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Research Catalog



October 2006

Dr. Thomas C. Meredith, Commissioner

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Research Catalog

Prepared by

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

PREFACE

FY 2006 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.ihl.state.ms.us/research/default.asp.

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Mississippi Valley State University

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University of Mississippi

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University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Daniel Jones, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Dr. Vance Watson, Vice President
Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine
Mississippi State University

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MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

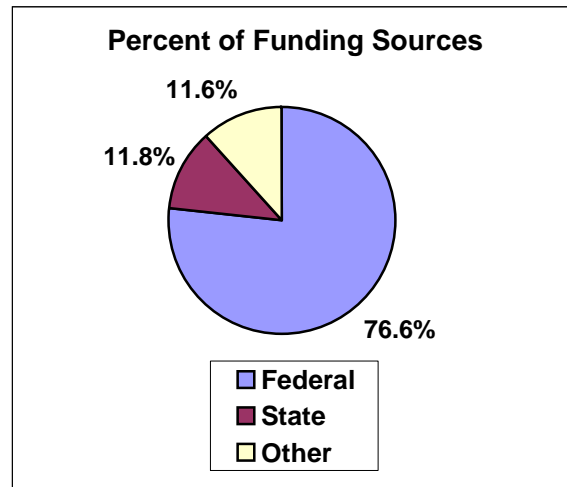
FY 2006 Research Catalog - IHL System Summary

Dr. Thomas C. Meredith, Commissioner

Period Covered: July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

University	Total Funding Awarded	Funding Sources		
		Federal	State	Private/Corporate/Other
ASU	\$24,372,640	\$22,234,679	\$1,247,729	\$890,232
DSU	6,858,729	3,638,946	975,680	2,244,103
JSU	56,040,700	51,620,093	3,030,434	1,390,173
MSU	154,744,232	99,376,996	29,227,427	26,139,809
MUW*	7,564,958	1,628,960	5,119,007	816,991
MVSU	10,295,321	9,206,946	846,675	241,700
UM/UMMC	102,895,703	76,857,033	11,059,458	14,979,212
USM	102,095,604	91,546,702	3,228,248	7,320,654
SYSTEM	\$464,867,887	\$356,110,355	\$54,734,658	\$54,022,874

University	Total Research Projects Supported
ASU	118
DSU	78
JSU	175
MSU	2,267
MUW*	37
MVSU	45
UM/UMMC	501
USM	365
SYSTEM	3,586



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

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
ASU	17.9%	6.8%	7.7%	10.8%
DSU	19.3%	4.6%	-4.0%	0.8%
JSU	-8.3%	31.2%	-13.6%	14.0%
MSU	2.5%	18.8%	-14.7%	20.9%
MUW*	15.7%	9.5%	20.1%	12.7%
MVSU	-17.4%	-2.3%	23.0%	-7.3%
UM	20.1%	-18.0%	5.8%	-6.4%
UMMC	-21.5%	31.2%	20.3%	-15.1%
USM	7.1%	2.8%	3.4%	43.0%
SYSTEM	3.1%	9.4%	-2.7%	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%

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

" Project totals reflect correction for MVSU in FY 2004 and FY 2005.

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, 2005 - June 30, 2006

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
School of Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Applied Sciences	\$12,144,668
School of Arts and Sciences	3,788,715
School of Business	69,700
School of Education and Psychology	1,319,674
School of General College for Excellence	624,286
School of Nursing	948,696
Office of Community Development	2,294,471
Office of Strengthening Institutions Program (Title III)	3,182,430
GRAND TOTAL	\$24,372,640

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
National Institutes of Health	\$1,535,116
National Science Foundation	1,345,811
U.S. Department of Agriculture	10,404,521
U.S. Department of Defense - Army	1,099,235
U.S. Department of Defense - NASA	152,490
U.S. Department of Education	4,539,216
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	801,895
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	1,243,832
U.S. Department of Interior	830,000
U.S. Department of State - USAID	35,903
U.S. Small Business Administration	246,660
Total Federal	\$22,234,679
Total State Agencies	\$1,247,729
Total Private/Foundations/Corporate/Non-Profit	\$742,756
Total Other	\$147,476
GRAND TOTAL	\$24,372,640

III. These awards supported a total of **118** research and sponsored programs in FY 2006.

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, 2005 - June 30, 2006

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
Archives	\$9,000
Center for Community and Economic Development	2,389,160
College of Arts and Sciences	2,181,500
College of Business	67,600
College of Education	482,275
Delta Center for Culture and Learning	218,304
Graduate and Continuing Studies	80,000
Greenville Higher Education Center	17,275
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs	184,000
School of Nursing	331,196
Other Programs	362,979
Vice President for Finance	535,440
GRAND TOTAL	\$6,858,729

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
Corporation for National and Community Service	\$2,383,374
Delta Regional Authority	719,440
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	8,000
National Education Association	50,000
National Science Foundation	52,000
U.S.Department of Commerce	103,736
U.S.Department of Health and Human Services	322,396
Total Federal	\$3,638,946
Total State Agencies	\$975,680
Total Private/Foundations/Corporate/Non-Profit	\$2,062,849
Total Other State Governments	\$80,000
Total Other Universities	\$101,254
GRAND TOTAL	\$6,858,729

III. These awards supported a total of **78** research and sponsored programs in FY 2006.

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, 2005 - June 30, 2006

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
College of Business	\$510,016
College of Education and Human Development	446,315
College of Liberal Arts	1,729,589
College of Public Service	3,177,221
College of Science, Engineering and Technology	19,116,521
Division of Graduate Studies	100,000
Division International Studies	8,324,281
Division of Lifelong Learning	957,809
Office of Business & Finance	6,842,518
Office of Economic Development and Local Governmental Affairs	80,000
Office of Research Development and Federal Relations	13,446,071
Office of the President	1,310,359
GRAND TOTAL	\$56,040,700

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
National Aeronautics & Space Administration	\$111,549
National Endowment for the Humanities	14,997
National Institutes of Health	10,035,975
National Science Foundation	5,553,282
National Collegiate Athletic Association	80,000
United Negro College Fund	150,000
U.S. Agency of International Development	5,844,688
U.S. Department of Agriculture	460,405
U.S. Department of Commerce	2,544,942
U.S. Department of Defense	6,264,202
U.S. Department of Energy	2,031,748
U.S. Department of Education	8,048,833
U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency	81,345
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services	3,315,885
U.S. Department of Homeland Security	765,000
U.S. Department of Justice	3,060,407

U.S. Department of Labor	199,200
U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs	1,901,522
U.S. Department of Transportation	1,156,113
Total Federal	\$51,620,093
Total State Agencies	\$3,030,434
Total Private Foundations/Corporations	\$687,856
Foundations and Non-Profit Agencies	\$702,317
GRAND TOTAL	\$56,040,700

III. These awards supported a total of **175** research and sponsored programs in FY 2006.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. Robert H. Foglesong - President

Dr. Colin G. Scanes - 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, 2005 - June 30, 2006

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bagley College of Engineering	\$48,747,746
College of Architecture	173,212
College of Arts and Sciences	4,033,812
College of Business and Industry	391,107
College of Education	18,422,598
College of Forest Resources/FWRC	8,481,545
College of Veterinary Medicine	3,462,089
Division of Academic Outreach and Continuing Education	314,330
General Administration	15,000
MS Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES)/CAL5	27,130,730
MS State University Extension Service (MSU ES)	16,330,238
Office of Graduate Studies	35,000
Other	387,979
University Branch Campuses	146,244
University Centers and Institutes	23,913,942
University Library System	2,000
Vice President for Research	2,374,000
Vice President for Student Affairs	382,661
GRAND TOTAL	\$154,744,232

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	\$10,814,406
National Institutes of Health	3,630,050
National Science Foundation	8,135,570
National Security Agency	432,545
NAVY	48,022
U.S. Department of Agriculture	20,905,498
U.S. Department of Education	4,665,499
U.S. Department of Commerce	6,611,300
U.S. Department of Defense	12,533,766

U.S. Department of Economic Development Administration	174,033
U.S. Department of Energy	23,247,519
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	421,600
U.S. Department Health and Human Services	652,703
U.S. Department of Interior	3,019,590
U.S. Department of Labor	1,461,800
U.S. Department of Transportation	17,000
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	796,668
U.S. Small Business Administration	591,986
Other Federal	1,217,441
Total Federal	\$99,376,996
Total Mississippi State Agencies	\$29,227,427
Total Private/Corporate	\$8,829,436
Total Foundations and Non-Profit Agencies	\$9,083,886
Total Other State Governments	\$197,152
Total Other Universities	\$6,382,769
Total Foreign Governments and Organizations	\$107,448
Total Local Governments	\$1,539,118
GRAND TOTAL	\$154,744,232

III. These awards supported a total of **2,267** research and sponsored programs in FY 2006.

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, 2005 - June 30, 2006

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
College of Business	\$5,000
College of Education and Human Sciences	391,236
College of Nursing and Speech-Language Pathology	273,955
College of Arts and Sciences	1,334,458
Culinary Arts Institute	32,700
Academic Support	4,808,196
Other Units	719,413
GRAND TOTAL*	\$7,564,958

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
U.S. Department of Education	\$1,085,349
U.S. Department of Justice	447,371
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	96,240
Total Federal	\$1,628,960
Total State Agencies	\$5,119,007
Total Private/Foundations/Corporate/Non-Profit	\$412,849
Total Other Universities	\$404,142
GRAND TOTAL*	\$7,564,958

III. These awards supported a total of **37** research and sponsored programs in FY 2006.

NOTE:

* MUW totals include \$4,654,134 funding for the Mississippi School for Math and Science.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. Lester C. Newman - President

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

Mr. Perry L. Herrington - Director of Sponsored Programs and Title III
Phone (662) 254-3434

Period Covered: July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
College of Arts and Sciences	\$917,560
College of Education	3,131,044
Department of Continuing Education	830,000
Public Service	482,013
Title III	3,372,437
University College	1,562,267
GRAND TOTAL	\$10,295,321

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
U.S. Department of Education	\$5,777,771
U.S. Department of Agriculture	1,382,923
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	265,846
U.S. Department of Commerce	28,333
U.S. Department of Transportation	165,960
National Institute of Health	2,500
National Science	856,593
Other Agencies	727,020
Total Federal	\$9,206,946
Total State Agencies	\$846,675
Total Private/Foundations/Corporate/Non-Profit	\$241,700
GRAND TOTAL	\$10,295,321

III. These awards supported a total of **45** research and sponsored programs in FY 2006.

Correction: The number of research and sponsored programs:

FY 2004 - 53

FY 2005 - 51

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, 2005- June 30, 2006

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
A. <u>Oxford Campus</u>	
College of Liberal Arts	\$4,658,579
School of Applied Sciences	547,013
School of Business Administration	944,634
School of Education	2,693,002
School of Engineering	12,183,645
School of Law	3,474,406
School of Pharmacy	15,741,565
Other Units	23,398,725
Total Oxford	\$63,641,569
B. <u>Medical Center</u>	
Academic Affairs	\$11,500
Office of Strategic Research Alliances	4,962,168
School of Dentistry	1,501,553
School of Medicine	30,985,456
School of Nursing	1,045,927
School of Health Related Professions	342,657
Teaching Hospital	404,873
Total Medical Center	\$39,254,134
GRAND TOTAL	\$102,895,703

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
Library of Congress	\$396,000
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	3,079,960
National Endowment for the Arts	10,000
National Science Foundation	1,929,724
U.S. Department of Agriculture	10,395,112
U.S. Department of Commerce	4,426,381
U.S. Department of Defense	5,587,974
U S. Department of Education	3,384,939
U.S. Department of Energy	1,396,053
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	42,336,798
U.S. Department of the Interior	106,403
U.S. Department of Justice	2,170,615
U.S. Department of Transportation	692,440
U.S. Small Business Administration	944,634
Total Federal	\$76,857,033
Total State Agencies	\$11,059,458
Total Foundations and Professional Organizations	\$2,617,881
Total Business and Industry	\$5,569,337
Total Foreign Governments and Organizations	\$3,053,946
Total Other	\$3,738,048
GRAND TOTAL	\$102,895,703

- III. These awards supported a total of **501** research and sponsored programs in FY 2006.
 Oxford Campus - **300**
 Medical Center - **201**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Annual Report on Research and Sponsored Programs

Dr. Shelby F. Thames - President

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

Phone (601) 266-5116

Period Covered: July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

I. <u>Funding Distribution - College/Division</u>	<u>Total</u>
College of Arts and Letters	\$510,586
College of Business	220,409
College of Education and Psychology	4,067,479
College of Health	7,305,332
Division of Student Affairs	1,322,104
Office of the Provost - Gulf Coast Campus	5,026,398
Office of the Provost - Hattiesburg Campus	4,761,468
Office of Research and Economic Development	37,707,182
College of Science and Technology	41,139,646
University Libraries	35,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$102,095,604

II. <u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Total</u>
Federal	
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	\$15,054,634
National Endowment for Humanities/Arts	44,450
National Science Foundation	5,131,504
U.S. Department of Agriculture	2,488,884
U.S. Department of Commerce	34,625,947

U.S. Department of Defense	2,772,766
U.S. Department of Education	5,541,396
U.S. Department of Energy	688,526
U.S. Department of Health and Human Service	11,261,762
U.S. Department of Interior	540,074
U.S. Department of Justice	4,136,869
U.S. Department of Transportation	2,189,253
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	971,660
Other Federal Agencies	6,098,977
Total Federal	\$91,546,702
Total State Agencies	\$3,228,248
Total Private/Foundations/Corporate/Non-Profit	\$7,320,654
GRAND TOTAL	\$102,095,604

III. These awards supported a total of **365** research and sponsored programs in FY 2006

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.