

THE JOURNEY



WILLIE DAVIS

Hello. I am Willie Davis a 1956 graduate of Grambling State University. I accepted President Judson's call to serve as Chairman of the University's Reclaiming the Legacy campaign to secure the future of a learning experience that has profoundly affected the lives of many throughout our country. Ours is a powerful story of opportunity, access and excellence. I invite Gramblinites and other friends and supporters from across the country who care about our historic university to listen to our story and the President's Vision for how together we can Reclaim our Legacy. The journey has already begun. When you have heard the story and seen the vision I want you to join me and the Grambling Nation in making it a reality for our historic institution.

OUR LEGACY

When Charles P. Adams stepped off the train from Tuskegee, Alabama on August 4, 1901 to take the helm of the “Colored Industrial and Agricultural School of Lincoln Parish,” he could hardly have envisioned the emergence of internationally renowned Grambling State University over the century that was to come.

Since Adams’ time, Grambling State University has grown into a major state university of almost 2 million square feet of physical plant space on more than 380 acres. However, many of the existing facilities were built in the middle of the last century and like the campus, they are in need of renewal, maintenance, or repair.

OUR CHALLENGE

They say "You don't get a second chance to make a first impression." And, a bad first impression can surely lead to lost opportunities. With that thought in mind, it's time to recognize that the enduring values and unfettered potential of Grambling State University are woefully underserved by the quality of our academic facilities and the impression our physical campus makes upon us, our community, and prospective students. President Judson understands this admonition. He is aggressively pursuing a vision that will reclaim the legacy of this historic institution.

Infrastructure

The University arose at the turn-of-the century from P. G. Grambling's saw mill which clear-cut many of the original trees on campus - leaving it barren and unable to absorb storm water. Substandard, deteriorated and aging utility infrastructures which fail frequently are being assessed to determine location and plan for replacement.

Students, teachers, and faculty in the T. L. James Lab School and Carver Science Center complain because the heating systems do not adequately warm the classrooms in the winter. In summer, they swelter.

Woodson Hall often floods in the rainy season. The lower level of the A.C. Lewis Library has been closed for years due to the presence of leaking ground water which has destroyed many unique books and rendered the environment unhealthy to enter.

Sewage pipes that were installed incorrectly years ago have been discovered to have leaked sewage into the basements of dormitory buildings, which are thankfully in the process of being replaced.

These individual incidents are not isolated, but rather highlight the fact that the campus struggles to offer the quality environment essential for effective learning outcomes. But there is hope!



OUR VISION

President Judson's vision found expression in a prospectus, published in 2005, that sets forth his understanding of the challenges Grambling State University must address to become a Vital American University. This prospectus was more than a vision; it was a call to action and a specific plan for transforming the University's learning environment and academic programs in response to the learning needs of Grambling students - and the challenges they will face as global citizens.

The vision calls for a Master Development Plan. STRATUS, a division of Heery International, with the unique capacity for developing such comprehensive plans was selected to integrate the student learning experience and academic programs with campus improvements to create a quality and dynamic learning environment. The Plan addresses critical issues, such as substandard deteriorated student housing, inadequate academic facilities, and infrastructure which fails frequently. The plan also identifies distinctive academic and student learning opportunities.

That is the vision. That is the promise!

We have an ambitious but well-founded vision for Grambling as a Vital American University in the state of Louisiana. But for that vision to become a reality, we must recognize that, not only is the quality of our campus at odds with that vision, it is among this university's most-significant and far-reaching challenges.

So WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The University has opened the new Convocation Center, and broken ground on the new Fine Arts Center. The Eddie Robinson Museum will occupy the former Women's Gym on campus. Phase I of University Housing, consisting of 1204 beds, opened in the Fall of 2007. Phase II, adding an additional 796 beds, is under construction. New signage has been completed at the main entrances of the campus. All of this has been completed on or ahead of schedule as promised.

A comprehensive campus infrastructure survey and study is nearing completion, and will identify the requirements essential for remedying the utility failures that occur frequently.

THE MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A Model Living and Learning Campus Environment

The Master Development Plan is complete. The initiatives in this plan are grounded in an ancient African construct based on fractals. A merging of art and mathematics, fractals are patterns of geometric shapes that repeat at different scales such as squares within squares, circles within circles, or diamonds within diamonds. Just as the ancient Greeks and Romans inspired the growth patterns of European cities, fractal patterns inspire future campus development at Grambling State University.

The Plan calls for major initiatives in infrastructure, campus environment, and academic facilities designed to achieve specific learning outcomes. A Phase II of housing creates a dynamic first year experience to facilitate student recruitment and improve retention.

A comprehensive campus design sets standards and addresses landscaping, parking, pedestrian and vehicular access, by creating an inviting and welcoming campus living and learning environment. The Plan calls for the planting of 100 new trees a year, restoration of lawns, and creation of new plazas to make the campus more beautiful, pedestrian friendly, and sustainable. University Lake will provide a new park-like amenity and will address both flood control and irrigation for the renewed landscape.

Vital Facility Projects

The university is already constructing the First Year Village and will seek direct State support in the development of three major facility initiatives essential for achieving program distinction and student learning outcomes: The Library/Learning Resources Center, the Educational Village, and the Center for Excellence in Science and Math.



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A photograph of three students standing on a grassy lawn with scattered autumn leaves. In the center is a young man wearing a tan peacoat, a grey fedora, sunglasses, and blue jeans. He is looking towards the woman on his right. The woman on the left has long brown hair, is wearing a black jacket and blue jeans, and is holding a black folder. The woman on the right has long dark hair, is wearing a black coat with a large silver buckle and blue jeans, and is also holding a folder. In the background, there are brick buildings and trees under a clear sky.

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“It takes a village to raise a child.”

The First Year Village focuses on the new student experience by integrating the living and learning environment in ways that have been proven to improve student retention and success. By including classrooms, learning labs, and recreational activities within their residential complex, first time students become active citizens in the University community.

The Library/Learning Resources Center combines text and electronic media with West African Griot oral tradition to create a unique collaboratorium designed to facilitate the unique way each individual learns, researches, and communicates. Within the library/Learning Resources Center, a Student Success Center will combine tutoring, counseling, student support, and career counseling into a convenient, accessible, one-stop-shop.

According to the African proverb - "It takes a village to raise a child." **The Educational Village** draws together the preschool, middle school, high school, and College of Education into a modern integrated teaching, learning, and research community. The Educational Village is specifically designed to educate all of the children and prepare educators of an increasingly diverse America.

Excellence in science and math is fundamental for America's workforce to compete in the global 21st century economy. **The Center for Excellence in Science & Math** goes beyond labs and classrooms and is designed to instill in students both understanding and enthusiasm. In this center students will have the opportunity for real time engagement in the application of both science and math.

To attract and retain distinguished faculty and visiting scholars, Grambling State University will partner with a developer to construct **University Village** to provide quality affordable housing. In Close proximity to the Educational Village, University Lake, and athletics fields, University Village will offer an ideal environment for young faculty with families.

Community Economic Development

The Plan for the University is a grand one – as it should be – and it extends into the shared future of the surrounding community. The Town of Grambling would benefit from shared off-street parking with the University and renewed commercial development that would revitalize the University-Town Center, including retail facilities, restaurants, coffee shops, and a hotel conference center.

The currently divided commercial districts are the “head and heart” of the community. The Village District could be oriented to visitors, outwardly celebrating the historic heritage of Grambling. The Founders District, anchored by Charles P. Adams house could be the heart – inwardly serving the citizens with essential services. In the middle, the university could direct its parking adjacent to each of these areas to increase foot traffic and commercial vibrancy. A shuttle system linking each of these parking areas would help students, faculty, and citizens enjoy all that Grambling has to offer.

These facility and program initiatives will enrich the Grambling experience. They will not only facilitate effective student learning, but will position Grambling as a Vital American University, prepared to address the challenges we face in math and science education, global fluency, multiculturalism, and in providing effective student learning experiences.

Grambling’s Master Development Plan that will serve as a road map for creating a quality living and learning environment and fulfilling its role as an anchor for economic development in Northern Louisiana. The work is underway. Grambling has begun a period of dramatic change in the pursuit of excellence.

Funding Plan

It is already known that the need for replacement and repairs are extensive, and innovative funding methods are being studied to address these key issues.

The University is exploring opportunities to enter into long term contracts with utility companies who are willing to spread the cost of construction, operation and maintenance, of new systems over many years to make them affordable.

The proposed new University Lake may be eligible for funding by agencies supportive of innovative solutions to flood control problems.

Federal agencies provide funding to improve the safety of pathways for children to and from schools, and State Agencies do the same for roadway improvements.



“Grambling’s Master Development Plan
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OUR LEGACY

OUR PLACE + OUR FUTURE

THE Comprehensive
Capital Campaign for
GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

A SHARED VISION.

A Title III Funded Project



PRESIDENT
HORACE JUDSON

Grambling State University embodies a proud tradition. We want our future to be just as proud, and we want that pride to show. So we must promise ourselves to reclaim our legacy, to claim our place, to fulfill our vision. And when we finally keep our promise — when we finally fulfill our vision — it will surely be a vision to behold.

Grambling's great American's, Eddie Robinson, Collie J. Nicholson, and Conrad Hutchinson, brought the nation to Grambling. We now have the opportunity to take Grambling to the nation. I ask for your financial support to help us realize our vision for this historic university.

