

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THE HONORABLE Robert J. Bentley
Governor of Alabama, President, ex Officio

Name	District
VIVIAN DAVIS FIGURES	First
GALE SAXON MAIN	Second
GREG BROWN	Third
WILLIAM RONALD SMITH	Third
CLARENCE W. DAUGETTE, III	Fourth
RANDALL EARLIE JONES	Fifth
JIM BENNETT	Sixth
THOMAS W. DEDRICK, SR.	Seventh
RANDY OWEN	In-State At Large
TONY LAMAR INGRAM	Out-of-State At Large

HISTORY OF JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

From modest beginnings, Jacksonville State University has evolved into the educational center of Northeast Alabama. The Alabama Legislature in the 1882-83 session created a state normal school when Governor Edward O'Neal signed into law a bill creating the school on February 22, 1883. Jacksonville State Normal School acquired the facilities and equipment of Calhoun College, consisting of twelve acres of land and a two-story brick building. The Board of Directors elected James G. Ryals, Jr., as the first president. The school opened with three instructors: W. J. Borden, Mathematics; Eliza A. Bowen, English; and Ida J. Woodward, primary department. As stipulated in the establishing act, the Normal School conducted a preparatory school for children of the town and surrounding areas. At the end of the first year, on August 15, 1884, William Mark Haymes, President of the Board of Directors, reported that funds totaling \$4,751.25 had been received, including \$2,500 from the state, that 25 students were enrolled in the normal school, and that 222 were in the preparatory school.

The Normal School remained in operation until 1930 when it became Jacksonville State Teachers College, reflecting an increasing higher education role for the Institution. Five years later, the College earned regional accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In 1957, the name changed again, to Jacksonville State College, when the first graduate program – the master's degree in elementary education was created. On August 2, 1966, the Legislature authorized the State Board of Education to elevate the College to University status. On August 17, 1967, the Legislature established an independent Board of Trustees for the University and divested jurisdiction from the State Board of Education.

Jacksonville State University has been served by eleven presidents: James G. Ryals, Jr. (1883-1885), J. Harris Chappell (1885-1886), Carlton Bartlett Gibson (1886-1892), J. B. Jarrett (1892-1893), Jacob Forney IV (1893-1899), Clarence William Daugette (1899-1942), Houston Cole (1942-1971), Ernest Stone (1971-1981) Theron E. Montgomery (1981-1986), Harold J. McGee (1986-1999), William A. Meehan (1999-2015), and John M. Beehler (2015-present).

Jacksonville State University has developed into a modern comprehensive regional university serving Northeast Alabama on a 459-acre campus with 58 buildings. In addition, the University operates off-campus centers at JSU-Gadsden and JSU-McClellan. Through its programs of teaching, research, and service, Jacksonville State University has served the region and state for more than 133 years.