



## **Media Release Public Relations**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Jackson State University shows significant growth in student enrollment**

(JACKSON, Miss.) — Jackson State University's student enrollment is up 5.4 percent, according to a report released Wednesday, Sept. 12 by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, the school's governing body. Preliminary numbers show that Jackson State's enrollment has increased from 8,256 in fall 2006 to 8,699 in fall 2007.

"This is a good thing," says President Ronald Mason Jr. "Across the board, there is a high level of interest in what we do and how we do it."

Strong student retention and additional graduate students are contributing factors to the enrollment increase, says Willie Brown, vice president for information management.

"We've made a concerted effort to improve retention, particularly through our First Year Experience Program, which assesses the strengths and weaknesses of freshmen and transfer students. We assist them and continue to monitor them," Brown says. "It looks like we are seeing the benefits of that."

Velvelyn Foster, vice president of academic affairs and student life, credits JSU faculty, staff and administrators for with improving academic programs and creating an attractive educational environment.

"The increase attests to the quality of Jackson State's programs and the national recognition the university is gaining in the areas of education, the sciences, engineering and technology. It is also a plus that our engineering programs have recently been notified of accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology."

**-JSU-**

**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).