



Media Release **Public Relations**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sixth annual JSU health disparities conference to tackle ‘cardiobesity’

(JACKSON, Miss.) – Hundreds of researchers, educators, students and concerned area residents are expected to attend a free, three-day Jackson State University conference seeking to eliminate health disparities in Mississippi.

The sixth annual conference, *Eliminating Health Disparities in Mississippi*, is scheduled for **Oct. 10-12** at the Hilton Jackson Convention Center, beginning with a 6 p.m. reception and research poster presentation.

This year’s event focuses on eliminating “cardiobesity,” or the incidence of heart disease and obesity. It is co-sponsored by the JSU Institute of Epidemiology and Health Services Research, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Office of Civil Rights, Region IV.

Mississippi leads the nation in adult obesity rates, according to a recent study from the “Trust for America’s Health.” Mississippi is the first state in the nation to reach an adult obesity rate above 30 percent of its population. As a result, the state also has one of the highest incidences of heart disease in the country.

Dr. Marinelle Payton, JSU assistant dean for research and program development in the College of Public Service and principal investigator for the institute, said the goal of the conference is to continue to create an ongoing dialogue about critical health issues such as heart disease and obesity.

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“We want to get people to become very active, become players and take part in their health care,” Payton said. “We also want this to be a community event, and everyone is invited.”

For more information, call 601-979-1101 or visit <http://www.jsums.edu/~announcements/2007disparities.registration.pdf>

–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.