

OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY

Texas Southern University, founded 57 years ago in 1947, is one of the youngest Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the nation; yet it is currently the second largest of them. Over the past four years, the University has experienced double-digit enrollment increases, growing more than 40%, and has been recognized as the fastest growing university in the State of Texas. This explosive growth in enrollment resulted largely from the transformations that occurred in virtually every aspect of the University's operations, both administratively and academically.

Today TSU enrolls nearly 11,000 students, 87% of whom are African American. Undergraduate students account for about 80% of the enrollment; graduate and professional students comprise the other 20%. Located near downtown Houston, the University sits on a 150-acre campus with 45 buildings, and its assets are valued at more than \$300 million.

TSU's mission affords it a uniquely distinctive institutional type. Its open access for entering freshmen provides opportunity to students from diverse educational backgrounds, ranging from those of the academically talented to those of students in need of developmental education. Simultaneously, the University is nationally recognized for its professional schools in law, pharmacy, and business. This range of programs is illustrative of a distinct institutional type that is not duplicated in the State of Texas; thus the University's search for peers is most often limited to college/school level comparisons.

Further, the University serves a large transfer student population. Subsequently, the University awards degrees to these transfer students in large numbers, thus performing a significant service that is not fully recognized and appreciated with respect to the production of baccalaureate degrees earned by minority students in the State of Texas.



The University offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees through its eight academic schools and colleges. They are the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences, the Jessie H. Jones School of Business, the College of Education, the Mickey Leland/Barbara Jordan School of Public Affairs, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, the College of Science and Technology, and the Graduate School.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recognizes Texas Southern as a "Doctoral/Research Intensive University." This designation represents an increased standing as a result of the number of doctoral programs and degrees awarded annually. Over the past three years the University has developed eight new master's and doctoral degrees.

Last fall the University employed 509 faculty members. The full-time equivalent faculty was approximately 400; of that number one-third was tenured, and another 10% was on tenure track. Approximately 75% of the full-time faculty holds terminal degrees. The University has initiated plans to create 12 new chairs of excellence in the near term; to date, 3 are fully funded and ready to be filled.

The University's annual operating budget for fiscal 2003-2004 was \$104 million; state appropriations comprised approximately 49% of the total, whereas the other 51% was generated from tuition and fees and auxiliary enterprises. In the upcoming 2004-2005 fiscal year the projected budget is \$115 million, which represents about an 11% increase over the prior year. Over the past five years, state appropriations as a percent of total budget have declined from nearly 80% to 49%. This trend in reduced state appropriations highlights the importance of increasing gifts, grants, and contracts as supplemental funding streams.

Recently the University physical plant has been transformed by nearly \$200 million in new construction and capital construction projects; a listing of the projects is as follows:



- Construction of a new student health center
- Construction of a new student recreation center
- Construction of 400+ new dormitory beds
- Renovation of the Martin Luther King Building
- Renovation of and addition of a new wing to the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- Renovation of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law
- Renovation of the Sterling Student Life Center
- Construction of a new radio station (in progress)
- Acquisition of additional space for the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in the Texas Medical Center
- Pre-construction work for the new science building (in progress)
- Design work for construction of the new School of Public Affairs building (in progress)
- Completion of contracts for the construction of new parking garages

As a result of the increased enrollment, the University is currently facing capacity issues. Given the University's urban location, it is now landlocked and must seek alternatives for addressing this pressing issue. An example of the effects of this dramatic growth is seen in the statewide classroom utilization report by THECB, where TSU moved from near the bottom ranking of 27th to 10th in average utilization.

Another growth issue is related to parking. Several steps have been taken to address this issue now and in the future. First, the University contracted a parking management company to develop strategies to increase the efficiency of the available spaces while planning construction of two multi-level garages. Secondly, the parking management team had to identify alternative parking spaces to replace the lots that were affected by construction projects. Additionally, a new campus shuttle system was implemented.

