

Dr. Hank M. Bounds

Whether leading a classroom of 30, a school of 1,000, a district of 7,500, a K-12 system of 500,000 or a university system of 80,000, Dr. Hank M. Bounds has demonstrated visionary leadership that is student-focused and facilitates the dynamic teaching and learning necessary for students and faculty to succeed.

As Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Bounds provides leadership for the state's university system, which includes four research and four regional universities, one academic health science center and the executive office. The universities include two land-grant universities, three historically black institutions, a law center, a School of Veterinary Medicine and 200 Institutes and Centers.

He manages the human, financial and physical resources of the university system, including:

- 80,000 students
- 26,000 faculty and staff
- \$4 billion budget
- 1,600 buildings with 33 million square feet
- \$600 million in research and development
- \$200 million in private giving

Understanding the need to manage resources effectively to maintain accessibility, he worked with the presidents to develop multi-year business plans to maximize resources while addressing needs of students and fulfilling each university's unique mission. He has led progressive efforts to reduce costs through energy and space efficiencies, technology acquisition, course redesign and textbook pricing.

Dr. Bounds worked with the Board of Trustees to implement a performance-based allocation model that distributes funds equitably and rewards universities for operating efficiently and achieving attainment outcomes. The new model replaced one that had been in place for more than 15 years.

Dr. Bounds advocated for higher education with the legislative leadership to provide greater opportunities for students. In addition to approving an increase in appropriations, the Legislature has provided a three-year bond bill to help the universities plan for capital improvements. Following Hurricane Katrina and the BP Oil Spill, he was able to build and leverage alliances with local, state and federal leaders to secure the resources to aid in the recovery efforts.

Dr. Bounds has been instrumental in working with the Education Achievement Council to build momentum and integrate strategic plans to increase educational attainment in Mississippi. The Council brings together legislative leaders, business leaders and educational leaders from all levels and both

public and private institutions. The Mississippi Association of Partners in Education recognized his work to strengthen Mississippi's public education system at all levels and build bipartisan support for education initiatives with the Winter-Reed Partnership Award.

In 2011, Bounds was tapped by the business community to chair Blueprint Mississippi 2011, a major statewide initiative to bring together diverse perspectives and create an action strategy for putting Mississippi in the place of greatest opportunity. The collaborative effort was funded by the private sector in cooperation with the Mississippi Economic Council, Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development and Momentum Mississippi.

Recognizing that diversity enriches higher education and enables our students to thrive in a multicultural world, Dr. Bounds and the Board asked each university to define underrepresented groups for its campus, set goals for increasing participation of the underrepresented group in the student body, the faculty and staff and vendors and set a goal to enhance content and programming that enhances multicultural understanding and inclusivity.

He has facilitated the launch of the Mississippi Higher Education Opportunity Endowment, which works to with diverse constituencies to secure funds to enhance program offerings, support faculty, improve campus facilities and provide scholarships at Mississippi's three historically black universities.

Dr. Bounds secured \$20 million in funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to design the Center for Education Innovation. At its founding, he served as chair of the Center, which focuses on improving learning opportunities for children and works as an agent for sustainable change in communities where poverty, low educational attainment and a lack of infrastructure intersect.

Dr. Bounds served as State Superintendent of Education from 2005 to 2009. During this time, he spearheaded an effort to design a more rigorous state curriculum and assessment system and worked with state leaders to pass the Children First Act, legislation that was crucial to the turnaround of Mississippi's underperforming schools.

Before being named the State Superintendent in August 2005, Dr. Bounds served as superintendent of the Pascagoula School District. He grew up in rural South Mississippi before attending the University of Southern Mississippi, where he earned both a bachelor's and master's degree. He earned a doctorate from the University of Mississippi. Dr. Bounds and his wife, Susie, are the parents of a son, Will, and a daughter, Caroline.