



University Communications  
601.979.2272  
jsums.edu

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 29, 2016

Contacts: Olivia Goodheart, director, public relations, 601-979-1483, [olivia.s.goodheart@jsums.edu](mailto:olivia.s.goodheart@jsums.edu)  
Alana Jackson, communications specialist, 601-979-8883. [alana.jackson@jsums.edu](mailto:alana.jackson@jsums.edu)

### Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering Receives Two News Grants at Jackson State University

(JACKSON, Miss.) – Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering received two new grants from the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors to enhance its surveying and hydraulics engineering laboratories. The state-of-the-art equipment obtained through these grants address the urgent needs in civil engineering education at Jackson State University.

Engineering firms are more reluctant to hire graduates without experience or advanced knowledge of state-of-the-art surveying and hydraulics engineering equipment. Recognizing the importance of becoming a licensed professional engineer, civil engineers must demonstrate knowledge of surveying and hydraulics areas both in theory and experiments. Thus, it is crucial that students are exposed to the adequate experiments in the laboratory.

In preparation as future civil engineers, students enrolled in the surveying and fluid mechanics classes will use the newly purchased equipment to validate fundamental surveying and hydraulic theories. New equipment would also boost the students' moral while attracting prospective students to the field of civil engineering.

With the very rapid increase in civil engineering enrollment at Jackson State University, it is anticipated that 30 to 40 students per year will be benefited by the acquisition of the equipment. In approximately 10 years the equipment will impact an anticipated 300 to 400 students. Dr. Himangshu Das, associate professor, and Mr. Bradnado Turnquest, adjunct instructor in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering directs hydraulics and surveying engineering laboratories, respectively. "These grants are important and very helpful since we need to upgrade and enhance our laboratories. It is hoped that the acquisition of these equipment have a long-term positive impact on the civil engineering education in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at JSU," said Dr. Farshad Amini, chair of the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering.

– JSU –

#### **About Jackson State University: Challenging Minds, Changing Lives**

Jackson State University, founded in 1877, is a historically black, high research activity university located in Jackson, the capital city 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, healthcare, technological and educational initiatives. The only public university in metropolitan Jackson, Jackson State is located near downtown, with six satellite locations throughout the area. For more information, visit [www.jsums.edu](http://www.jsums.edu) or call 601-979-2121.