

Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr.



Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr. serves as the deputy commissioner for academic and student affairs for the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and has extensive higher education experience. In this role, he serves as the system's chief academic and student affairs officer, advising the Board of Trustees and the Commissioner of Higher Education on all matters pertaining to academic programs, policy and planning; student access, readiness and success; and faculty affairs.

Dr. Rankins also provides leadership and direction to the chief academic officers and chief student affairs officers at the universities. He has administrative oversight for the Academic Affairs, America Reads Mississippi, College Knowledge, Gear Up Mississippi, Nursing Education, P-20 Initiatives, Strategic Data Management, and Student Affairs units.

He served as Acting President for Mississippi Valley State University for one year, beginning in November 2012. In this role, Dr. Rankins was responsible for serving students, managing the university's operational budget, leading more than 500 employees, managing 114 buildings totaling 2,110,320 square feet, with a total asset value of \$186 million. He focused on student recruitment and retention, which resulted in a 30 percent increase in first-time freshman over the previous year, and streamlined processes in many facets of the university, including student support services, business operations, alumni engagement and planned giving.

A native of Greenville, Miss., Dr. Rankins holds an undergraduate degree in agricultural economics from Alcorn State University and a master's degree in weed science and his doctorate in weed science, both from Mississippi State University.

Prior to joining IHL in 2008, Dr. Rankins served as a tenure-track assistant professor, tenured associate professor, extension specialist and assistant vice president intern for academic affairs at Mississippi State. He taught undergraduate and graduate level courses in the Department of Plant and Soil Science.

Dr. Rankins currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television and University Press of Mississippi. He also serves on the Mississippi Commission for College Accreditation and as Secretary-Treasurer for the Mississippi Association of Colleges. He also holds membership in a number of other professional and honorary societies, including Weed Science Society of America, Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture, and the Southern Weed Science Society.

He is also a member of the Metro-Jackson Alcorn State University Alumni Association, the Alcorn State University National Alumni Association and the Mississippi State University Central Mississippi Alumni Association.

Dr. Rankins and his wife, Juandalyn, have two children, Aftyn and Alfred.