

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, founded in 1877 as a small college to train ministers and teachers, Jackson State opened its doors to 20 students—evolving from a small campus, it became state supported in 1940 and gained university status in 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, now, with more than 7, 000 students from nearly every Mississippi county and more than 50 foreign countries, JSU provides opportunities to develop a competitive knowledge base with cutting-edge technology and meaningful research opportunities, while emphasizing public service programs that will empower students to compete and succeed in an increasingly complex world; and

**WHEREAS**, Jackson State University's faculty numbers more than 400 talented educators of diverse backgrounds with 70% holding a doctorate or terminal degree in their disciplines—teaching and research professionals are drawn to JSU from prestigious institutions around the world and appreciate the holistic campus experience of programs of the larger institutions while enjoying the intimacy of the smaller ones; and

**WHEREAS**, ranked nationally among all institutions of higher learning as a top producer of African Americans earning baccalaureate degrees, Jackson State touts its banner rankings through diverse course and degree program offerings, distance learning, adult and continuing education and small business development; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a recent edition of *Black Issues in Higher Education*, Jackson State also ranks fifth among all historically black colleges and universities in the production of African American Ph.D.'s in all disciplines combined; and

**WHEREAS**, poised on the advent of its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, Jackson State University continues to position itself among the premiere institutions of higher learning in the nation:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim September 27, 2002, in honor of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERISTY**

and its countless accomplishments over the years.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, September 25, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR