



Media Release Public Relations

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Contact: Eddie L. Brown, Jr.

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Administration Tower, Second Floor
Post Office Box 17490
Jackson, MS 39217
Fax: (601) 979-5833
Phone: (601) 979-1571
Web: www.jsums.edu
E-mail: riva.brown@jsums.edu

BankPlus names Booker Endowed Chair

(Jackson, Miss.) – BankPlus recently held a reception honoring JSU accounting chair Quinton Booker as the BankPlus Chair of Accounting, made possible by a \$1 million endowment.

Paid to the university over five years, the endowment will allow Booker to take advantage of professional development opportunities, research symposiums, and a salary supplement worthy of his 26 years of professional experience and achievements.

“In order to attract the most qualified faculty members, the university must be competitive,” Booker said. “At larger schools, accounting professors are receiving salaries between \$100,000 to \$135,000 a year. We (JSU) can’t compete on that level, so it means so much to us when private businesses step up to the plate like BankPlus has.”

Though Booker seems to be the immediate beneficiary of the endowment, students majoring in accounting are expected to receive long-term benefits. “The more research I can do and the more I’m able to learn means my students will get that much more education out of their doctoral program,” Booker said.

It is not uncommon for businesses, especially large accounting firms, to fund accounting faculty members. Many businesses see endowed faculty as a means of investing into students who later become qualified job candidates.

“When I arrived at JSU 26 years ago, we were known for our excellent accounting program,” Booker said.

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“We have produced graduates with bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees who have made their marks in the accounting field, and have played a part in raising the national standards in the accounting.”

During the 2006-07 academic year, accounting was ranked as one of JSU’s top five undergraduate programs with 312 students, or 24 percent of all undergraduate majors in the College of Business.

–JSU–

Photo – Dr. Quinton Booker: <http://www.jsums.edu/~announcements/Acctg-Booker.jpg>

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.