



THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI

UM / 2020

STRATEGIC PLAN

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

8/2014





UM/2020 was the impetus for a renewed commitment to growth and outstanding academics.

Since the plan was announced, the University of Mississippi has:

- **Seen an explosion of building projects and major renovations on campus.** You can't miss the proof of this university's dramatic growth. Look at any number of buildings, including the residential colleges, Khayat Law Center, ongoing renovation of Lamar Hall, a new parking garage, updates to the Student Union and Turner Center. ... The list goes on and on.
- **Continued to lead the nation in diversity initiatives.** The 50th anniversary of the admission of James Meredith, the first African-American to be admitted to the University of Mississippi, offered opportunities for the university to expand its role in racial reconciliation and attention to diversity issues. Direct results of those efforts include the creation of the Center for Inclusion and Cross-Cultural Engagement, a new vice chancellor-level position for diversity and inclusion, and continued expansion of the role and influence of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation.
- **Supported the continued improvement of salaries and resources for faculty and staff.** From a host of new programs and benefits to the important issue of increasing pay for all faculty and staff, the university has made strides in the past few years in providing the best possible environment for its employees. That's one of the reasons the university has been named one of *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* "Great Colleges to Work For" for six consecutive years!

Get on O.U.T.!





- **Improved transportation options and access to campus.** Growth means that space, especially parking, is at a premium, but the university has worked with the city of Oxford to ease some of the problems caused by parking and to serve faculty and staff who prefer alternate modes of transportation such as Zipcar, a car-sharing service, and bike riding. Perhaps most significant is the enhanced Oxford University Transit (OUT) public bus system, which runs throughout campus and the city, and services the university's Park & Ride lots.
- **Revitalized the McLean Institute.** From his inauguration forward, Chancellor Dan Jones has emphasized the core value of service that is at the heart of the university, and service opportunities and initiatives have grown tremendously, with one of the most visible expansions taking place in the McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement. The McLean Institute existed for many years as a small unit within the Department of Sociology and Anthropology but was expanded as part of UM 2020 and thanks to a \$600,000 gift. The goal of the newly focused McLean Institute is straightforward but ambitious: to rally UM to purposefully apply its talent and knowledge to improve lives across Mississippi.
- **Developed recruiting relationships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).** The Graduate School sent a regional admissions counselor to recruit new applicants at several HBCUs, including Rust College, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Alcorn State University, Tougaloo College, Alabama A&M and Claflin University. In addition to efforts to expand funding and resources, the university is committed to supporting underrepresented students, particularly in the STEM areas.
- **Raised graduate student stipends.** Based on the recommendation of a universitywide faculty committee, the new levels of minimum annual stipends for graduate assistants were raised to \$5,000 for 10 hours of work a week and \$10,000 for 20 hours of work a week. These increases will strengthen our graduate programs, which are vital to discovering new knowledge through research and creating a highly skilled workforce.







- **Renewed opportunities for healthy living on campus.** From walking paths and HR-sponsored walking challenges to regular, free health clinics for faculty and staff, the university has increased opportunities for employees to focus on taking care of their bodies and minds. The university recently announced the creation of RebelWell (a grant partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi) that will increase health options on campus, including a new nutritionist for faculty and staff, and the creation of annual fitness challenge competitions and exercise opportunities across campus.
- **Created the Center for Student Success and First-Year Experience.** Student Affairs created the center as part of the UM 2020 Strategic Plan. The center focuses on helping new students feel a sense of belonging, understanding that success in the first year is critical to long-term student success and retention. CSSFYE also includes Veterans and Military Services, which provides an array of services to veterans, service members and dependents while they are earning a degree at UM. As an early indicator of the center's impact, the retention rate of first-year students increased from 80.8 percent in 2011 to 85.6 percent in 2012.
- **Launched new online graduate programs.** Technology is allowing students to learn in a variety of settings that fit their circumstances, with access to top professors who can teach remotely. Recognizing these changing modes of education, the university is working to expand its online degree programs to fit the needs of nontraditional students. One great example is the Master of Health Care Administration program, which not only offers an advanced degree accessible to working professionals but also helps meet a growing need for health care professionals within the state.
- **Managed historic enrollment growth through comprehensive, campuswide collaboration and new policies.** Highlights of progress include the new nonresident admissions review process and the work of the Enrollment Management Committee. In addition, numerous programs provide both financial and educational support for students arriving here from a wide range of cultural and academic backgrounds.
- **Created Meritorious Research Effort awards.** The university approved a Meritorious Research Effort award program for faculty and research scientists on campus, modeled after a successful award program in the School of Pharmacy. Through this program, faculty and scientists are offered financial incentives to obtain external funding to support their research.





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For more information, visit
olemiss.edu/um2020 or contact
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