Truman State University

Truman State University is Missouri’s only statewide public liberal arts and sciences university and the only public university designated highly selective by the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Founded in 1867 as a normal school, Truman State University became the official name of Missouri’s liberal arts and sciences university on July 1, 1996. Formerly known as Northeast Missouri State University, the change in name coincided with the 100th anniversary of the Missouri Legislature’s action which changed the University’s mission from that of a regional comprehensive university to the statewide liberal arts and sciences university. The new name complements the mission and honors the only Missourian to serve as president of the United States.

Now a nationally recognized university, Truman is a leader in its undaunting commitment to assessment and accountability. Truman’s program of assessment allows the University to measure the results of the teaching-learning process and gather critical information on student growth and development to ensure that graduates are prepared for future success.

The University is consistently recognized as one of the nation’s best educational values. Truman is recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the number one public regional university in the Midwest and it was selected as one of the top 100 best college buys by America’s 100 Best College Buys 2000. Truman is also profiled in Fiske Guide to Colleges and USA Today’s College Guide, as well as numerous other guides.

Truman’s curriculum provides each student, regardless of intended specialization, with a foundation of knowledge appropriate to a traditional liberal arts and sciences education. It also requires major field specialization, providing each student with in-depth knowledge and mastery of a discipline. This exemplary undergraduate education provides graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful upon graduation. Approximately 40 percent of Truman’s graduates enter graduate programs and professional schools in the two years following their graduation.

Truman’s 6,300 students pursue degrees in 42 undergraduate and nine graduate areas of study in eight academic divisions.

Truman’s students consistently rank among the highest in their high school graduating class. For example, the fall 2001 class has an average ACT score of 27, the 91st percentile nationally, while the high school grade-point average was 3.72 on a 4.00 scale. In addition to their academic ability, more than 99 percent had leadership roles in high school.

Truman State University is committed to the advancement of knowledge, to freedom of thought and inquiry, and to the personal, social and intellectual growth of each of its students. The University strives to maintain a recognized standard of excellence in all of its educational endeavors and a responsible stewardship of the resources provided by the people of Missouri.

Truman is headed by a Board of Governors appointed by the Governor of Missouri. Seven are voting members from throughout the state. In addition, there are two out-of-state members and a student representative who do not vote.

Current members include Randa Rawlins, president; John W. Briscoe, vice president; Thomas R. Jayne, secretary; Peter Ewell, Ph.D.; Ruth Mach, Ed.D.; Wilma Maddox; Matt Barnes; Sara Burkemper; Michael Schweid; and Rudy Arredondo, student representative.

President
Jack Magruder

Jack Magruder became the 13th president of Truman State University on July 1, 1994. Magruder began his career at Truman in 1964 as an assistant professor of chemistry. During his 22 years on the faculty, he achieved the rank of full professor before serving as head of the Division of Science from 1986-89. In 1989, Magruder became dean of instruction and was later appointed vice president for academic affairs, the position he held when he was named president.

Magruder is a member of a number of professional organizations, including the American Chemical Society, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society, National Association for Research in Science Teaching, National Science Teachers and the Science Teachers of Missouri. He is past-president of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges and the Science Teachers of Missouri. He is past-president of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges and the Science Teachers of Missouri. He is past-president of the Council of Public Higher Education.

Magruder is a 1957 graduate of Truman State University and is married to Sue Brimer Magruder, a 1955 and 1977 graduate of Truman. Their children, Julie Magruder Lochbaum, Kerry Magruder and Laura Magruder Mann are also graduates of Truman State University.

Director of Athletics
Jerry Wollmering

Jerry W. Wollmering began as Director of Athletics at Truman in September of 1999.

Wollmering had served as associate athletics director of finance and administration at Bowling Green State University in Ohio since January of 1998. He was also the assistant athletics director for financial affairs for two years, prior to his becoming an associate AD.

Wollmering earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a major in accounting from Drake University in 1987, and a master’s degree in physical education with a major in athletic administration from Kent State University in 1993. He is also a certified public accountant with experience as an auditor.

Before arriving at Bowling Green, he was an assistant athletic director at Southeast Missouri State University, a Division I program, for approximately 18 months. While working on his master’s degree, Wollmering was a graduate assistant to the athletic director at Kent.

A native of Ft. Madison, Iowa, he was a varsity letterman in cross country and track at Drake. Wollmering served on the NCAA Division I athletics certification self study subcommittees for fiscal integrity and commitment to equity, and was a member of the NCAA peer review team.

Wollmering and his wife, Alicia, have two daughters, Leah who is 5-years-old and, Erica who is 3-years-old. They are expecting their third child in February of 2002.

What’s In A Nickname

Why was the nickname, Bulldogs, selected for Truman State University? O.C. Bell in 1908 referred to his performers as Bulldogs, but it wasn’t an official designation. So far as is known, this wasn’t used again until the spring of 1915.

At the time, a committee of students, including the late President Emeritus H. Ryle, recommended the adoption of the “Bulldog” as the official emblem because of the beast’s tenacity and ability to hold on and fight desperately to the end.

The spirit of the Bulldog has been evident since the name was selected 86 years ago. It’s not unique though, as at least 16 NCAA schools have adopted the “Bulldog”.

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Bulldog football games are played at Stokes Stadium, named in honor of James S. Stokes, the Truman professor who helped design the stadium.

The stadium was constructed 70 years ago with the first game played the evening of Oct. 10, 1930. Chillicothe Business College shutout the ‘Dogs, 13-0.

Stokes Stadium was rebuilt in the summer of 1962 and now seats approximately 4,000 spectators. The concrete structure has fiberglass seats and a press box.

Before the start of the 1991 season, the University installed a new ramp and seating to accommodate individuals with disabilities. At the same time, three area corporations donated a 26-foot wide by 17-foot tall scoreboard ed a 26-foot wide by 17-foot tall scoreboard with a computerized message center.

During the summer of ‘99, construction was completed underneath the stadium. New restrooms, a ticket booth and concession stands were built, and the surface was leveled. Locker rooms for home and visiting players are located on the west side of the field in the brick buildings known as the Bulldog Kennels.

Stokes’ football field is surrounded by the state-of-the-art Gardner Track with an all-weather surface constructed in the summer of 1996. It was named in honor of former Truman Athletics Director Kenneth Gardner.

Before Stokes Stadium, games were played at Kirk Field on the northwest corner of campus. Kirk Field was named in honor of the man responsible for the project, President John R. Kirk.