



MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
2021 ANNUAL REPORT



*In 2021, the university continued to navigate the challenges posed by COVID-19. Campus units worked together to achieve their goals and collectively focused their resources and talents on being responsive to the needs of students and programs. The institution announced its strategic plan, driven by six pillars: **academic excellence; advancement excellence; community connections; degree completion; diversity, equity and inclusion; and financial sustainability.***



STUDENTS

OUR CORE MISSION

3,453
Annual Total Headcount

80%
Female

20%
Male



12:1
Student to Faculty
Ratio



28%
Students Age 25
or Older
(degree seeking only)



36%
African-American
Students



86%
Students From
Mississippi



46%
In Health-related
Studies



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Academics are at the heart of a W education. Our dedicated faculty, respected in their fields, champion a commitment to teaching shaped by their research, scholarship and creative expressions. Partnered with an equally committed staff, they foster a learning environment that is both broad and highly personalized. For The W, academic excellence results in graduates who are equipped for the competitive and diverse global economy.

The School of Education develops innovative solutions designed to strengthen the next generation of educators and to provide lifelong learning opportunities. The W's Beginning Educator Support and Training (W-BEST) is an innovative collaboration between the School of Education and school districts across the state of Mississippi that will provide support to first-year teachers that is strategically aligned to the stages of their development.

The School of Education's partnership with the Columbus Municipal School District (CMSD) will help to transform the former campus of Hunt Intermediate School in Columbus into a blended learning academy at the Hunt Experience Center and will focus on technology-assisted learning and hands-on experiential learning.

The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) promoted academic excellence to The W student body through inclusive initiatives to allow more students to participate in the research process. In 2021, the Undergraduate Research Conference was all virtual, and nine students received a total of \$1,800 in research excellence awards. Thanks to the generous support of the MUW Foundation, the OUR selected the highest number of summer scholars awards to date. Finally, the OUR began recruiting and training faculty members to mentor undergraduate students, including those eligible for federal work-study, so students can earn meaningful research experience while earning wages.



The
W

DATE March 30, 2017

PAY TO THE
 ORDER OF Dalina Rai

AMT. Six thousand nine hundred and forty dollars and ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ \$6,940.00

2020 Fall/Spring Entree MSCW Class of 1969 Scholarship!

ADVANCEMENT EXCELLENCE

A strength of any institution is the level of engagement with those it serves. At The W, that includes a diversity of constituents: students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, the community and elected officials. By cultivating these relationships, we build support critical to the future of The W. One important outcome of valued relationships is the continued generosity of our larger W family, providing resources that allow us to improve quality across all aspects of the institution.



Foundation Assets
of \$63 Million in
FY21



6.9%
Increase in Number
of Donors From FY 2020



A Total of \$1,857,798 Awarded to 724 Students
From 333 Scholarship Funds in FY21



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The W's unique niche is not confined by geographic boundaries. By serving its communities through programs and partnerships, both locally and globally, the university will continue to communicate its value and explore ways to create significant impact through its areas of strength.

The Nancy Yates Community Engagement Program matches students with local nonprofits to support day-to-day operations and capacity building for five weeks in the summer. Last year, 11 community partners in the Golden Triangle worked with 12 W students. Among these were Boys & Girls Club, the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library, the Columbus-Lowndes Humane Society and the Columbus Arts Council.

The Speech and Hearing Center partnered with the ALS Association of Louisiana-Mississippi Chapter to provide communication devices for Mississippians with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Speech-language pathology graduate

students at The W and the regional ALS chapter collaborated to assist individuals who have difficulty communicating due to ALS. The communication devices were accessed either by touch or eye movement. Patients programmed the devices to communicate using individual words and/or preconstructed messages in the individual's voice.

The W was awarded the Governor's Emergency Educational Relief Fund (GEER) to help families during the pandemic that came to the Child and Parent Development Center at no cost to them for three months, saving each family approximately \$1500 per child.



Outreach & Innovation secured funding and began planning for The Phil Hardin Innovative Learning Lab (PHILL). PHILL will be a hub for both modeling and supplying resources for education in our community.



Students, Faculty and Staff of The W Provided
215,575
HOURS of SERVICE

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

The university offers cultural events annually, most without charge, enhancing quality of life in the region.



The Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium, now in its 33rd year, continues to draw emerging writers and regional participation.



The Department of Music hosted the 5th Annual Music by Women Festival, drawing national and international participants.



DEGREE COMPLETION

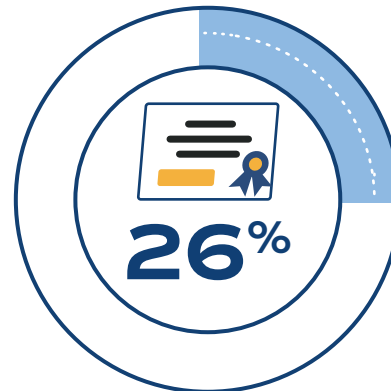
The W recognizes that degree completion requires recruitment, retention and support through graduation and into a career. We aim to provide holistic support for all students throughout their time at the university.

The W Graduates Students at the Rate of **33.5** per 100 Full Time Students.

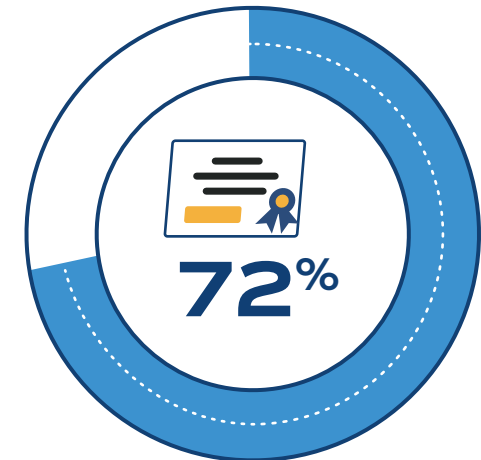
(The System Average is 22.8, Based on 2019-20 Institutional Profile)



991
GRADUATES
in 2021
**RECORD-
BREAKING YEAR**
15% **INCREASE** in
Degrees Since 2016



INCREASE in
Graduate Degrees
Awarded 2016-21



INCREASE in
Undergraduate Degrees
Awarded in the Last
10 Years

Out of 8 Mississippi Public Universities, The W has the Highest Percentage of Graduates Who Stay to Work in the State.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

The W is on a mission to create a welcoming, diverse, equitable and inclusive campus climate for all. As the university strives to reach the highest levels of academic excellence, it is also essential that the university fosters an environment where all members of the campus community can flourish. Diversity recognizes the value of varied perspectives, which helps drive innovative solutions to an ever-changing world.

In February, Mississippi's new state flag was raised on campus. A video program to mark the historical occasion was shared with the campus community, as well as a panel discussion that included students, faculty and staff.

Members of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council, made-up of students, faculty and staff, participated in a two-part diversity retreat and engaged in Deliberate Discussions throughout the year. The Council hosted the interactive public art project known as

UNITY for the second year and partnered with the Common Read Initiative Committee to show "Just Mercy" on Pohl Gym lawn.

Fourteen first-generation students participated in the virtual 2021 Circle of Change First Generation Students Career Leadership Experience. The two-day conference provided students with the professional and leadership skills for success after graduation.



The W was awarded a \$50,000 grant from The Ascend Fund to recruit more women for state political positions. The Ascend Fund is an initiative of Panorama Global dedicated to accelerating the pace of change toward gender parity in U.S. politics.



Campus hosted Chief Melissa D. Bridges, superintendent, 14th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron, Columbus Air Force Base, who spoke about her perspective on Veterans Day.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

A financial model supports the efforts and goals of academics, student services and the campus as a whole. The W's mission-driven approach involves clear strategic planning and actions that ensure the ongoing financial health of the university.



Construction has begun on the new Culinary Arts building. The 51,275 gross square foot structure is estimated to cost more than \$15 million and is estimated to be completed in April 2023.



The W has moved to a more automated and efficient environment through software implementations:

- Degree Works – Advising/ Auditing
- Cashnet - Accounting
- OnBase – Financial Aid/ Registrar
- Slate – Admissions
- Infrastructure upgrades
- MissiON circuit
- Internet2
- SAN
- Virtual Host Servers
- VMWare
- Backups
- Wireless network
- Firewall
- VPN
- Gateway Mission switches
- PC Replacement Plan
- RFP – Switch Upgrade
- Multi-Factor Authentication
- Redundant MissiON circuit



ATHLETICS

Once the athletics program is approved for full membership in the NCAA Division III this will afford Owl student-athletes the opportunity to compete for conference championships and honors.

Under the guidance of Jennifer Claybrook – who took the reins as the director of athletics for The W in July – the 17-sport Owls Athletics program is streamlining and sharpening its focus on those things necessary to becoming a top-flight NCAA III institution.

Of special note is Owls Athletics involvement in community and campus outreach, a hallmark of NCAA III programs. “Giving back” has been demonstrated by The W Athletics with more than 1,000 service hours amassed through December, alone. Owls teams have been involved with such functions as Columbus’ Market Street Festival, the campus Oktoberfest, Walk for Diabetes-Columbus, New Hope Elementary School, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Thanksgiving canned food drive to benefit United Way/Helping Hands and the MUW Food Pantry, breast cancer awareness activities and youth outreach opportunities, to name a few.

Whether on the fields of competition – or in the classroom – The

W has set a standard of excellence. Through the fall of 2021, student-athletes earned 10 All-America honors from the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA). Three Owls – Brady Scola (men’s golf), Layla Wilson (women’s soccer) and Jacob Vickers (men’s soccer) – earned accolades as the USCAA’s national Student-Athlete of the Year for their respective sports. Additionally, freshman women’s golfer Olivia Derbyshire won medalist honors at the USCAA championships (the second-consecutive year an Owl has finished first on the links).

Academically, The W has seen 32 of its fall sport student-athletes named to USCAA All-Academic Teams. No less than 138 Owls were named to the Owls Athletic Director’s Honor Roll for the fall, after attaining a term grade-point average of 3.00 or above: 48 of whom had a perfect term GPA of 4.00 and an additional 40 Owls with a GPA between 3.50-3.99. Eight teams from The W had term grade-point averages of 3.00 or better, topped by volleyball’s 3.84 team GPA.



UNIVERSITY HONORS



#15 Best Value Schools

#80 overall as a Best Bang for the Buck Universities (South)

Washington

MONTHLY



For the ninth year in a row, Mississippi University for Women has been named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to a survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

The W has earned the 2021-2022 Military Friendly® School designation.



Intelligent.com

The W's MFA in Creative Writing was ranked #1 online Master's program in creative writing in the country.

Best Online RN to BSN Programs #15 in the nation.



Mississippi University
for Women

FOUNDED 1884 COEDUCATIONAL SINCE 1982

muw.edu