Mississippi State University

VISION
Mississippi State University will be a leading public research university that is globally aware and involved, accessible and responsive to the many constituencies it serves, and fully integrated with the intellectual, social and economic development of the state, while delivering excellent programs of teaching, research, and service.

MISSION
Mississippi State University is a public, land-grant university, whose mission is to provide access and opportunity to students from all sectors of the state’s diverse population, as well as from other states and countries, and to offer excellent programs of teaching, research and service. Enhancing its historic strengths in agriculture, natural resources, engineering, mathematics, and natural and physical sciences, Mississippi State offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate programs; these include architecture, the fine arts, business, education, the humanities, the social and behavioral sciences, and veterinary medicine.

The university embraces its role as a major contributor to the economic development of the state through targeted research and the transfer of ideas and technology to the public, supported by faculty and staff relationships with industry, community organizations and government entities.

Building on its land-grant tradition, Mississippi State strategically extends its resources and expertise throughout the entire state for the benefit of Mississippi’s citizens, offering access for working and place-bound adult learners through its Meridian campus, Extension and distance learning programs. Mississippi State is committed to its tradition of instilling among its students and alumni ideals of diversity, citizenship, leadership and service.
THE UNIVERSITY

Mississippi State University, founded in 1878, is a comprehensive doctoral, research land-grant university with very high research activity as classified by the Carnegie Foundation. The university has a statewide enrollment of over 20,000 students. Established as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi, the university has traditional strengths in agriculture, engineering and science, but now is a comprehensive university with a diverse array of programs in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Mississippi State University significantly impacts the economic development and well-being of the state through its extensive research programs and its statewide network of agricultural research and extension centers, branch stations, and county offices, with a presence in every county of the state.

Mississippi State University has more than 1,100 full-time faculty members and more than 4,000 total full-time employees, and a total operating budget of nearly $580 million. The university’s property and facilities are valued at over $450 million. The main campus and agricultural research property throughout the state comprise over 16,000 acres of land.

ACADEMICS

Mississippi State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools. Numerous professional programs are nationally accredited by the appropriate bodies. The university offers 80 majors and 124 concentrations for bachelor’s degrees, and 135 doctoral, master’s, specialist and bachelor’s/master’s degree programs through its schools and colleges:

- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- College of Architecture, Art and Design
- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Business, including the Richard C. Adkerson School of Accountancy
- College of Education
- James Worth Bagley College of Engineering, including the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering
- College of Forest Resources
- College of Veterinary Medicine

In addition to its main campus in Starkville, Mississippi State University operates a degree-granting campus in Meridian, where both undergraduate and graduate programs are offered to approximately 700 students. The campus includes the Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts in downtown Meridian, which is comprised of a fully restored 1890 opera house and an adjoining conference center. Riley Center performing arts programs attract 60,000 visitors a year, and conferences and educational programs draw another 15,000. MSU also has a program center at the Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis near the Mississippi Gulf Coast. In cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Research and Development Center, the Bagley College of Engineering offers the Master of Science degree to qualified students in Vicksburg.

The Mississippi State University Libraries support the academic and research needs of the university and comprise five separate libraries, including the main Mitchell Memorial Library, the Architecture Library, the Veterinary Medicine Library, the School of Architecture Jackson Center Library and the MSU Meridian Campus Library. Offering the latest in technology through instructional media and digital services, the libraries’ collections include over two million volumes, over 57,000 series and journals (print and electronic), and a number of impressive research and special collections.

Mississippi State University is one of a small group of universities that is host to a presidential library. The Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library is located in the Mitchell Memorial Library and is open to visitors and researchers from throughout the country.

The university’s academic mission is also accomplished through the Mississippi State University Extension Service, the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, the Forest and Wildlife Research Center and the Division of Academic Outreach and Continuing Education.

Mississippi State awarded 4,010 degrees in the 2011-2012 academic year, including 2,922 bachelor’s degrees, 876 graduate degrees, 135 doctoral degrees and 77 professional degrees.
**Faculty**

Mississippi State’s award winning faculty is the largest and most prestigious in the state. Of the 1,346 faculty, 89 percent are full-time, 39 percent are women, and 18 percent are minority or international.

**Research**

Mississippi State University is recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a very high research activity university. MSU is the only higher education institution in the state with this distinction and one of only 108 institutions nationwide. The university’s research programs place important focus on developing new technologies across multiple disciplines. As a comprehensive university, MSU achieves scholarly excellence in all areas, including the arts and humanities. External awards for research and service totaled $146 million for FY 2009. Agriculture and engineering continue to be the university’s major research strengths. MSU ranks 58th among public institutions in research and development expenditures for science and engineering, based on an FY 2007 total of $206 million. The university is 5th in the country in agricultural sciences research expenditures and 34th in engineering research expenditures.

Research at MSU has a direct impact on the state’s economy and competitiveness in an increasingly global market, as well as providing tangible benefits for students. Research programs at Mississippi State have a direct link to industries locating in North Mississippi, particularly defense and automotive industries. Federal agencies such as NASA, Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Department of Justice, the National Science Foundation and others continue to invest in Mississippi State research programs that continue to have an important impact.

**Student Life and Involvement**

Three-fourths of our students are from Mississippi, but every state and more than 70 countries are represented in the student body. About 78 percent are undergraduates, 49 percent are women, and over 20 percent are African American. Almost one-third of the graduate student enrollment consists of minority (15.1 percent) and international (16.5 percent) students. Over 300 student organizations include 30 social fraternities and sororities, Army and Air Force ROTC, and a variety of intramural and club sports. MSU has the largest and most active Student Association in the state. MSU is a member of the highly competitive Southeastern Conference for intercollegiate athletics, offering seven intercollegiate sports for men and nine for women.

**Student Success**

Mississippi State University continues to build on its history as “The People’s University.” The university’s enrollment has increased over 25
percent over the past six years. The freshman to sophomore retention rate is 84 percent, while the six-year graduation rate is over 60 percent, both highest in the state among institutions of higher learning. Mississippi State expects to enroll its most talented freshmen class in its history, including a record number of National Merit Scholars and Presidential Scholars, in Fall 2013.

PRIVATE SUPPORT
The university continues to receive record private support. In December 2008, the university concluded its State of the Future capital campaign with more than $462 million in gifts and pledges, far surpassing the $400 million goal. In December 2012, the university concluded its StatePride initiative for scholarships and faculty support, with more than $118 in gifts and pledges, exceeding the $100 million goal. Contributions for FY 2012 totaled over $80 million. The value of the university’s endowment has averaged a 13 percent annual increase over the past five years and is currently valued at nearly $400 million.

LOCATION
Mississippi State University forms part of a cohesive town-university community with the city of Starkville, population about 25,000, located in the eastern part of north-central Mississippi, 125 miles northeast of Jackson. The university and the community enjoy excellent relationships and have collaborated on a number of economic development initiatives and university related events. Additional information about Mississippi State University is available at http://msstate.edu.

Profile of Alumni Association
• Over 125,000 alumni worldwide.
• Active membership of 43,567 in 2012, and has increased 30 percent in last five years.
• Ninety-five total chapters: 64 chapters in Mississippi; 30 out of state; one international chapter in South Korea. Ten new chapters were added in the last seven years.
• Eighty-five percent of the chapters were active in 2012.
• Thirty-five chapters awarded MSU scholarships in 2012.
• Alumni Association marketing and communication, data management and budget management were merged with the MSU Foundation in 2006, now known as the Shared Advancement Services. This unit serves the division in a collaborative effort to manage these areas with a high standard of quality and a productive time management system.
• Investments merged with the MSU Foundation in 2007.
• $2.7 million reserve fund balance in 2012 – a 237 percent increase in seven years.

COMMUNICATIONS
• Alumnus - Alumni Association magazine is published three times per year.
• Bully’s Bark and E-Bark are electronic newsletters that are distributed monthly.
• Social Media: Over 16,000 Facebook friends; over 6,800 Twitter followers; produced over 90 YouTube videos in the last three years.
• Enhanced website and produced a website for mobile devices recently.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS
• Alumni Association chapters and national office sponsored 659 events in 2012 – a 24 percent increase in last four years.
• Numerous on campus events: Tailgate tent; MSU Birthday Party; Send-off Parties; Road Dawg Tours; Pre-game events at away football games.
• Sold 18,822 MSU affinity car tags in 2012, representing a lead of 3,400 tags over the second most popular university affinity tag. Car tags in Mississippi and other states generate nearly $400,000 in revenue for the association.

Mississippi State University Alumni Association
MISSION
The mission of the Mississippi State University Alumni Association is to foster lifelong support for the university’s mission through programs, activities and events for its alumni, future alumni and friends who are forever maroon and white.
• Alumni Association sponsors a very successful “Alumnus of the Year” awards program with the academic colleges each year in conjunction with the association’s annual leadership conference.
• Alumni Association sponsors three faculty awards each year and sponsors Staff Appreciation Day.
• Co-sponsors numerous other events on campus and beyond with the Student Association, Foundation, Athletics, Bulldog Club, Student Affairs and academic colleges.
• Hosts and coordinates the class ring program.

ALUMNI DELEGATES
• The Alumni Delegates program is a 45 member student organization that serves as a liaison between Mississippi State students and alumni.
• Student members are selected from over 300 applicants each year.
• The students serve as hosts at numerous events, raise funds for their programs, and serve office hours at the Alumni Association offices.

Additional information about the MSU Alumni Association is available at www.alumni.msstate.edu.

Executive Director Position

SUMMARY
The executive director of the MSU Alumni Association reports to the vice president for development and alumni and provides leadership, direction and support in carrying out the mission of the Alumni Association and Mississippi State University.

GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Works with and supports the Alumni Association officers and board, and leads the staff of the Alumni Association in developing and implementing programs that build stronger relationships between MSU and its alumni, students, supporters and friends.

Effectively communicate the interests and concerns of alumni and friends of Mississippi State University to members of the campus community.

Serve as a member of the administrative team of the Division of Development and Alumni and assists in developing and implementing policies and programs that support the university’s mission.

SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
• Assist the vice president for development and alumni in fulfilling the purposes of the Division of Development and Alumni.
Provide executive and administrative support to the Alumni Association’s officers and board of directors.

Provide direction for the day-to-day operation of the MSU Alumni Association Office located in the Hunter Henry Center.

Direct strategic planning processes that provide a way to ensure the Alumni Association fulfills its mission.

Select, train, encourage and support an effective and efficient staff.

Provide for sound management of the association’s resources.

Advise and support the student members of the Alumni Delegates student organization.

Represent the Alumni Association in meetings with individuals and groups outside the association.

Keep abreast and share with the board and staff current and future trends in alumni relations and administration that will strengthen the association’s ability to fulfill its mission.

Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND DESIRABLE QUALITIES OF THE NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution required. Additional academic credentials are preferred.

Seven or more years of relevant professional experience with a particular focus on volunteer management within non-profit or membership driven organizations.

Proven organizational, communication and planning skills.

The ability to maintain a positive and mutually supportive relationship between the Alumni Association, Shared Advancement Services, the MSU Foundation and Mississippi State University.

A vision for the future of alumni relations and engagement at MSU.

A passion for engaging students and developing them into loyal and supportive future alumni.

Leadership ability.

Strong communication skills that project charisma through interpersonal relations, public speaking, writing and social media.

Keen business acumen regarding new sources of revenue and sponsorships.

A strong vision for alumni engagement in and support of the priorities of the university.

A strong vision for adding value to being a member of the MSU Alumni Association.

Higher education experience and understanding of and appreciation of land-grant universities.

High energy, self-starter with excellent organizational skills.

Integrity.

Commitment to individual chapter development as the key to future success.

The ability to work as a contributing member of the development and alumni leadership team.

The strong commitment to and the ability to promote an enthusiastically positive image of Mississippi State.

INQUIRE ABOUT OR APPLY FOR THE POSITION

To inquire about or nominate someone, contact:
Dr. Bill Kibler
Vice President for Student Affairs
Mississippi State University
P.O. Box 95
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Office phone: 662-325-3045
Cell phone: 662-617-1718
Fax number: 662-325-3699
E-mail: billk@saffairs.msstate.edu

To apply for the executive director position, please submit electronically (MS Word or pdf.) a letter of application that addresses your qualifications and vision for this position, a current resume, and five professional references including names, titles, phone numbers and e-mail addresses to: billk@saffairs.msstate.edu. All offers of employment, oral and written, are contingent upon the university’s verification of credentials and other information required by federal law, state law, and MSU policies and procedures and will include a comprehensive background check.

Mississippi State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer