



## **Media Release**

### Office of Public Relations

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **JSU sets new funding record with \$66 million in external awards**

(JACKSON, Miss.) – Jackson State University recently garnered a record \$66.7 million in research and other sponsored program awards for fiscal year 2006-07, topping the previous years' record of \$56 million, officials said. The latest figures also show a 35 percent increase in five years.

The \$66.7 million represents external funding for 184 projects from federal and state agencies, said Felix Okojie, vice president of the Office of Research Development and Federal Relations.

“We are excited about moving the university’s research enterprise forward,” Okojie said of the 19 percent increase over last year’s awards. “Due to this additional funding, our academic community will be able to conduct research activities that contribute more to the quality of life for the state and the nation.”

Jackson State President Ronald Mason Jr. said the research funding boost also illustrates the university’s standing as a “burgeoning research enterprise.”

“All the credit goes to Dr. Felix Okojie, Dr. Velvelyn Foster and the outstanding research faculty and staff at Jackson State,” Mason said.

Some highlighted awards for various university programs include:

- A **\$1.2 million** award for the Education Operations and Workforce Development Initiative. This initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is to develop, design and implement an architecture and prototype for the rapid deployment of technology to address the operational gaps at the Homeland Security Operational units.
- A **\$1 million** award for the Development of Collaborative Multidisciplinary Experimental Computation Approach Design. This National Science Foundation funded project is aimed at using multidisciplinary faculty and researchers at JSU and other collaborating universities. The groups will develop new experimental computational approaches for the design and deployment of novel materials for commercial applications in several industries including biomedical, automobile and aerospace.
- A **\$678,000** award for the Disaster Response Intelligent program. This U.S. Department of Homeland Security funded initiative is aimed at designing, testing, and deploying a disaster response intelligent system to facilitate quicker responses of first responders during a national disaster like the Katrina and Rita hurricane disasters the country recently experienced.

**About Jackson State University**

Jackson State University, founded in 1877, is a historically black, high research activity university located in Jackson, the capital city of the state of Mississippi. Jackson State's nurturing academic environment challenges individuals to change lives through teaching, research and service. Officially designated as Mississippi's Urban University, Jackson State continues to enhance the state, nation and world through comprehensive economic development, health-care, technological and educational initiatives. The only university in the Jackson metropolitan area, Jackson State is located near downtown, with three satellite campuses throughout the city. For more information, visit [www.jsums.edu](http://www.jsums.edu).

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