Guide to Giving

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
Mississippi State University is an educational institution on the move. The university's goals are ambitious, and the strides it makes as it pursues a tri-fold mission of teaching, research and service are impacting the state, the nation and beyond.

Since its founding in 1878, Mississippi State University has become the state of Mississippi’s largest university. By building on its long-standing heritage, the university represents a great opportunity for people as they seek to improve life through education.

Mississippi State is committed to success and excellence, welcoming students from all 50 states and more than 70 countries. These students are exposed to a wide range of studies, from fine arts to the humanities and social and behavioral sciences to technology, as they pursue one of Mississippi State's more than 175 programs leading to baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees. Along with the pursuit of academics, Mississippi State encourages its students to participate in service learning with local communities. The university also expands horizons for students through study abroad programs, and brings global students into the university family through an active international education program.

A growing diverse student population learns and researches with Mississippi State faculty members who are leaders in their fields. A number of faculty frequently earn honors, such as Fulbright Fellowships, while others hold the distinction of Fellow in their professional fields.

Featuring the state’s only College of Veterinary Medicine and only School of Architecture, Mississippi State has eight academic colleges and several schools. Among its major academic areas are agriculture and life sciences; arts and sciences; business; education; and forest resources. The university also boasts one of the nation’s most prestigious named engineering colleges.

The university’s commitment to academic excellence has been ranked in Forbes magazine’s Top 20 Best College Buys and in Kiplinger’s magazine as one of the “100 Best Values in Public Colleges.” Overall, Mississippi State has become a premier choice for higher education.

Mississippi State is one of the top research institutions in the United States, carrying the “very high research activity” classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. As a public land-grant institution, the university is a national leader in research and development expenditures.

With nationally prominent programs, Mississippi State is providing the highly-educated workforce and expertise needed by industry and agriculture to compete in the global economy. Through service, outreach and engagement, the university extends its resources and assistance to help improve efficiency and quality in business, education, health care and government.

Mississippi State’s impact is felt nationally and internationally. The university is ranked among the top 20 best colleges and universities in the United States for military personnel and veterans. Through its service efforts, Mississippi State officially has established ties with the United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization to work together on initiatives to address world hunger and poverty, focusing immediate efforts on food safety and nutrition.

In its more than 130 years, Mississippi State has graduated over 121,000 alumni and helped thousands improve their lives in their communities and workplaces through education. With your help, this tradition of excellence will continue.

In recent history, contributors have further defined the university by the nature of their gifts. Loyal alumni and friends have furthered the mission of Mississippi State’s academic colleges and schools with contributions for crucial endowments for operations and for undergraduate and graduate education. Other donors have shaped the university with state-of-the-art facilities for academics and athletics, which have added to the depth of the overall Mississippi State experience.

With philanthropic contributions, Mississippi State University can forge a future worthy of its past. Gifts can create scholarships for talented students, professorships and chairs for noteworthy faculty, and enhance the campus infrastructure. By partnering in our philanthropic endeavors, the possibilities for positively impacting MSU’s students, faculty and programs are endless.
The MSU Foundation provides numerous ways to partner with Mississippi State University as it transforms the lives of its students, makes substantive contributions to research, and provides service across the state, region and nation. The following outlines ways to join us in this partnership.

CASH GIFTS
The simplest way to support Mississippi State University is with a gift of cash. With gifts of cash, a donor may designate their gift to any area they choose. Cash gifts provide current support for a variety of needs, such as establishing scholarships or purchasing equipment. A particular department, school, college or favorite campus area can benefit immediately from a cash gift. Donors receive a tax deduction in the calendar year they make their contribution.

SECURITIES
Securities, including stocks and bonds, may be used to make a gift to Mississippi State University, often with a minimal amount of out-of-pocket cost. A donor can compute the income tax deduction using the average value of the securities on the date of the gift. The amount of the deduction is based on the asset’s current value rather than the donor’s actual cost of acquiring the securities, and the donor avoids capital gains taxes.

MATCHING GIFTS
Many corporations will match donations their employees make to educational institutions. Matching gifts from an employer can double or even triple a donor’s contribution to Mississippi State University. The MSU Foundation has a list of companies with matching gift plans, and employer matches are considered part of a donor’s lifetime gift total to Mississippi State University.

REAL ESTATE GIFTS
Real estate is an often overlooked method of making a charitable gift to Mississippi State. Donors can transform their real estate into a meaningful gift for the university. A gift of real estate is a great way to provide scholarship support, endow a faculty position, assist with the construction of new facilities, and provide program enhancements. Types of real estate gifts which may offer the perfect solution for facilitating a charitable gift include:

- Residential home
- Vacation home or condominium
- Agricultural property
- Commercial property
- Investment property
- Undeveloped property

Mississippi State University has developed two programs to assist property owners with utilizing their real estate – Bulldog Properties and the Bulldog Forest. Both avenues support the university, and allow donors to take advantage of certain personal benefits as well. Individuals may contact a knowledgeable member of our real estate team or explore the options conveniently by downloading our Guide to Giving Real Estate from our website. Gifts of real estate are subject to acceptance by the MSU Foundation board of directors.

Real estate gifts entitle the donor to the same tax benefits as gifts of cash or securities, provided the real estate has been owned for more than one year, and there are no debts owed on the property. These gifts also generate substantial estate tax savings by removing a typically high-value asset from the donor’s estate, which reduces the taxes that may eventually have to be paid on the estate.
Mississippi State University alumni and friends may support areas of the university with the greatest need by making continuous annual gifts. However, perpetual support assists the university with its long-range goals.

Many donors choose to take their giving a step further and create endowments to support particular areas of Mississippi State University. As a public university, Mississippi State must withstand uncertain economic times, and earnings from endowments are essential to maintain its threshold. Building the university’s endowment over time is necessary for the growth of the university, and will sustain the university’s level of excellence.

**ENDOWMENTS**

An endowment allows a donor to extend the life of a gift to Mississippi State, and further the impact the university can reap from its benefit.

Each endowment established is a permanent fund into which gifts made by MSU donors are placed; multiple donors may contribute to the same endowment. Rather than being spent right away, endowment gifts are invested to maintain their purchasing power in perpetuity, with a percentage spent each year for their designated purpose. This way, endowments can grow while providing a consistent level of support year after year.

An endowment at Mississippi State can take many forms: naming a college or school, establishing an academic chair, enhancing the general academic experience, and, certainly not least, providing student scholarships. Endowments are further explained in an accompanying insert in this publication.

**Endowments for Scholarships**

In order to attract outstanding undergraduate and graduate students in every academic field, Mississippi State needs significant funding for scholarships, fellowships, and teaching and research assistantships. Creating endowments for scholarships and fellowships allows Mississippi State to draw upon resources to compete for the nation’s best students from Mississippi and throughout the region.

Bringing these students to Mississippi State University allows us to harness their talents and educate potential leaders in all fields. These students will become the researchers and scholars who will make discoveries that will further shape our future and allow us to overcome social and economic challenges.

Donors may build a perpetual endowment for scholarships with outright gifts or with a multi-year commitment.

**Endowments for Chairs and Professorships**

At the heart of Mississippi State’s academic programs are professors who share a passion and commitment for teaching, research and service. Endowed chairs and professorships are a powerful tool for attracting and retaining dedicated faculty. These endowed faculty positions recognize scholarly excellence, and provide competitive salaries and resources for research, travel and professional development. Endowed faculty positions also afford opportunities to invest added resources in a promising field or discipline.

Naming opportunities for chairs or professorships are available university wide. Endowed chair designation is linked to a select faculty position filled by a truly outstanding scholar and teacher, as judged by rigorous, nationally accepted standards. Likewise, a named professorship will be occupied by an exceptionally gifted and promising scholar.
PLANNED GIFTS

While outright gifts such as cash and stock are vital to the success of our great university, donors may also support Mississippi State University by making planned gifts. A planned gift usually involves the assistance of a qualified professional to help maximize benefits to the donor and charity. Even though these gifts may not be received by the charity until after the donor’s death, immediate benefits to the donor may include tax savings, additional income, and the satisfaction of knowing that charitable goals will be met.

Bequests, charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities are common planned gifts, and a variety of others exist. The MSU Foundation’s Office of Planned Giving is available to assist donors with estate planning.

Bequests

Bequests through a will may be beneficial to a donor who wishes to make a gift without diminishing available assets during his or her lifetime. Various forms of bequests include a specified dollar amount, a percentage of estate value, a gift from the residual of the estate, or a gift of specific property. Sample language is available, and accompanies this publication, to assist those who may be implementing a charitable bequest or adding a codicil to a current will.

Charitable Gift Annuities

A charitable gift annuity provides a donor with lifetime income and does not require a large donation. In exchange for an irrevocable gift of cash, stock, bonds, or, in some cases, other assets, a donor will receive fixed income payments for life as well as a charitable income tax deduction in the year of the gift. When the annuity terminates, the remaining assets are used by MSU in accordance with the donor’s designation.

Charitable Lead Trusts

A donor may give assets to a charitable lead trust that pays the MSU Foundation an income for a number of years. Then trust assets are returned to the donor or passed partially or entirely free of estate and gift taxes to loved ones. Tax benefits vary, depending upon how the trust is structured.

Charitable Remainder Trusts

With a charitable remainder trust, a donor and/or other chosen beneficiaries can receive income each year for life, or a number of years, from assets given to the trust. The donor also is entitled to an income tax deduction in the year of the gift. There are several forms of charitable remainder trusts.

Life Insurance

A gift of life insurance can be as simple as making the MSU Foundation the beneficiary of a policy. By making the MSU Foundation owner and beneficiary, a donor may receive tax benefits.

Qualified Retirement Plans

Assets in a qualified retirement plan such as an IRA, a 401(k) or a Keogh typically are included as part of the taxable estate at death. To minimize estate taxes, the MSU Foundation could be selected as the primary, partial or contingent beneficiary of remaining retirement assets at the time of death.

Retained Life Estates

With a retained life estate, a donor can transfer ownership of property such as a personal residence or farm to the MSU Foundation while retaining the right to use the property during his or her lifetime.
FEAT U R E D  P R O G R A M S
Mississippi State University students benefit from annual and endowed scholarships over the course of their educational pursuits. Annual and endowed scholarships may be awarded to assist students with their immediate tuition needs in the year the gift is given. Endowed scholarships will continually produce earnings which can be awarded to many students over time. Both annual and endowed scholarships are needed in support of undergraduate and graduate education.

Presidential Endowed Scholarships
Donors seeking to strengthen undergraduate scholarships may establish endowments through the Presidential Endowed Scholars Program. In addition to providing competitive, multi-year scholarships to talented incoming students, this program also affords mentoring opportunities for donors and students.

The Presidential Endowed Scholarships challenge outstanding students to excel academically and distinguish themselves through their studies and campus leadership roles. Recipients of these prestigious scholarships are among the elite students in the nation, who come to Mississippi State for the opportunity to further their educational goals as they aspire to make their benefactors proud.

Legacy Scholarships
Mississippi State University is the proud choice of many academically advanced students, and Legacy Scholarships are needed to draw these students to the university. The Legacy Scholarship was created to recruit high academic performers at the freshman level. An annual gift or an endowment can support one Legacy Scholarship. Awards may be named in honor or in memory of an individual, family or company.

Loyalty Scholarships
Loyalty Scholarships benefit students on the basis of merit. These students may have academic achievement, as well as community leadership skills. Eligibility will be entering freshmen or transfer students with a 3.0 grade point average or above who exhibit potential leadership and service. Loyalty Scholarships are typically established for two to four years, depending on if the student is a freshman or community college transfer.

MSU Promise Program
The MSU Promise Program is designed to help capable students in economically challenging situations meet tuition expenses and receive institutional support needed to ensure their continued success as they work toward a college degree. In today’s unstable economy, many of Mississippi’s low-income families are some of those affected the most, making programs like MSU Promise even more crucial to the education of our citizens.

Contributors can essentially help students “bridge the gap” between the cost of tuition and required fees after financial aid has been received. A Promise Student Support Program, through the university’s College of Education, provides academic counseling, course-progress monitoring, and networking opportunities to assist recipients with their transition to the university. Gifts of any amount are welcome in support of MSU Promise annually, and donors may create endowments to fund awards in perpetuity.

The Maroon Mile
The Maroon Mile is an ongoing effort to pave the sidewalks and walkways of Mississippi State University’s historic Drill Field and other parade grounds with individualized bricks and pavers. Maroon Mile bricks are available in two sizes — 4” x 8” bricks and 8” x 24” red granite pavers.

With a gift to the MSU Annual Fund, a name or message of a donor’s choosing can become part of the Maroon Mile. The most popular choice is to engrave a brick with a name and class year. Pavers can also memorialize a loved one, recognize a family member, or honor a faculty member. Maroon Mile gifts benefit the Division of Student Affairs, which works to enrich the total Mississippi State experience.
A lasting imprint

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

A name associated with Mississippi State is a wonderful way to leave a lasting imprint on the university. Donors may form a permanent bond with the university through specific naming opportunities, which can be tailored to encompass the goals of the contributor.

Gift amounts for naming opportunities vary across the university. Some perpetual opportunities, which are detailed in an accompanying insert, include:

- Buildings and other facilities
- Academic and major university units
- Endowed faculty positions
- Fellowships and scholarships
- Lectureships and lecture series
- Outdoor structures and memorial trees

THE MSU FOUNDATION

The Mississippi State University Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization that assists the university in accomplishing its goals and mission by soliciting private support and ensuring stewardship for all contributions benefitting Mississippi State University.

Since 1962, the MSU Foundation, Inc. has served as an excellent steward of the university’s gifts. Under the guidance of a board of directors, the MSU Foundation administers most of the institution’s fundraising activities and endowed funds.

The MSU Foundation, Inc., always appreciates the interest of prospective donors, like you, who share our loyalty, pride and passion for Mississippi State University. Our dedicated development staff awaits the opportunity to discuss charitable gift plans with you.
**Donor Recognition**

Mississippi State University proudly acknowledges the loyalty, pride and passion of its donors by recognizing them in appropriate gift societies. These recognition programs offer placement for donors from lifetime support to continued annual support. The MSU Foundation's cumulative giving societies recognize members within the Legacy of Leadership, the Old Main Society and the President's Club.

Donors who support the university with annual gifts are recognized in the Patrons of Excellence and the Dean's Club. These donors leave their mark on the students, faculty and programs of the university on a daily basis.

The following details the MSU Foundation's giving societies:

**LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP**

Leadership-level gifts in support of Mississippi State University are recognized with the prestigious Legacy of Leadership society. This program serves to recognize those generous donors who assist Mississippi State in fulfilling its mission of providing the highest level of excellence in academic, research and service programs. Membership in the Legacy of Leadership is based on the donor's cumulative lifetime giving to Mississippi State University.

The Legacy of Leadership consists of the following levels:

- **Donald W. Zacharias Roundtable**
  The Donald W. Zacharias Roundtable was established in 2000 and honors MSU's 15th president, Donald W. Zacharias, who served from 1985-1997. Zacharias served as president during the university's first-ever major gifts campaign. The Zacharias Roundtable recognizes lifetime gift support of $25,000,000 and above.

- **James D. McComas Benefactors**
  Established in 2000, the James D. McComas Benefactors honors Mississippi State University's 14th president, James D. McComas, who served 1975-1985. The McComas Benefactors recognizes lifetime gift support for MSU from $10,000,000 to $24,999,999.

- **William L. Giles Partners**
  The William L. Giles Partners was established in 2000 and honors Mississippi State University's 13th president, William L. Giles, who served 1966-1976. The Giles Partners recognizes lifetime gift support from $5,000,000 to $9,999,999.

- **Dean W. Colvard Founders**
  The Dean W. Colvard Founders honors Mississippi State University's 12th president, Dean W. Colvard, who served from 1960-1966. Colvard was a guiding force in establishing the MSU Foundation in 1962. The Colvard Founders recognizes lifetime gift support from $1,000,000 to $4,999,999.

- **Stephen D. Lee Society**
  The Stephen D. Lee Society originally was established as Mississippi State’s highest-level donor club in 1990. Stephen D. Lee was the first president of Mississippi State, and the Lee Society recognizes lifetime gift support from $500,000 to $999,999.

- **J. Charles Lee Associates**

- **Eugene Butler Fellows**
  The MSU Foundation created the Eugene Butler Fellows in honor of the 1913 graduate of Mississippi State. Butler demonstrated his love and support for his alma mater by contributing generously to various programs and projects.
The Butler Fellows recognizes lifetime gift support from $100,000 to $249,999.

**Ben F. Hilbun Torchbearers**

This recognition level was established as the Torchbearers in 1994 in recognition of the “Keep the Flame Burning” theme of Mississippi State University’s first-ever major gifts campaign. The level was renamed for Mississippi State’s 11th president, Ben F. Hilbun, who served 1953-1960. The Hilbun Torchbearers recognizes lifetime gift support from $50,000 to $99,999.

**OLD MAIN SOCIETY**

This special recognition program honors the legacy of Mississippi State’s Old Main Dormitory, which was reputed to be the country’s largest dormitory under one roof until it was destroyed by fire. Just as Old Main left an indelible mark in the hearts and minds of those who lived there, so too will alumni and friends leave something of lasting importance to Mississippi State University.

The Old Main Society honors those generous donors who have included Mississippi State as a beneficiary in their wills or have made other planned gifts such as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance policies, and qualified IRAs and other retirement plans.

Giving levels within the Old Main Society are based on donors’ cumulative lifetime giving and correspond with giving levels within the Legacy of Leadership. Donors making planned gifts of less than $50,000, or those with undisclosed amounts, are recognized at the Old Main Society Member level. Donors in this program have provided the MSU Foundation with documentation of their gifts.

**PRESIDENT’S CLUB**

The President’s Club recognizes lifetime gift support of Mississippi State University for the following giving levels. These donors have made a commitment to assist the university with its priorities.

- President’s Partner - $25,000 to $49,999
- President’s Associate - $10,000 to $24,999

**PATRONS OF EXCELLENCE**

One of Mississippi State’s oldest donor clubs is the Patrons of Excellence. Donors qualify by making an annual gift or pledge at one of the listed gift levels. Gifts recognized at this level are an important source of operational support for university scholarships, faculty and staff development, and vital university programs.

- Patrons Council — $5,000 to $9,999
- Patrons Society — $2,500 to $4,999
- Patrons Associate — $1,000 to $2,499

**DEAN’S CLUB**

Like the Patrons of Excellence, Dean’s Club contributors provide support for college, school and university priorities. Donors qualify for the Dean’s Club by making an annual gift or pledge at one of the following levels.

- Dean’s Trustee — $500 to $999
- Dean’s Scholar — $250 to $499
- Dean’s Delegate — $100 to $249

Corporate matching gifts are included in a donor’s gift total for all societies.
Endowments impact nearly every facet of the Mississippi State University experience. These secured funds enable Mississippi State to increase its reputation, ensure the quality of instruction, and allow for overall growth of the university over time.

The size of a university’s total endowment is an important measure of its strength. Mississippi State’s overall endowment depends on the value of endowment gifts made by donors, how much the foundation distributes each year for designated purposes, and how well the MSU Foundation’s investments perform each year. The MSU Foundation continually works with donors to assist them with their understanding of the importance of endowments and how endowed funds benefit the university.

**What is an endowment?**

An endowment is a permanent gift that provides Mississippi State University with a secure source of future revenue. Each endowment established is a permanent fund into which gifts made by MSU donors are placed.

Individual endowments may be created by separate contributions from an individual or by multiple donors who establish a single endowed fund. When an endowment is established, the gift itself is never spent – only a specified percentage calculated to protect the long-term viability of the fund.

Endowments may be created for specific purposes or designated as unrestricted. Some of the most notable endowments support undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, faculty positions and excellence funds. Other endowments extend support for the educational mission of Mississippi State’s academic colleges and schools.

**How do endowments operate?**

An endowment is a contract between the MSU Foundation and the donor. The donor’s role in the contract is fulfilled by his or her gift, accompanied by the execution of a gift agreement. This gift agreement instructs the MSU Foundation as to how the gift will be managed and its distributions utilized. The MSU Foundation’s role in this contract is to manage the funds appropriately, invest them prudently, and ensure the resulting income is utilized as specified in the gift agreement. Once established with a formal gift agreement, endowments are held and invested with the objective of optimizing total return, which means growth in principal as well as income for expenditures.

Each endowment at Mississippi State University distributes a portion of its earnings annually to accomplish its intended mission. Only this specified percentage is distributed to the area designated by the donor, ensuring its continuance in perpetuity. Endowments may be increased at any time with additional gifts.

**How is spending allocation determined?**

The annual spending allocation of an endowment is based on a predetermined rate applied to the average balance of each endowment. The MSU Foundation crafts its annual spending rate to maintain a cushion against downward market movements. At times, market conditions are such that the market value of endowed funds may fall below their historic gift value. When this occurs, the Foundation reduces spending on the affected fund in an effort to preserve its corpus to the extent possible.

When establishing an endowment, donors should consider that the investment market will impact the fund’s market value and distributions over time. Every effort is made to protect the investment portfolio during fluctuating market periods.

**Why are endowments important?**

With careful endowment management, an endowed fund can benefit generations of Mississippi State University students and faculty. In this way, the endowment remains forever a part of the university and part of a donor’s legacy.
An endowment may be created to benefit any area of Mississippi State University. Some donors choose to supplement their endowment with an outright annual gift, such as with scholarships, so an immediate financial award can be made until the endowment has matured to provide sufficient earnings.

There are many benefits of supporting endowments at Mississippi State University. Distributions from endowments provide Mississippi State with a steady permanent stream of income in uncertain economic times. Endowments enrich the educational, cultural and social experiences of the Mississippi State campus for current and future MSU students.

Gifts for endowments have a meaningful impact throughout the university. By associating his or her name with Mississippi State University, a donor can create a perpetual legacy.
Sample Language for a Bequest

Outright bequest, unrestricted as to purpose:
“I give, devise, and bequeath to the MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC., a not-for-profit Mississippi Corporation, [% of estate or $ amount].”

Outright bequest to establish endowment fund with income to be restricted:
“I give, devise, and bequeath to the MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC., a not-for-profit Mississippi Corporation, [% of estate or $ amount], to constitute the [name of endowment] Fund. This fund shall be added to the Foundation’s endowment to be held in perpetuity with the spendable income therefrom to be utilized for [description of restricted purpose specified by testator-i.e. scholarships; to benefit a specific school, college, or university department; faculty award, etc.].”

Bequest of residuary estate:
“All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal property of whatever kind and wheresoever situated, which I may own at the time of my death, I give, devise, and bequeath to the MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC., a not-for-profit Mississippi Corporation, for unrestricted use [or for other purpose specified by the testator].”

Contingent bequest:
“I give, devise, and bequeath to [named beneficiary] [% of estate or $ amount], but if he (she) shall not be living at the time of my death, then I give, devise, and bequeath such property to the MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC., a not-for-profit Mississippi Corporation, for unrestricted use [or for other purpose specified by the testator].”

Codicil to Last Will and Testament:
“I hereby amend my last Will and Testament, executed on the _________ day of ______________ , in the year __________. I direct that all provisions of the Will remain in effect, but in addition I give, devise, and bequeath _________ to the MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, INC., a not-for-profit Mississippi Corporation, for unrestricted use [or for other purpose specified by the testator].”

Note: By furnishing these paragraphs, neither Mississippi State University nor the Mississippi State University Foundation, Inc. intends to give legal advice. We strongly encourage those interested in drafting a will to seek competent legal counsel experienced in will draftsmanship.
Naming Opportunities

Numerous possibilities exist at Mississippi State University for donors interested in having their name associated with the institution. The vice president for development and alumni, the executive director of development or one of the college development officers can assist with the thought process and a formal gift agreement.

The financial requirements for naming opportunities differ university-wide. The following offers an overview of select opportunities.

**Buildings**

New and renovated facilities are imperative for the growth and success of the university. Donors may help Mississippi State create an educational environment of excellence through facilities.

The MSU policy for naming buildings is as follows:

- A new building with 100 percent private funding requires at least 50 percent of the construction cost.
- A new building with a private funding component requires at least 50 percent of the private fundraising goal.
- An existing building may be named at the discretion of university leadership in accordance with costs associated with its renovation.

Naming opportunities associated with buildings must be approved by the president of the university and the board of trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning, based upon the recommendations of the vice president for development and alumni, the university provost or other appropriate vice president, dean or director.

**Other Physical Facilities**

Gifts may enable donors to name spaces within buildings, such as lecture halls, laboratories, conference rooms, specialty classrooms and regular classrooms.

Minimum amounts are necessary to name facilities.

They include:

- Laboratory—$500,000
- Electronic Classroom—$200,000
- Distance Learning Classroom—$75,000
- Other Classroom—$50,000
- Conference Room—$50,000
- Auditorium (with 150 or more seats) —$100,000
- Auditorium (with less than 150 seats) — $50,000
- Benches, fountains, outdoor plantings, other outdoor structures or areas — The cost of the project plus $5,000 to the Campus Beautification Endowment is required.

*Note: If a structure is a student memorial or a student project, strictly the project cost is needed.*

**Academic and Major University Units**

Contributions to name an academic or other major university unit must be able to transform the unit involved, enabling that unit to reach a level of excellence that cannot be achieved with state or university funds alone.

The gift should be in the form of an endowment, with income from the endowment used to provide a margin of excellence. The gift should not replace state funds previously made available to the unit.

Minimum endowment levels for colleges, departments, centers and institutes have been established. They include:

- College or Division—$10,000,000
- School or Department—$5,000,000
- University-wide Center or Institute—$2,500,000
- College-based or Unit-based Center or Institute—$1,000,000

**Endowed Faculty Positions**

Naming opportunities for chairs or professorships are available throughout campus. Endowed chair designation is linked to a select faculty position filled by an outstanding
Naming Opportunities continued

scholar and teacher, as judged by rigorous, nationally accepted standards. Named professorships typically are held by faculty members whose accomplishments indicate potential for national and international leadership and distinction in their field, and whose current efforts are focused on honing teaching skills and/or establishing a superior record of research or other scholarly activity.

Minimum levels for endowed faculty positions have been established. These include:

- Dean's Chair — $2,000,000
- Chair — $1,500,000
- Professorship — $500,000
- Endowed Faculty Fellowship — $100,000

Some colleges, schools or departments may require higher amounts.

Lectureships and Lecture Series

Mississippi State University encourages naming opportunities for distinguished lectureships, the presidential lecture series and visiting lecture series.

A distinguished lectureship is a select position to be filled by a top scholar who becomes part of the Mississippi State University community for a specified period, but who typically does not accept a permanent position on the faculty.

A presidential lecture series will bring to Mississippi State a variety of outstanding individuals with broad experience and expertise whose presentations will have university-wide and interdisciplinary appeal, while a visiting lecture series brings a variety of individuals with experience and expertise relevant to the special interests of a particular college or school.

Minimum endowment levels for lectureships and lecture series are:

- Distinguished Lectureship — $1,000,000
- Presidential Lecture Series — $1,000,000
- Visiting Lecture Series — $250,000

Fellowships and Scholarships

Endowed fellowships and scholarships enable MSU to attract and retain the best and brightest students from throughout Mississippi, the region and the nation.

Fellowships offer educational assistance primarily for graduate students, and provide full or partial support that enables students to complete their educational experience at Mississippi State.

Scholarships primarily offer educational assistance for talented undergraduate students. The Foundation offers two types of scholarships, those which may be funded and awarded annually, and those which are awarded based on earnings from an established endowment.

Minimum endowment levels for fellowships and scholarships are:

- Post-doctoral Fellowships — $300,000
- Graduate Fellowships — $250,000
- Presidential Endowed Scholarships — $250,000
- Endowed Scholarships — $25,000 and above
- Annual Scholarships (non-endowed) — $1,000 and above

Other Naming Opportunities

Endowed funds of excellence and awards allow Mississippi State to recognize outstanding teaching, service, research and staff performance. Naming awards is an outstanding way to commemorate the work ethic, successes or lifetime achievements of an outstanding individual.

An endowed fund for excellence may be established in support of a college, school, department, academic discipline or other university program of interest to the donor. Typically, earnings enhance the selected program by supporting research faculty development and travel, or other education enrichment activities.

Endowed funds for teaching, service, research and staff awards recognize outstanding performance in the classroom, in service to the university, and in research by faculty, other professionals or support staff members in the specified college, school or division.

Minimum levels for funds for excellence awards and other types of endowments have been established. These include:

- Endowed Fund for Excellence — $25,000
- Teaching, Service, Research and Staff Awards — $25,000
- Other Endowments — $25,000