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**Albany State**

Albany State University, an historically black institution in Southwest Georgia, has been a catalyst for change in the region from its inception as the Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute to its designation as a university. Founded in 1903 to ed- ucate African American youths, the University proudly continues to fulfill its historic mission while also serving the educa- tional needs of an increasingly diverse student population.

A progressive institution, Albany State University seeks to foster the growth and development of the region, state and nation through teaching, research, creative expression and public service. Through its collaborative efforts, the University responds to the needs of all its constituents and offers educational programs and service to improve the quality of life in Southwest Geor- gia.

The primary mission of Albany State University is to educate students to become outstanding contributors to society. Offering Bachelor’s, Master’s and Education Specialist degrees and a variety of non-degree educational programs, the University em- phasizes the liberal arts as the foundation for all learning by exposing students to the humanities, fine arts, social sciences and the sciences. Global learning is fostered through a broad-based curriculum, diverse University activities and the expanding use of technology.

A leader in teacher education, nursing, criminal justice, business, public administration and the sciences, Albany State provides a comprehensive educational experience with quality instruction as the hallmark of all its academic programs. The University embraces the concept of “students first” as a core institutional value and is committed to “education on a personal level.” The University advocates the total development of students, especially the under served, and provides a wholesome academic en- vironment in which students can study, learn and develop through their interaction with fellow students, faculty, staff, admin- istrators, visiting scholars and community leaders. Consistent with the core mission of the University System of Georgia, Albany State University exhibits the following characteristics:

• A supportive campus climate, necessary services, and leadership and development opportunities, all to educate the whole person and meet the needs of students, faculty and staff;

• Cultural, ethnic, racial, and gender diversity in the faculty, staff and student body, supported by practices and programs that embody the ideals of an open, democratic and global society;

• Technology to advance educational purposes, including instructional technology, student support services and distance education;

• Collaborative relationships with other system Institutions, state agencies, local schools and technical institutes, and business and industry, sharing physical, human, information, and other resources to expand and enhance programs and services to the citizens of Georgia.

With other state universities in the University System of Georgia, Albany State University shares:

• A commitment to excellence and responsiveness within a scope of influence defined by the needs of an area of the state, and by particularly outstanding programs or distinctive characteristics that have a magnet effect throughout the region or state;

• A commitment to a teaching/learning environment, both inside and outside the classroom, that sustains instructional excellence, serves a diverse and college-prepared student body, promotes high levels of student achievement, offers academic assistance, and provides developmental studies programs for a limited student cohort;

• A high quality general education program supporting a variety of disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and professional academic programming at the baccalaureate level, with selected Master’s and Education Specialist degrees, and selected Associate degree programs based on area need and/or inter-institutional collaborations;

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• A commitment to public service, continuing education, technical assistance, and economic development activities that address the needs, improve the quality of life, and raise the educational level within the University’s scope of influence;

• A commitment to scholarly and creative work to enhance instructional effectiveness and to encourage faculty scholarly pursuits, and a commitment to applied research in selected areas of institutional strength and area need. While Albany State University shares much in common with other state universities, it is dedicated to preparing leaders for under served populations and is committed to the following distinctive purposes:

• Providing quality educational experiences for under served populations in the region, state and nation;

• Promoting and preserving the historical and culturally distinctive traditions which define African American culture;

• Offering of a comprehensive array of programs in health care services, community development, human disabilities, cultural enhancement, business and economic development, international trade and entrepreneurship;

• Graduating marketable students not only through technologically advanced academic programs but also through undergraduate research, studies abroad, internships, service learning and developmental pre-professional experiences;

• Improving the quality of life of African-American males via the educational, research, intervention and service programs coordinated through the Center for the African-American Male.

HISTORY

Albany State University, established originally as the Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute and supported by private and religious organizations, was founded in 1903 by Joseph Winthrop Holley. The Institute provided religious and manual training for African American youths of Southwest Georgia. The mission was to train teachers to teach basic academic skills and to train in the trades and industries, with special emphasis on domestic science and art. The Institute remained a privately supported Institution until 1917.

In 1917, the Institute became a state-supported, two-year college with a Board of Trustees, and its name was changed to Georgia Normal and Agricultural College. Offering only a limited program in agriculture, the College viewed as its primary purpose the training of elementary teachers. In 1932, the Board of Regents was established, and the college became a part of the newly established University System of Georgia.

In order to meet the changing needs of society, the mission of the College was expanded in 1943, and the College was granted four-year status and authorized to confer the bachelor’s degree in elementary education and home economics. At this time, the College assumed the name Albany State College. Six years later, the program of the College was again expanded to include offerings in the arts and sciences, with majors in the humanities and social studies.

Beginning in 1954, secondary-level programs were developed for teacher preparation in science, health and physical education, business, music, mathematics and natural sciences. The College continued to experience growth and development and was authorized in 1961 to offer a four-year degree program in nursing.

Always striving to address the educational needs of the time, the graduate program, a cooperative effort with Georgia State University, was added to the curriculum during the fall of 1972. Under this program, master’s degrees were offered in business education, mathematics education, elementary education, English education, health and physical education, music education and science education (biology, chemistry and physics). In the spring of 1975, a master’s degree in business administration, through Valdosta State College, was added to the graduate program.

During the decade of the ’70s, the number of faculty earning the doctorate degree increased by more than fifty percent, and in September 1981, the College began offering a graduate program designed and delivered solely by faculty and staff of Albany State College. Master’s degrees in business administration and education were offered. Since then criminal justice, nursing and public administration have been added.

Albany State College was granted university status in July 1996, and the name of the Institution was changed to Albany State University. Dur- ing this impressive growth and development, the University has been guided by the following presidents:

**Joseph Winthrop Holley, D.D., LL.D.**

(1903-1943)

**Aaron Brown, Ph.D., LL.D., Ed.D.**

(1943-1953) **William H. Dennis, LL.D.** (1953-1965)

**Thomas Miller Jenkins, J.D., LL.D.**

(1965-1969)

**Charles L. Hayes, Ed.D.**

(1969-1980)

**Billy C. Black, Ph.D.**

(1980-1996)

**Portia Holmes Shields, Ph.D.**

(1996-2005)

**Everette J. Freeman, Ed.D., M.A., B.A.,**

(2005 – Present)

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**ACCREDITATION**

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Albany State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award Bachelor’s, Master’s and Ed- ucation Specialist degrees. Albany State University is also accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Ed- ucation, the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, the National League for Nursing, the Georgia Board of Nursing, and Council on Social Work Education. Individual colleges and departments also hold memberships in the regional and national professional organizations associated with the respective dis- cipline.

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**UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDIES**

The ASU Undergraduate Curriculum includes studies in various disciplines through the college of Arts and Humanities, the College of Business, the College of Education and the College of Science & Health. The University offers graduate studies lead- ing to the Master of Education degree (M.Ed.), Master of Business Administration degree (M.B.A.), the Masters of Science in Criminal Justice degree (M.S.), the Master of Public Administration degree (M.P.A.), the Master of Science degree in Nursing (M.S.N.) and the Specialist degree in Educational Administration (Ed.S.).

**THE JAMES PENDERGRAST MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

The James Pendergrast Memorial Library is a modern, 73,000 square foot facility, which opened in 1994, and seats more than

900. The library is the largest facility of its kind in Southwest Georgia. It features study areas, a large lecture room, GSAMS Room, and ASU’s state-of-the-art Academic Student Technology Lab. The Educational Technology Training Center and the Curriculum Resource Center are both housed in the Library. The six million dollar building houses more than 200,000 volumes and subscriptions to 600 periodicals. The library maintains an extensive microfiche collection, including the Full ERIC DOC- UMENT collection on microfiche. CD-room terminals give users access to Ethnic Newswatch, and other titles. The library has an automated library system called Endeavor/Voyager which includes cataloging, circulation, serials, acquisitions and a public catalog. Special collections include Black Literature, French Literature, Recordings and books written by Dr. Joseph Winthrop Holley, founder of the University.

The James Pendergrast Memorial Library aids Albany State University in support of the academic programs of the University. It supports the achievement of the goals as stated in the mission of the University through providing information resources, in- structional materials, and access to research. It aids Albany State University in serving a regional role in southwest Georgia in the area of library resources. The Library’s on-line public catalog (GIL/Galileo Interconnected Libraries) is available from re- mote access to all who have internet connections. The location is gil.asurams.edu. GIL also offers remote access to other libraries in the University System of Georgia.

**THE ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

The Alumni Association of Albany State University is a composite group of graduates and former students as well as friends of the University who are associate members. The organization exists to support and promote the interests of the University. The Alumni Association is organized on a local, state, regional and national basis. It has a resident office and a full-time Director of Alumni Affairs/Executive Secretary who

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