

# **Mississippi State University**

## *Strategy for Excellence, 2012-2017*

### **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.

### **MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY VALUES**

- Access and Opportunity
- Excellence and Innovation
- Communication and Collaboration
- Integrity and Accountability
- Citizenship and Leadership
- Respect

## OVERARCHING GOAL

To be consistently ranked among America's top public universities

### MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC GOALS

- Foster Teaching and Learning
- Promote Research and Creativity
- Expand Outreach and Engagement
- Encourage Globalization
- Enhance Institutional Culture and Environment

#### Foster Teaching and Learning

Providing a challenging and supportive educational experience that prepares students to be leaders in their professions and in the state and nation remains central to Mississippi State's mission, as it has throughout the university's history. This goal builds on our historic emphasis on access, academic excellence, and student success.

**Priority:** Attract a diverse population of high quality students to the undergraduate and graduate programs at MSU.

**Priority:** Improve student success at MSU and beyond.

**Priority:** Improve the visibility and resources of MSU Libraries.

#### Promote Research and Creativity

Mississippi State's emphasis on discovery and creativity, which is reflected in its classification by the Carnegie Foundation as a Research University (very high research activity), contributes significantly and directly to the economic development of the state, supports major national priorities, and complements and enhances undergraduate and graduate instruction. This goal helps focus resources on areas of endeavor that promise the greatest opportunities and benefits while emphasizing an interdisciplinary approach that provides avenues for involvement by faculty and students across the university.

**Priority:** Develop, promote, and recognize faculty research to enhance the national/international reputation of the university.

**Priority:** Identify and promote select research focus areas that capitalize on existing strengths and future opportunities.

**Priority:** Enhance the university's culture and structure for interdisciplinary research.

**Priority:** Recognize the unique education that students can receive at a research-intensive university by increasing the quality and extent of student research experiences.

**Priority:** Expand external funding for research.

**Priority:** Use the research program as a catalyst for economic development.

## **Expand Outreach and Engagement**

Land-grant universities have a long tradition and a particular responsibility to engage with communities and businesses to enhance economic growth and assist citizens in their homes and workplaces. With a physical presence in every county of the state, the university has for more than a century been directly involved in bringing informal education and technical assistance to Mississippians, and some of that work by faculty, staff and students is reflected in the university's Community Engagement Classification awarded by the Carnegie Foundation. This goal represents a commitment to build on and expand that tradition of service by expanding opportunities for outreach and engagement by all members of the university community.

**Priority:** Expand outreach and engagement opportunities and participation by students, faculty, and staff in academic, professional, civic, educational, or humanitarian activities.

**Priority:** Enhance educational and outreach programs that address critical issues such as agriculture, economic and community development, education, youth and family health and well-being, the environment, industry, and technology

**Priority:** Provide expanded needs-based Extension outreach in agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H/Youth development, and enterprise and community development.

**Priority:** Develop a body of knowledge related to the scholarship of outreach and engagement

## **Encourage Globalization**

In an increasingly inter-connected world, land-grant universities must apply their academic, scientific, and extension capabilities to global challenges while providing our students with an international perspective that expands their future opportunities. Mississippi State has a long history of international involvement. This goal builds on that history by providing students and faculty with global experiences that will contribute to national and international economic sustainability, ecosystem sustainability, and socioeconomic well-being.

**Priority:** Develop, support, and coordinate infrastructure to enhance global outreach and Extension, research, and academic programs.

**Priority:** Under the leadership of the International Institute, define MSU's global humanitarian, environmental, scientific and socioeconomic initiatives and respond through research and outreach and Extension.

**Priority:** Enrich the academic and cultural experiences of the faculty, staff, and students through global engagement.

## **Enhance Institutional Culture and Environment**

The university's greatest asset is its people, and the attainment of all other university goals is predicated on the ability to continue to recruit and retain high quality faculty and staff and attract capable and qualified students. This goal represents a commitment to provide all members of the university community with the tools, rewards, and resources to achieve their professional and personal goals in an environment that reflects Mississippi State University values.

**Priority:** Encourage and support the holistic development and well-being of the faculty, staff, and students.

**Priority:** Enhance diversity at MSU.

**Priority:** Improve infrastructure to accommodate enrollment growth.

**Priority:** Enhance campus sustainability.

**Priority:** Expand private giving to MSU