THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM

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Mission Statement

WHAT THE SYSTEM IS
The University of Alabama System consists of three doctoral research universities: The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville. The System is governed by The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama as stipulated by the Alabama Constitution. The purpose of the Board of Trustees is to ensure the effective leadership, management, and control of the institutions of the System in order to provide for a definitive, orderly form of governance, and to secure and maintain responsive, progressive, and superior institutions of higher education. The Board of Trustees created the present multi-campus structure in 1985, and each of the component institutions has a unique mission that is consistent with the broader mission of the System.

HOW THE SYSTEM IS GOVERNED
The Board of Trustees exercises its governance responsibilities through a chancellor, who serves as the chief executive officer of the System. A president heads each campus with responsibility for campus administration and reports directly to the Chancellor and through the Chancellor to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees and the Chancellor delegate certain administrative functions and maintain oversight offices as deemed appropriate to meet the administrative needs of the System. The Chancellor also provides linkage between the System and various components of state and federal governments, as well as other educational groups and organizations.

WHAT THE SYSTEM DOES
The institutions of the University of Alabama System exist to serve all people of Alabama through teaching, research, and service programs. As resources permit, the institutions extend these functions to the nation and beyond through a wide variety of educational programs and services. The institutions of the System assist students in developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to function as responsible and productive citizens in a democracy. They endeavor to improve the quality of life through programs for high-quality research, public service, outreach, cultural enrichment, health care, and economic advancement.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
The Mission of The University of Alabama System is based on these principles:
1. The careful management of resources is achieved through strong and responsive governance. The System maintains an effective and efficient use of resources and a commitment to excellence at all levels of the System.
2. The System recognizes the importance of quality, equity, and excellence as fundamental principles in the design and delivery of education, research, and service programs.
3. The System encourages collaboration with elementary and secondary school, community colleges, and other institutions of higher education to improve the quality of education at all levels of education.
4. The quality of education is regularly assessed to ensure the delivery of high-quality programs, services, and student performance at all levels of education.
5. The System promotes student success and sets high standards for student achievement.
6. The System recognizes the importance of research and creative endeavor as a fundamental component of the mission of the System.
7. The System recognizes its responsibility to foster a climate of excellence, respect, and mutual trust among its students, faculty, staff, and administrators.
8. The System recognizes the importance of providing quality educational opportunities for students and acknowledges its vital role in promoting the economic advancement of Alabama.
9. The System recognizes its mission to serve the citizens of the state through outreach programs and services.
10. The System recognizes the need to serve citizens beyond the boundaries of the state through outreach programs and services.
11. The System is committed to providing high-quality health care through its hospitals and clinics as it engages in research and development.
12. The System recognizes the importance of maintaining a diverse and inclusive environment that values individual differences and promotes excellence in all endeavors.
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Approved by the Board of Trustees on April 16, 2003

The official description of the corporate body, encompassing the three institution organizations and the System administration, is The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama. For the purpose of this mission statement the term System shall be used to refer to the entire corporate body.

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