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Research Catalog



October 2007

Dr. Thomas C. Meredith, Commissioner

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Research Catalog

Prepared by

**Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning
Office of Policy Research and Planning
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211
Phone: (601) 432-6742 Fax: (601) 432-6117
www.mississippi.edu/research/default.asp**

PREFACE

FY 2007 RESEARCH CATALOG

The external resources identified in the *Research Catalog* are an indication of the national competitiveness of the universities in the state of Mississippi and of the quality research and sponsored programs they conduct. These resources provide essential funds to the state's public universities which strengthen the research, teaching, and service missions of the universities.

The *Research Catalog* is mandated by the State through the University Research Center Act of 1988 (§ 37-141-17). The publication lists the funding amounts by the sources of funding and by the university disciplines receiving the funding. It is designed for use by state policy makers, the educational community, economic developers, and the general public as a resource to:

1. Assist in developing strong legislative funding support for research,
2. Improve the regional, national, and international image of Mississippi universities as research institutions,
3. Encourage continued and expanded external funding support for state university research and sponsored programs, and
4. Enhance further development of technology transfer and practical applications of research which impact the state's economy.

The *Research Catalog* includes only external awards and non-appropriated state awards for research and sponsored programs. External funds for student financial aid are not included in the totals.

For more specific information about university research programs, contact the designated research official listed for each university. For additional information about the *Research Catalog*, contact the Institutions of Higher Learning Office of Policy Research and Planning at 601-432-6742.

To view the *Research Catalog* online and to download additional copies, visit the web site at www.mississippi.edu/research/default.asp.

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Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine
Mississippi State University

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MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

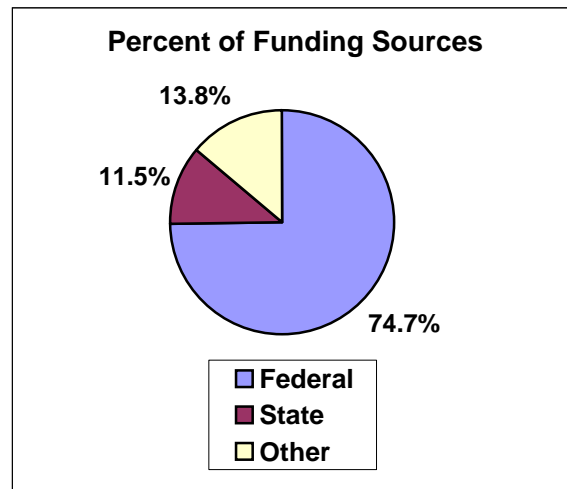
FY 2007 Research Catalog - IHL System Summary

Dr. Thomas C. Meredith, Commissioner

Period Covered: July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

University	Total Funding Awarded	Funding Sources		
		Federal	State	Private/Corporate/Other
ASU	\$22,276,206	\$21,250,551	\$387,428	\$638,227
DSU	9,446,711	3,341,993	3,578,409	2,526,309
JSU	66,732,582	57,143,476	3,115,383	6,473,723
MSU	186,509,706	124,578,036	32,988,637	28,943,034
MUW*	7,586,371	1,927,822	5,330,807	327,742
MVSU	8,914,390	7,866,712	882,443	165,235
UM/UMMC	127,972,973	97,394,887	9,841,922	20,736,165
USM	98,616,597	81,062,845	4,486,497	13,067,255
SYSTEM	\$528,055,536	\$394,566,321	\$60,611,525	\$72,877,690

University	Total Research Projects Supported
ASU	105
DSU	74
JSU	184
MSU	1,691
MUW*	33
MVSU	45
UM/UMMC	553
USM	371
SYSTEM	3,056



NOTE:

* MUW figures include the Mississippi School for Math and Science.

MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

System History - Research and Sponsored Programs

Total External Funding

University	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
ASU	\$16,222,664	\$19,120,216	\$20,426,054	\$21,999,143	\$24,372,640	\$22,276,206
DSU	5,678,354	6,773,064	7,087,707	6,803,026	6,858,729	9,446,711
JSU	47,285,034	43,361,165	56,907,532	49,151,264	56,040,700	66,732,582
MSU	123,161,291	126,295,941	150,045,912	127,943,563	154,744,232	186,509,706
MUW*	4,413,251	5,105,920	5,591,936	6,715,242	7,564,958	7,586,371
MVSU	11,186,322	9,238,832	9,026,373	11,102,780	10,295,321	8,914,390
UM	65,327,241	78,432,868	64,276,622	67,986,974	63,641,569	77,939,971
UMMC	37,317,418	29,282,592	38,416,659	46,221,934	39,254,134	50,033,002
USM	62,688,022	67,132,899	69,004,140	71,379,786	102,095,604	98,616,597
SYSTEM	\$373,279,597	\$384,743,497	\$420,782,935	\$409,303,712	\$464,867,887	\$528,055,536

Percent Change in External Funding

University	FY 2002 to FY 2003	FY 2003 to FY 2004	FY 2004 to FY 2005	FY 2005 to FY 2006	FY 2006 to FY 2007
ASU	17.9%	6.8%	7.7%	10.8%	-8.6%
DSU	19.3%	4.6%	-4.0%	0.8%	37.7%
JSU	-8.3%	31.2%	-13.6%	14.0%	19.1%
MSU	2.5%	18.8%	-14.7%	20.9%	20.5%
MUW*	15.7%	9.5%	20.1%	12.7%	0.3%
MVSU	-17.4%	-2.3%	23.0%	-7.3%	-13.4%
UM	20.1%	-18.0%	5.8%	-6.4%	22.5%
UMMC	-21.5%	31.2%	20.3%	-15.1%	27.5%
USM	7.1%	2.8%	3.4%	43.0%	-3.4%
SYSTEM	3.1%	9.4%	-2.7%	13.6%	13.6%

Percent Change in Total Projects Supported

Fiscal Year	# of Projects	% Change
FY 2002	2,757	
FY 2003	2,842	3.1%
FY 2004	2,687	-5.5%
FY 2005	2,975	10.7%
FY 2006	3,586	20.5%
FY 2007	3,056	-14.8%

NOTE: * MUW figures include the Mississippi School for Math and Science.

ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. Malvin A. Williams - Interim President

Dr. Franklin D. Jackson - Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Planning, and Research
Phone (601) 877-6118

Period Covered: July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
School of Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Applied Sciences	\$12,105,944
School of Arts and Sciences	2,463,996
School of General College for Excellence	909,893
School of Nursing	368,099
Office of Community Development	1,403,012
Office of Strengthening Institutions Program (Title III)	5,025,262
GRAND TOTAL	\$22,276,206
II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
National Institutes of Health	\$727,614
National Science Foundation	667,910
U.S. Department of Agriculture	11,921,776
U.S. Department of Education	5,930,155
U.S. Department of Energy	480,000
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	195,084
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	495,000
U.S. Department of Transportation	833,012
Total Federal	\$21,250,551
Total State of Mississippi Agencies	\$387,428
Total Private/Foundations/Corporate/Non-Profit	\$638,227
GRAND TOTAL	\$22,276,206

III. These awards supported a total of 105 research and sponsored programs in FY 2007.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. John M. Hilpert - President

Kay Stricklin - Director of Grants and Contracts
Phone (662) 846-4311

Period Covered: July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
Archives	39,555
Center for Community & Economic Development	2,366,130
College of Arts & Sciences	1,335,632
College of Business	489,179
College of Education	1,721,939
Delta Center for Culture & Learning	1,385,665
Greenville Higher Education Center	15,000
School of Nursing	1,222,875
Special Projects	375,736
Vice President for Finance	495,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$9,446,711

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
Corporation for National & Community Service	1,138,552
Health Resource and Services Association	1,000,000
Department of Health & Human Services	326,189
National Endowment for the Humanities	307,700
NASA	8,000
NSF	29,697
Institute of Museum and Library Sciences	36,855
Housing and Urban Development	495,000
Total Federal	\$3,341,993
Total State of Mississippi Agencies	\$3,578,409
Total Private/Foundations/Corporate/Non-Profit	\$2,351,012
Total Other State Governments	\$6,750
Total Other Universities	\$80,000
Total Local Governments	\$88,547
GRAND TOTAL	\$9,446,711

III. These awards supported a total of 74 research and sponsored programs in FY 2007.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr. - President

Dr. Felix A. Okojie - Vice President of Research and Federal Relations

Phone (601) 979-2931

Period Covered: July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
College Science, Engineering & Technology	\$21,256,056
Office of Research Development & Federal Relations	11,023,474
Division International Studies	19,696,784
Office of Finance & Operations	6,450,907
College of Public Service	2,867,499
College of Liberal Arts	700,226
Office of the President	2,452,362
Division of Lifelong Learning	464,654
College of Business	242,969
College of Education & Human Development	1,500,651
Division of Graduate Studies	77,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$66,732,582

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
U. S. Agency of International Development	\$14,621,064
U. S. Department of Agriculture	50,000
U. S. Department of Commerce	1,652,988
U. S. Department of Defense	5,302,289
U. S. Department of Energy	364,895
U. S. Department of Education	8,170,835
U. S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency	50,000
U. S. Department of Health & Human Services	2,901,819
U. S. Department of Homeland Security	2,645,201
U. S. Department of Justice	200,000
U. S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs	2,393,120

U. S. Department of Small Business Administration	187,969
U. S. Department of Transportation	620,000
National Aeronautics & Space Administration	115,481
National Endowment of the Humanities	10,571
National Institutes of Health	10,700,448
National Science Foundation	6,986,796
United Negro College Fund	170,000
Total Federal	\$57,143,476
Total State of Mississippi Agencies	\$3,115,383
Total Private Foundations/Corporations	\$2,787,445
Total Foundations and Non-Profit Agencies	\$3,686,278
GRAND TOTAL	\$66,732,582

III. These awards supported a total of 184 research and sponsored programs in FY 2007.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. Robert H. Foglesong - President

Dr. Kirk H. Schulz - Vice President for Research and Economic Development

Phone (662) 325-3570

Dr. Vance H. Watson - Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine

Phone (662) 325-1215

Period Covered: July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
College of Architecture, Art, and Design	\$419,147
College of Arts and Sciences	3,657,269
University Branch Campus	-25,073
College of Business and Industry	202,366
University Centers and Institutes	46,096,663
Division of Academic Outreach & Continuing Education	4,085
College of Education	13,724,715
Bagley College of Engineering	63,302,614
College of Forest Resources/FWRC	7,709,122
General Administration	495,000
Office of Graduate Studies	465,330
Office of the President	1,142,190
MS Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES)/CALs	25,378,284
MS State University Extension Service (MSU ES)	10,509,616
Other	5,332,827
College of Veterinary Medicine	4,723,289
Vice President for Research & Economic Development	3,064,921
Vice President for Student Affairs	307,344
GRAND TOTAL	\$186,509,706

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
U.S. Department of Agriculture	\$22,043,553
U.S. Department of Education	2,266,740
U.S. Department of Commerce	8,249,877
U.S. Department of Defense	37,928,896

U.S. Department of Energy	10,859,354
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	3,970,800
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	4,056
U.S. Department of Homeland Security	273,150
U.S. Department of Interior	629,552
U.S. Department of Justice	2,468,070
U.S. Department of Labor	1,065,000
U.S. Department of Transportation	3,590,172
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	492,600
U.S. Small Business Administration	6,170,175
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	14,114,106
National Institutes of Health	2,557,772
National Science Foundation	7,209,617
National Security Agency	273,599
Other Federal	410,947
Total Federal	\$124,578,036
Total State of Mississippi Agencies	\$32,988,637
Total Private/Corporate	\$11,129,789
Total Foundations and Non-Profit Agencies	\$10,462,034
Total Other State Governments	\$805,271
Total Other Universities	\$4,932,698
Total Local Governments	\$1,613,243
GRAND TOTAL	\$186,509,706

III. These awards supported a total of 1,691 research and sponsored programs in FY 2007.

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. Claudia A. Limbert - President

Ms. Nora Miller - Vice President for Finance and Administration

Phone (662) 329-7145

Period Covered: July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
College of Arts and Sciences	\$994,131
College of Education and Human Sciences	317,243
College of Nursing and Speech Language Pathology	1,141,534
Academic Support *	4,853,133
Other Units	280,330
GRAND TOTAL *	\$7,586,371

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
U. S. Department of Education	\$480,124
U. S. Small Business Administration	200,008
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services	892,414
National Institute of Health	355,276
Total Federal	\$1,927,822
Total State of Mississippi Agencies	\$5,330,807
Total Private/Foundations/Corporate/Non-Profit	\$327,742
GRAND TOTAL *	\$7,586,371

III. These awards supported a total of 33 research and sponsored programs in FY 2007.

* MUW totals include \$4,703,657 funding for the Mississippi School for Math and Science.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. Roy C. Hudson - Interim President

Dr. Moses Newsome, Jr. - Vice President for Research, Planning, Community & Econ. Dev.

Jannette Adams - Director of Sponsored Programs/ Interim Director Title III

Phone (662) 254-3434

Period Covered: July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
College of Arts and Sciences	\$1,368,034
College of Continuing Education	1,219,660
College of Education	384,786
College of Public Service	2,088,306
Title III	3,198,848
University College	654,756
GRAND TOTAL	\$8,914,390

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
U. S Department of Education	\$5,107,368
U. S Department of Agriculture	5,000
U. S Department of Health and Human Services	1,444,000
National Institute of Health	193,000
National Science	979,778
Other Agencies	137,566
Total Federal	\$7,866,712
Total State of Mississippi Agencies	\$882,443
Total Private/Foundations/Corporate/Non-Profit	\$165,235
GRAND TOTAL	\$8,914,390

III. These awards supported a total of 45 research and sponsored programs in FY 2007.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. Robert C. Khayat - Chancellor

Dr. Alice M. Clark - Vice Chancellor for Research and Sponsored Programs

Phone (662) 915-7482

Dr. Daniel W. Jones - Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

Phone (601) 984-1010

Period Covered: July 1, 2006- June 30, 2007

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
A. <u>Oxford Campus</u>	
College of Liberal Arts	\$3,734,053
Croft Institute for International Studies	280,983
Division of Outreach and Continuing Education	493,558
Graduate School	1,418,010
Jamie Whitten National Center for Physical Acoustics	17,127,172
National Food Service Management Institute	4,158,900
National Institute of Undersea Science Technology	4,096,203
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (Oxford)	5,668,428
School of Applied Sciences	901,012
School of Business Administration	3,156,477
School of Education	2,766,255
School of Engineering (not including NCCHE)	8,398,036
Natl.Ctr for Computational Hydroscience and Engineering	2,255,698
School of Law	5,186,543
School of Pharmacy (not including NCNPR)	12,128,231
National Center for Natural Products Research	6,030,412
University Museums	100,000
University Relations	40,000
Total Oxford	\$77,939,971
B. <u>Medical Center</u>	
Office of Research	\$2,417,250
Office of Strategic Research Alliances	707,671
School of Dentistry	496,232
School of Health Related Professions	310,368
School of Medicine	44,450,170
School of Nursing	1,245,487
Teaching Hospital	405,824
Total Medical Center	\$50,033,002
GRAND TOTAL	\$127,972,973

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	\$2,532,301
National Endowment for the Arts	10,000
National Endowment for the Humanities	110,786
National Science Foundation	3,280,091
U.S. Department of Agriculture	9,790,180
U.S. Department of Commerce	7,539,975
U.S. Department of Defense	13,686,722
U.S. Department of Education	240,043
U.S. Department of Energy	1,453,709
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	50,973,154
U.S. Department of Justice	3,149,264
U.S. Department of the Interior	850,930
U.S. Department of Transportation	6,500
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	47,099
U.S. Small Business Administration	3,724,133
Total Federal	\$97,394,887
Total State of Mississippi Agencies	\$9,841,922
Total Foundations and Professional Organizations	\$5,638,787
Total Business and Industry	\$4,405,527
Total Foreign Governments and Organizations	\$65,000
Total Other	\$10,626,850
GRAND TOTAL	\$127,972,973

- III. These awards supported a total of 553 research and sponsored programs in FY 2007.
- Oxford Campus - 342
 - Medical Center - 211

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. Martha D. Saunders - President

Dr. Cecil Burge - Vice President for Research and Economic Development

Phone (601) 266-5116

Period Covered: July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
Arts and Letters	\$561,705
Business	188,624
Education and Psychology	4,972,513
Health	11,200,226
Office of the Provost	5,851,646
Research and Economic Development	32,053,337
Science and Technology	43,229,279
Student Affairs	559,267
GRAND TOTAL	\$98,616,597

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	\$7,831,363
National Endowment for Humanities/Arts	42,130
National Science Foundation	5,878,690
U.S. Department of Agriculture	2,301,161
U.S. Department of Commerce	15,332,010
U.S. Department of Defense	6,948,786
U.S. Department of Education	15,613,017
U.S. Department of Energy	1,824,727
U.S. Department of Health and Human Service	12,053,201
U.S. Department of Interior	777,386
U.S. Department of Justice	5,713,009
U.S. Department of Transportation	866,656
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	375,136
Other Federal Agencies	5,505,573
Total Federal	\$81,062,845

Total State of Mississippi Agencies	\$4,486,497
Total Private/Foundations/Corporate/Non-Profit	\$13,067,255
GRAND TOTAL	\$98,616,597

III. These awards supported a total of 371 research and sponsored programs in FY 2007

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GROUPS

Mississippi University Research Authority (MURA)

The primary role of the Mississippi University Research Authority (MURA), authorized by the Legislature in 1992 through the Mississippi University Research Authority Act, is to promote the public welfare and prosperity of the people of Mississippi and to foster economic development within the state by forging links among the state's educational institutions, businesses and industrial communities, and state government through the development of cooperative ventures of innovative technological significance which will advance education, research, or economic development within the state. These ventures facilitate the commercialization of technologies developed or discovered in campus environments and enhance the economic development of the state through such commercialization. Before the MURA Act was passed, the ethics laws of Mississippi effectively prohibited university faculty from commercializing their research. These laws were established to prohibit public servants from engaging in activities which would be in conflict with their public positions. Although the ethics laws were directed toward public officials, the language in the laws is such that attempts to commercialize technology by faculty members of a university could be construed as a violation of the laws.

The MURA Board is composed of the University Research Vice-Presidents from the three comprehensive public universities and from the urban public university, a representative from the Mississippi Development Authority, the president of the Mississippi Resource Development Corporation, the president of the Mississippi Education Research Group (MERG), and the Vice President of the IHL Board of Trustees. The Commissioner of Higher Education serves as an ex officio member, and members of the Board staff serve as the Executive Director and as the Administrative Assistant.

MURA was established in such a way that there is an extensive review process for any proposal for technology transfer or commercialization. The process is initiated with the Chief Research Officer of the affected university. The proposal is then recommended to the President of the university, who must certify that there is no conflict with the university and that the participation of the faculty member in the commercialization of the technology will not bring harm to the university or to the economic development of the state. The President then recommends that the proposal be reviewed by the MURA Board, which objectively assesses the nature of the proposed commercialization. This process of full disclosure and evaluation first by the university and then by the MURA Board serves to assure that each proposal is of economic interest to the state and is not in conflict with the interests or commitments of the state, the university, or the faculty member(s).

MURA enables faculty members who conceive of new technologies to copyright and/or patent their discoveries, to participate in the development of the technologies, and to realize some commercial benefit. It allows individuals who have developed or discovered new technologies through campus-based research to be a part of new spin-off businesses in Mississippi, rather than being forced to channel their discoveries through agencies and businesses outside Mississippi, thus allowing Mississippi to realize the economic benefits of the commercialization. The impact from university research, particularly when commercialization occurs, can be far reaching and long-term. The MURA process for facilitating technology transfer and commercialization holds tremendous future possibilities for the state of Mississippi.

Mississippi Research Consortium (MRC)

The Mississippi Research Consortium, formed in 1986, is a coalition of Mississippi's four research universities, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, the University of Mississippi, and the University of Southern Mississippi. The four Chief Research Officers constitute the Board of Directors. The Board members serve as the driving force for collaborative university-based research. The MRC Board also serves as the Science and Technology Research Advisors to both the Governor and the Legislature with the responsibility for integrating science and technology initiatives with economic development plans in Mississippi. The Board links the physical and intellectual resources of the universities to identify needs and opportunities for the state and to address appropriate responses to those needs and opportunities. A member of MRC also serves on the Board of the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology and the Mississippi Science and Technology Commission.

The goals of the MRC include to develop, support, and sustain basic and applied research that is nationally competitive; to increase public awareness of science, engineering, and mathematics at every educational level in order to develop a scientifically literate citizenry who will fuel the science and engineering pipeline with the state's own human resources and who will attract external scientific expertise; to establish and maintain a solid scientific infrastructure, including equipment, collaboration, facilities, private sector linkages, and federal laboratory partnerships; and to expand the economic opportunities of the state through technology/knowledge transfer activities that include commercialization, technical assistance, and education of a workforce that can support technology-based industries. The creation of the Mississippi Universities Research Authority (MURA) Act of 1992 was the culmination of the Mississippi Research Consortium Technology Transfer Task Force working with the IHL Board Office.

Member institutions work from an attitude of mutual respect and trust. All agree that the individual institutions have secured more resources through their combined efforts than any one of them could have received working independently. This attitude has been successfully conveyed to the faculty, who often initiate the collaborative efforts and recommend that certain proposals go through MRC. Generally, MRC operates by forming faculty teams from several universities to address the research opportunities. The organization has received visibility as a national model, especially from the National Science Foundation, as a way to put together a state science and technology infrastructure. Often MRC works with all eight public universities and the medical center to strengthen research components.

Very quickly MRC became involved not only in joint research activities but also in human resource development programs and in science policy issues both within the state and the nation. Through the successful cooperative agreement with the Stennis Space Center, agencies located in the Stennis Center issue task requests, and MRC puts together the mechanism from the institutions to develop the proposal to address that task.

The cooperative structure of MRC removed the political problems of perceived favoritism that state agencies had in using the state's public universities for technology support. Now, rather than going out of state for such support, many state agencies work with MRC.

Mississippi Education and Research Group (MERG)

The Mississippi Education and Research Group (MERG) was established in 1990 with representation from each of the eight public universities in the state. The primary goals of MERG are to promote collaboration, resource sharing, and communication concerning education and research matters that have an impact on all of the public universities. The result of these efforts is that opportunities which would have been outside the budgetary capabilities of an individual university are made available to the universities through MERG.

The conception of and the need for the establishment of MERG originated in the Mississippi Research Consortium (MRC), comprised of the Chief Research Officers of the four Research Universities (Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, the University of Mississippi, and the University of Southern Mississippi). The MRC had successfully promoted collaborative research and collaborative funding among themselves. However, MRC realized that Mississippi would best be served if a separate organization was created for the coordination of statewide projects. Additionally, this new organization provided a vehicle for sharing the research and education expertise of the research universities with the four other universities (Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Mississippi University for Women, and Mississippi Valley State University).

MERG was initially involved with two projects, the Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation (MAMP) and the Rural Science Initiative (RSI). However, many new and important outcomes have evolved from the activities of MERG. The accomplishments and initiatives of MERG may best be reviewed in three broad categories: (1) Educational Efforts, (2) Research Efforts, and (3) Administrative and Legal Consulting.

Educational Efforts: MERG served as the coordinating agent for the development of the Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation, a major grant from the National Science Foundation which provides financial and academic support to under-represented minorities wishing to pursue careers in science, engineering, and mathematics. MERG members worked from a nuclear concept, developing plans for each of the universities and continuing as the primary coordinating group in the oversight of changes and new directions throughout the program's implementation. MERG has also served in the coordinating role for the successful Rural Science Initiative Grant, which supports public school education in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and has developed a proposal for Science-Humanities initiatives in undergraduate teaching.

Research Efforts: The MRC developed and received major research funding under the EPSCoR programs, designed to advance the research capabilities of universities in selected states. Numerous collaborative research projects have resulted among the research universities. MERG has served as a means of disseminating related research opportunities to the regional universities and of sharing both human resources and research facilities among all eight public universities. MERG has also made contacts with the National Science Foundation about developing proposals to support the use of the Internet as a research resource and for research discussion groups.

Administrative and Legal Consulting: Through MERG, the research universities, which have major grants and development offices, have been able to provide assistance to the regional universities concerning grant proposals, rapidly changing federal regulations, and sources of funding.