSU endeavors to establish centers of excellence that incorporate instructional research and service functions. These include: a center of excellence in teacher education, dedicated to the enhancement of the Delta region's teaching community through such programs as the Institute for Effective Teaching Practices and the Delta Superintendent's Partnership; a center of excellence in science and technology, which seeks to bridge the "digital divide" and improve diversity in science and technology education through programs such as its Saturday Academy and the Summer Science and Technology Academy and through cutting-edge programs like bioinformatics and Automatic Identification Technology; and a center of excellence in entrepreneurship and economic development, which promotes entrepreneurship, economic development activities and provides continuous information, technical assistance and training through partnerships with such entities as the

Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone and the USDA Rural Development Service.

Health and Wellness

In view of the prevalent health issues that are predominant in the University community and the Delta Region, MVSU incorporates health and wellness services into its mission. Although the University includes health and wellness content in its curricular offerings, it incorporates the concepts more intensely through community services and special projects. Through its focus on health and wellness, the University provides educational awareness, resources, screening and fitness facilities.

Research and Culture

As the birthplace of the blues and as a place that has an abundance of creativity in the fine arts, the Mississippi Delta has unparalleled cultural and research opportunities. To date, these elements have been untapped. MVSU endeavors to promote cultural and social research, with an emphasis upon economics and the human condition.

A Global Perspective

In view of the global dynamics that are impacting the University and the future of our students, MVSU sees the need to bring a global perspective to our curricular offerings and our total student experience. Therefore, curricular offerings and the student experience will incorporate international language development, faculty and student exchanges, study abroad programs and research abroad programs. These activities will better prepare our students and faculty for greater participation in an expanding global society.



VISION

The vision of the University of Mississippi is to be a great, comprehensive, public institution of higher learning. The University strives to enhance the educational, economic, healthcare, social and cultural foundations of the state, region, and nation.

MISSION

As the oldest public institution of higher learning in the state and as a Carnegie Research Extensive institution, the University of Mississippi's primary functions are the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge through a variety of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and public service activities. The University's main campus at Oxford emphasizes a traditional, residential educational experience, with a central College of Liberal Arts and professional schools of Accountancy, Applied Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Law, and Pharmacy. Through its breadth of academic and research programs and its strong liberal arts tradition, the Oxford campus serves the educational needs of the entire state and also attracts a high percentage of out-of-state students. The University's regional campuses in Tupelo and Southaven emphasize professional offerings and primarily serve adult learners in North Mississippi. The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson includes the University Hospitals and Clinics as well as Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Health Related Professions, Dentistry, and Graduate Studies. The University educates students to assume leadership roles in the state, nation, and world through its nationally recognized programs of undergraduate, graduate, and professional study. Its teaching, research, and service missions are characterized by equal access and equal opportunity to all who qualify.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Teaching: The University will provide excellent, student-centered academic and co-curricular programs. Our goal is to produce graduates who have the breadth

and depth of knowledge to be lifelong learners, to be successful in their discipline, and to be good citizens. Instruction builds upon a central College of Liberal Arts, the foundation of the institution, with its programs through the doctorate in the natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, and the arts. Our professional schools provide programs, including continuing education programs, for the preparing the following: K-12 and higher education teachers and administrators; lawyers and legal professionals; engineers in a variety of speciality areas; accountancy and business professionals; pharmacists and pharmaceutical science researchers, health care and applied human science's professionals. Academic programs also include the Barksdale Honors College, the Lott Leadership Institute, and the Croft Center for International Studies. The Medical Center programs train health care professionals at the first professional, graduate, and postgraduate levels.

Research: The University will produce research and scholarship that are nationally recognized and support the economic, healthcare, and cultural development of the state, the region, and the nation. The mission to generate new knowledge extends to the sciences, humanities, social sciences, engineering, business, accountancy, applied sciences, educational pedagogy, biomedical sciences, and health care areas. Research centers of national prominence include the National Center for the Development of Natural Products, the Research Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences, the National Center for Physical Acoustics,

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the Center for Supercomputing Research, the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, the Hearin Center for Enterprise Science, the National Center for Computational Hydrosociences and Engineering, the National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law, and the National Remote Sensing and Space Law Center in Oxford and the Jackson Heart Study at the Medical Center.

Service: The University will be a leader in providing service to the public, through the application and dissemination of its expertise and knowledge, in Mississippi, the region, and the nation. This public service function is fulfilled through a variety of outreach programs involving almost all academic disciplines and extending across Northern Mississippi, with branch campuses in Tupelo and Southaven, and reaching statewide and beyond in some cases. Prominent among our service/outreach programs are the Barksdale Reading Institute, the National Food Service Management Institute, and the William Winter

Institute for Racial Reconciliation. The Medical Center seeks to raise the health level of Mississippians by providing exemplary patient care and by responding to community needs through continuing health care education, outreach programs, and cooperative partnerships. Additionally, the University is committed to (1) developing diverse campuses that recognize and promote the value of individual differences; (2) providing the highest quality educational support services and modern health care technologies to enhance the learning and patient care environments; (3) maintaining efficient and effective administrative services to support its basic functions; (4) supporting and developing a highly qualified faculty and staff; and (5) leveraging its strengths and expertise by developing interdisciplinary programs within the institution and partnerships with other IHL institutions for the benefit of the University and the state.



VISION

The University of Southern Mississippi will be a leading university in engaging and empowering individuals to transform lives and communities.

MISSION

The University of Southern Mississippi is a comprehensive research extensive university. Our primary mission is to cultivate intellectual development and creativity through the generation, dissemination, application, and preservation of knowledge.

Our mission is supported by the values that have been formed through the history and traditions of our institution. These values are widely and deeply held beliefs of our faculty, staff, students, and administrators:

- Education provides opportunities to improve the quality of intellectual, social, economic, and personal well-being. These opportunities should be available to all who are willing and able to meet our standards of excellence.
- Our success is reflected by the degree to which our students become well-read, articulate, and creative and critical thinkers. It is measured by their display of specialized knowledge and abilities suitable to the pursuit of a career and life in our complex, ever-changing world.
- We cherish innovation in the creation and application of basic and applied research findings, creative and artistic expression, meaningful learning experiences, the scope of services provided to our students and the broader community that we sustain, and the continuing evolution of degree programs that both respond to and anticipate the evolving demands of our society, employers, and the labor market.
- Education encourages and advances the ideals of a pluralistic democratic society: civic responsibility, integrity, diversity, and ethical behavior.
- Academic freedom and shared governance are long-established and living principles at the university. We cherish the free exchange of ideas, diversity of thought,

joint decision making, and individuals' assumption of responsibility.

- We make efficient and effective use of our resources, for we are accountable to our university communities, the Board of Trustees, and taxpayers.

COMMITMENTS

Educating Our Students

The University of Southern Mississippi will maintain its leadership in pedagogy and instruction. The General Education Curriculum, First Year Experience, and Honors College programs, as well as innovative programs in international education and service learning, underscore the institution's commitment to education.

Educating the Whole Student

Recognizing that students learn outside the classroom as well as within, the University of Southern Mississippi will fulfill its commitment to developing the potential of its students. The university engages its students through abundant opportunities for community service, leadership, student activities, support services, access to state-of-the-art facilities, and programs. A caring, student-centered faculty and staff foster students' personal growth and development. Acknowledging the mutual benefit of maintaining close ties with graduates, the university is also committed to creating opportunities for alumni involvement in university activities.

Leading in Academic Excellence

The University of Southern Mississippi is committed to quality in all academic areas. The university will

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maintain its leadership position in selected programs in science, technology, arts, humanities, health, education, psychology, and business and will continue to be innovative in the development of programs.

Conducting Innovative Research

As a comprehensive research institution, The University of Southern Mississippi will pursue groundbreaking scholarship, creative activity, and research in science, technology, arts, humanities, education, health, psychology, and business. Distinguished faculty and staff will utilize research and scholarship opportunities to fortify the education of undergraduate and graduate students and implement service initiatives in the university, in the community, and in their academic disciplines as they push the boundaries of knowledge and discovery.

Creating Healthier Communities

The University of Southern Mississippi will contribute to the health and well-being of individuals, families, organizations, and communities through continued innovation in applied research, community partnerships, and experiential learning.

Leading in Economic Development

The University of Southern Mississippi will continue its initiatives in economic development and entrepreneurship. These initiatives include education and providing intellectual capital to augment economic opportunities.

Enriching the Cultural Environment

The University of Southern Mississippi will provide opportunities for the community to experience a variety of cultural activities. Regular events, performances, exhibits, and presentations provide the campuses and surrounding regions with exposure to talented students, faculty, and renowned athletes, artists, and scholars. The university continues to serve as a primary provider of athletic, artistic, and cultural events and education.

Creating Global Communities

The University of Southern Mississippi will continue to provide students with opportunities to live and learn abroad in preparation for leadership roles in an interdependent global society.