

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY HISTORY

William Carey University had its earliest origins in Poplarville, Mississippi, when the noted educator W. I. Thames opened Pearl River Boarding School in 1892. A disastrous fire destroyed the school in 1905. Professor Thames moved to Hattiesburg where he opened South Mississippi College in 1906. South Mississippi College, under the leadership of Professor Thames as its president, quickly gained a reputation for having a strong faculty, especially in art, music, history, and home economics. After a fire destroyed the immense administration building, including classrooms, library, and a 1500-seat auditorium, the young institution was forced to close.

In 1911 W. S. F. Tatum, wealthy lumberman and Methodist layman, acquired the property and offered it as a gift to the Baptists. He set two conditions: successful operation of a Christian school for girls for five years and an enrollment of at least 100 students the first year. In September, 1911 the school opened with a new name, Mississippi Woman's College, under the leadership of President W. W. Rivers. In November, 1911 the debt-free college was offered to the Mississippi Baptist Convention and was accepted.

The growth of Mississippi Woman's College was a source of pride for Mississippi Baptists. Under the leadership of President J. L. Johnson, Jr. from 1912 to 1932, a splendid new administration building was completed in 1914 and named Tatum Court in honor of the college's major benefactor. New brick dormitories were added (Ross and Johnson Halls) as well as an infirmary and a model home, which was used as a laboratory for domestic science classes. During this period, the campus expanded to 40 acres.

An early objective of Mississippi Woman's College was to train intelligent, concerned citizens who could establish Christian homes. By 1925 college stationery boldly proclaimed on its letterhead, "Mississippi Woman's College: The School with a Mission." The student body dedicated itself to the mission of the college. Such dedication accounts for Mississippi Woman's College becoming known by the late 1920s as one of the South's outstanding Christian colleges for women. Continued growth and an emphasis on missions characterized the presidency of Dr. W. E. Holcomb from 1932 to 1940.

When the exigencies of the depression era forced the college to close in 1940, its facilities were used as housing for army officers from Camp Shelby. In 1946 Mississippi Woman's College underwent major renovations and reopened. Dr. I. E. Rouse was elected president in 1946 and served until 1956. In 1953 the Mississippi Baptist Convention voted to move the college into coeducational status after more than four decades of serving as a female institution. This vote necessitated a new name for the institution. In 1954 the board of trustees selected the name of William Carey College in honor of the eighteenth century English cobbler-linguist whose decades of missionary activity in India earned him international recognition as the "Father of Modern Missions."

Under the leadership of Dr. J. Ralph Noonkester as president, William Carey College enjoyed significant growth. In 14 years, a total of 14 new buildings rose on the Hattiesburg campus. The college attracted national attention with baseball, basketball, and tennis teams, the traveling chorale, the theatre performance groups, scientific honor societies, student mission efforts, a large number of mission volunteers, and a high percentage of acceptances to medical school. Dr. Noonkester served as president from 1956 to 1989.

In 1968 William Carey entered a new era when it announced a merger with the prestigious Mather School of Nursing in New Orleans. Another dimension opened for the institution in 1976 with the purchase of the Gulf Coast Military Academy campus in Gulfport. Known as William Carey College on the Coast, the 20-acre beachfront property was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Thirty acres were purchased in the Tradition Planned Community, and William Carey University–Tradition Campus opened in 2009.

In June 1989 Dr. James W. Edwards was elected as the seventh president and served until 1997. Under his leadership, enrollment in church-related vocations increased, the art program at Carey on the Coast was upgraded, the college debt was restructured, and a trimester system was inaugurated. The Lucile Parker Gallery was opened on the Hattiesburg campus, and the Sarah Gillespie Art Gallery was upgraded. A campus beautification project was inaugurated.

Dr. Larry W. Kennedy served as president from 1998 to 2006. Many physical improvements were made to existing facilities. New construction on the Hattiesburg campus included the nursing building, Fail-Asbury Hall; the education classroom building, Lorena Roseberry Smith Hall; Donnell Hall, which houses the Center for the Life and Work of William Carey; soccer fields; and an intramural field. The college's \$7.5 million debt was paid off ahead of schedule. In 2005 all three campuses were affected by Hurricane Katrina, with the Coast campus being completely destroyed. In 2006 the status of the institution was changed from college to university to honor its growth and enhance its potential in an increasingly global environment, thus the name was officially changed to William Carey University.

In February 2007, Dr. Tommy King was named the ninth president of the university, the first alumnus to serve in this position. Under his leadership, the university completed the Larry Kennedy Sports Complex, the Milton Wheeler Baseball Field, the Joseph and Nancy Fail Softball Field, and Byrd and Braswell residence halls. In 2008 was expanded. In 2009 the Coast campus was relocated to the newly built Tradition campus, Smith/Rouse Library was expanded, and the Sarah Ellen Gillespie Museum of Art was dedicated. In 2010 the Joe and Virginia Tatum Theatre and the first buildings of the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) were completed. In 2011 the Asbury Administrative Center, the third building in the medical school complex, was completed. Also, the former facilities building was renovated to become the Old Cobbler Shop, Hackelton, Student Center. In 2012 McMillan Hall underwent major renovations and an

expansion that doubled its size. In 2013 the 92-bed Davis Hall was completed, bringing residential occupancy up to 750 beds. In 2014 the Randy and Brenda Ross Anatomy Wing of the COM, the Bass Memorial Chapel, the Warren prayer garden, and the new School of Business Building were completed.

Dr. King led the university to establish new academic programs and to add new athletic teams. In 2008 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools raised the institution to Level V status, which permits the granting of doctoral degrees. A Master of Biomedical Science degree was added in 2009. In 2010 the inaugural class of the COM began, the specialist degree in higher education administration was offered. The Bachelor of Music in contemporary worship degree was added in 2011. The M.Ed. in educational leadership, Ed.D. and Ph.D. in higher education administration, Ph.D. in nursing education and administration, and department of criminal justice began in 2012. The intercultural studies major was first offered in 2013. Tennis was reinstated to the athletic program in 2009, with cross country and women's golf added in 2010-2011. Track and field for men and women began in fall of 2012. Along with many other awards, in 2013 the university was recognized as the number one best value among regional universities in the South by *US News and World Report*.

The university is organized into the following academic units: the Ralph and Naomi Noonkester School of Arts and Letters; the School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences; the School of Business; the School of Education; the Donald and Frances Winters School of Music and Ministry Studies; the Joseph and Nancy Fail School of Nursing; and the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The dramatic developments over the years demonstrate that William Carey University has accepted William Carey's challenging motto:

"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."

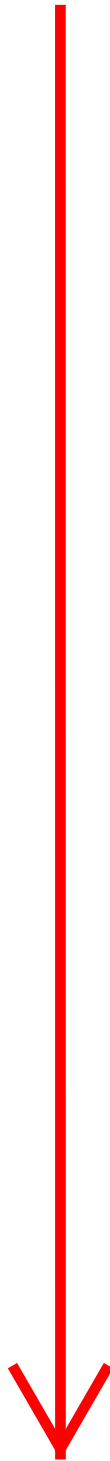
GOVERNANCE

William Carey University is a nonprofit corporation operating as an institution of higher learning from its domicile in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The university operates under the governance of a board of trustees elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

LOCATIONS

William Carey University has two campuses:

Hattiesburg is the home of the main campus, founded in 1906. On 140 acres, the university is conveniently located on the south side of the city. Hattiesburg is known as the "Hub City" because it is located at the intersections of Interstate 59 and U.S. Highways 49, 98 and 11. The city is centrally located less than 100 miles from the state capital of Jackson, as well as



the Gulf Coast, New Orleans and Mobile. With a population of nearly 80,000 in the Hattiesburg area, it is the educational, retail, and medical center for the southeast Mississippi region.

The William Carey University—Tradition Campus is located on Highway 67 in Biloxi. The 50-acre campus has two state-of-the-art buildings housing administrative and academic offices and classrooms equipped with the latest technology, a guard house and facilities building. This campus opened for classes in the fall of 2009.