

**TROY UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT
TO THE ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
(STATE PLAN FOR ALABAMA HIGHER EDUCATION)**

Introduction

Troy University, founded in 1887 as a teacher-training institution, has transformed itself into a worldwide university of almost 31,000 students. Troy University operates four campuses in Alabama in Troy, Dothan, Montgomery and Phenix City. Through its Global Campus division, the University operates more than 60 teaching sites outside of Alabama in 15 U.S. states, 11 nations outside the United States, and one U.S. territory.

Troy University's institutional strategic plan for growth and progress, approved by the University's Board of Trustees, is linked closely to the goals in the Alabama Commission on Higher Education State Plan. This report will provide an outline, with specific examples, that shows how the University is adhering to the goals in the ACHE State Plan.

University Mission Statement

Troy University is a public institution comprised of a network of campuses throughout Alabama and worldwide. International in scope, Troy University provides a variety of educational programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels for a diverse student body in traditional, nontraditional and emerging electronic formats. Academic programs are supported by a variety of student services which promote the welfare of the individual student. Troy University's dedicated faculty and staff promote discovery and exploration of knowledge and its application to life-long success through effective teaching, service, creative partnerships, scholarship and research.

Goal 1 – Access: Elevate the educational attainment of all citizens.

Troy University continues to maintain its leadership role in providing access to affordable, quality education for Alabama's citizens. The combination of the residential campus in the Troy community, the campuses devoted to evening and weekend programs in Dothan, Phenix City, and Montgomery, classroom offerings on the Maxwell Air Force Base and at Fort Rucker, and the availability of online academic programs, all contribute to elevating the educational attainment of citizens throughout the state.

Troy University's academic programs serve a wide variety of students and are particularly responsive to the needs of under-served students within Alabama. The university provides academic programs to more adult students in Alabama than any other four-year institution in the state. Troy University graduates more African-American students than any other institution in the state. Troy University is proud to provide academic programs to more Alabama students serving in the military than any other institution in the state. Troy University also continues to be a leader in providing access to education for our veterans, as well.

Alabama's citizens who live in rural communities are often able to obtain a two-year degree from one of the state's community colleges and enter into the workforce in their community. However, their ability to complete a four-year degree is hampered by their need to stay in their local community, often working to support a family. In 2008, Troy University launched its E-connection 3+4 program by partnering with community colleges to reach out to community college graduates in rural communities to enable these working adults to complete their four-year degrees through online academic programs offered by Troy University.

Troy University also received approval from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to go forward with two important academic programs that will improve access to special programs that are important to our citizens. The Doctor in Nursing Program will enable nurses in southeast Alabama to pursue an advanced degree that the leaders of the region's hospitals and clinics have requested. The Bachelor of Science in Deaf Interpreter Training will improve access to education and social services for members of Alabama's deaf community.

Goal 2 – Cooperation: Offer relevant educational programs that address economic, intellectual, and social programs by partnering with business, government, K-12, and private sector entities.

Troy University partners with a variety of business, government, K-12, and private sector entities to offer educational programs germane to Alabama's economic, intellectual, and social needs.

As part of the Governor's Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators, and Students Statewide (ACCESS) program, Troy University provides the state's largest ACCESS service center that reaches more than 5,000 high school students in the 45 schools systems in a 27 county service area in south Alabama. During the summer of 2008, over 2,000 of the state's 3,300 summer school ACCESS students were served by the TROY support center.

In 2007 – 2008, Troy University implemented the Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) program in an 11 county service area in southeast Alabama. The university also directs the Alabama Science in Motion program, which is the AMSTI component for grades nine through 12.

The university continues to support the Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium that serves K-12 teachers in 15 school systems statewide. Consortium teachers are provided with supplies, materials, equipment, and technology to promote classroom learning and student achievement at no cost to their school system.

Troy University partners with state economic development programs and provides free office space for the state of Alabama to use for economic development purposes at the university's international locations.

The University's Center for International Business and Economic Development is partnering with area industries to provide specialized training. Last spring, for example, the center provided workforce training to front-line managers at Hyundai supplier SMART Alabama in Luverne, Ala. Staff members at the Center, along with the University's Small Business Development Center, helped prepare managers for human resources issues that may arise in the workplace.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided \$880,000 to Troy University for a three-year Nursing Workforce Diversity program to increase the number of students graduating with nursing degrees in southeast Alabama.

The university partnered with Hyundai Motor Manufacturing of Alabama in late 2007 to complete an outdoor exhibit at the Rosa Parks Library and Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.

Troy University, the Alabama Department of Archives, the Alabama Humanity Foundation, and Alabama State University partnered together to sponsor a symposium on the literary impact of World War I called "Alabama and the Great War."

The University's Office of Information Technology has received a \$463,000 federal grant to enhance a computer forensics lab to aid state and local law enforcement agencies. The grant from the U.S. Department of Justice will help TROY's information technology team address the problem of expanded use of technology in criminal activities. The main goals of the program are to help state and local law enforcement personnel develop adequate skills for the handling of electronic devices, promote awareness of computer crime and provide research and lab services for electronic evidence analysis.

In a partnership with the Alabama Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Alabama Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation, the Alabama Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the Alabama Department of Education, and the Montgomery Center for Independent Living, Troy University sponsored the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum on the Troy campus during the summer of 2008. The Forum included an opportunity for Forum delegates to travel to Montgomery to meet with Legislative leaders in the Alabama State House, tour the State Capitol, and meet with Gov. Bob Riley.

Goal 3 – Quality: Strengthen instructional programs, evaluate and assess their effectiveness, and use the results to improve quality.

Troy University is committed to being an innovative leader in providing accountability for the effectiveness of its programs and in continuous quality improvement.

In 2008, Troy University became one of the first “early adopters” of the national Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) developed through a partnership between the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). The VSA is designed to demonstrate accountability and stewardship to the public, measure educational outcomes to identify effective educational practices, and to provide performance information that is accessible, understandable, and comparable. Troy University was able to qualify for the VSA program based on the programs already in place to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of instructional programs through the extensive use of Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP) exam, the use of Major Field Tests to assess student learning outcomes at the programmatic level, and the use of feedback from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

Through the use of MAPP results, Major Field Tests, and NSSE results, Troy University is able to compare the academic performance of students on its traditional residential campus with the performance of adult students on its other Alabama campuses, and with the performance of students who take their degree programs entirely online. The university is using these data to identify opportunities for improvement in academic programs.

Troy University also became one of the first institutions of higher education in the state to use the Alabama Quality Award (AQA), sponsored by the Alabama Productivity Center, as a yardstick for measuring institutional performance and for identifying opportunities for improvement. The Alabama Quality Award process is propelling the institution toward increasing the use of comparative data to analyze its activities. The AQA is the state’s premier program for involving organizations in the continuous improvement of their work processes.

The university is piloting a common book reading experience on the Troy campus in the fall of 2007 and 2008 that will be expanded to all campuses in the fall of 2009. This will create a culture of reading across the Troy University campuses and serve as a common starting point for the first-year student academic experience at TROY.

A major commitment was made in 2007 – 2008 to upgrade facilities to support the writing center and the science center on the Troy campus, along with the construction of a new building for the College of Education, which will be one of the largest classroom buildings in Alabama devoted exclusively to the preparation of teachers.

Goal 4 – Resources: Strive for a sustained level of funding that will allow citizens to reach educational objectives, attain cultural and social goals, and position Alabama to compete economically in the region.

When it comes to funding, Troy University is determined to be the master of its own destiny. In 2008, the university continued to grow its program offerings outside of Alabama that bring badly needed funds into the state. New teaching locations were authorized by SACS for several disciplines.

Troy University is in the quiet phase of its “Building Beyond Boundaries” initiative that will raise funds for capital improvement projects on each Alabama campus, fund new scholarship programs, and develop new academic programs. In addition, Troy University has established a planned giving council and policies and procedures for a planned giving program and has formed the Troy Shield Society, a planned gift recognition society.

Troy University’s Office of Sponsored Programs worked with faculty and staff members to secure more than \$20 million in external funding in 2007-2008. Since 1991, the University has secured more than \$121 million external funding. The Office of Sponsored Programs has pursued an active “in-source initiative” that encourages Alabama agencies to look toward their colleagues in higher education when seeking contracted expertise.

In 2008, the University restructured its tuition schedule by converting to a straight per-credit hour system. Under the old system, students paid a flat fee for 12 to 15 academic hours, in effect getting three “free” hours.

Goal 5—Workforce Development: Enhance economic prosperity by involving all segments of public education in Alabama’s economic future.

Through the creation of a Center for International Business and Economic Development, TROY is maintaining economic development professionals on its Alabama campuses to aid communities who are seeking to be engaged in the global economy.

Troy University worldwide awarded 3,100 master’s degrees during the 2006-2007 academic year. TROY is looking to expand to its status as the largest provider of master’s degrees in Alabama and enhance workforce development at the same time by seeking additional distance-learning degree options in line with market-driven needs.

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