



# ABOUT FAMU

Founded October 3, 1887, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), commonly known as Florida A&M University, is a public, historically black university in Tallahassee, Florida. What distinguishes FAMU from other universities is its legacy of providing access to a high-quality, affordable education with programs and services that guide students toward successfully achieving their dreams. FAMU is part of the State University System of Florida and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

In addition to the main Tallahassee campus, FAMU has several satellite campuses across Florida. These include the College of Law in Orlando and the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Institute of Public Health, which has sites in Crestview, Tampa, Jacksonville, and Miami.

## Historical List of University Presidents

1887 - 1901	Dr. Thomas DeSaille Tucker
1901 - 1923	Dr. Nathan B. Young
1923 - 1924	Dr. W.H.A. Howard
1924 - 1944	Dr. John Robert Edward Lee, Sr.
1944	Dr. J.B. Bragg
1944 - 1949	Dr. William H. Gray, Jr.
1950 - 1968	Dr. George W. Gore, Jr.
1968 - 1977	Dr. Benjamin L. Perry, Jr.
1977 - 1985	Dr. Walter L. Smith
1985 - 2001	Dr. Frederick S. Humphries
2001 - 2002	Dr. Henry Lewis (Interim)
2002 - 2004	Dr. Fred Gainous
2005 - 2007	Dr. Castell Bryant (Interim)
2007 - 2012	Dr. James H. Ammons
2012 - 2014	Dr. Larry Robinson (Interim)
2014 - 2016	Dr. Elmira Mangum
2017 - Present	Dr. Larry Robinson

## Brief History of the University

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, founded on October 3, 1887, as the State Normal College for Colored Students, began classes with 15 students and two instructors. FAMU's destiny was to become an institution of higher learning, striving toward even greater heights of academic excellence. Today, Florida A&M University is one of 12 Florida State University System institutions and "Excellence with Caring" remains its goal.

For more than 130 years, FAMU has served the citizens of the State of Florida and the nation through its provision of preeminent educational programs, programs that were the building blocks of a legacy of academic excellence with caring. FAMU, "Florida's Opportunity University," is committed to meeting the challenges and needs of future generations.

Two distinguished citizens and educators led the State Normal College through its infancy. They were Thomas DeSaille Tucker, an outstanding attorney from Pensacola who was selected as the college's first president, and Thomas Van Renssalaer Gibbs, a state representative from Duval County who was Tucker's top assistant. In 1891, the college received \$7,500 under the Second Morrill Act for agricultural and mechanical arts education; thus, it became Florida's land grant institution for Black people.

In the 1900s, this young institution flourished under the leadership of Nathan B. Young. In 1905, the college management was transferred from the Board of Education to the Board of Control. This event was significant because it officially designated the college as an institution of higher education. The name was changed in 1909 to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes (FAMC). The following year, with an enrollment of 317 students, the college awarded its first degrees.

Under the administration of John Robert Edward Lee, Sr., FAMC acquired much of the physical and academic image it has today. Buildings were constructed; more land was

purchased; additional faculty were hired; courses were upgraded, and accreditation was received from several state agencies. By 1944, Florida A&M College had constructed 48 buildings, accumulated 396 acres of land, and had 812 students and 122 staff members.

Perhaps the most outstanding achievement under the presidency of Dr. George W. Gore, Jr. (1950-1968) was the elevation of the school to university status. In 1953, the college's name and status were changed by legislative action from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

With Dr. Benjamin L. Perry, Jr., at the helm, the 1970s brought further growth to the University. FAMU experienced a decade of rapid transition when federal laws demanded a desegregated unitary system. Dr. Perry's administration is credited with the preservation of FAMU's autonomy. In 1971, FAMU was recognized as a full partner in Florida's nine-university public higher education system.

The 1980s served as a model for productive development. Under the administration of Dr. Walter L. Smith, the University grew to 11 schools and colleges and a division of graduate studies, research, and continuing education. In 1984, the University was granted the authority to offer its first Doctor of Philosophy degree, the Ph.D. in Pharmacology.

In 1985, the construction of a new corridor of history began as Dr. Frederick S. Humphries became the eighth president of FAMU. Under his leadership, FAMU experienced significant growth and unsurpassed accomplishments. Dr. Humphries' unique administrative initiatives heightened the appeal for FAMU to high school students, parents, and other members of the public. By 1992, total enrollment had nearly doubled to 9,551. The enrollment for the 1998-1999 academic year reached approximately 12,000. In addition to increased enrollment, during this era, the University consistently ranked nationally among the top five colleges and universities for enrolling National Achievement finalists. Due to an aggressive and competitive campaign to attract more talented students, FAMU climbed steadily from fourth place in 1989 to first place (1992, 1995, and 1997), and second place (1993 and 1994), surpassing institutions such as Harvard, Yale, and Stanford in enrollment of National Achievement finalists. Most significantly, during the celebration of its 110th Anniversary, TIME Magazine-Princeton Review selected Florida A&M University as the 1997-98 College of the Year.

The legacy of leadership continued into the new millennium. On May 17, 2002, the Board of Trustees named Fred Gainous, Ed. D., an alum, the ninth president of FAMU. In February 2007, James Ammons, Ph.D., was named the 10th president of Florida A&M University. Dr. Ammons served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs for FAMU from October 1995 until becoming chancellor of North Carolina Central University in 2001. Dr. Ammons commenced his presidency at Florida A&M University on July 2, 2007. President Elmira Mangum, Ph.D., began her tenure as the 11th president of FAMU on April 1, 2014, and was the first woman appointed to this position of distinction.

In November 2017, Larry Robinson, Ph.D., became the 12th president of Florida A&M University. In 2019-2020, FAMU experienced another period of unprecedented construction with the completion of the 700-bed FAMU Towers residence hall, the Center for Access and Student Success (CASS)

student services complex, and an outdoor amphitheater. Under Dr. Robinson's leadership, FAMU continues to thrive and has implemented new recruitment and retention strategies, strengthened the University's academic programs, and more.

## *Mission, Vision and Values*

### Mission

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) is an 1890 land-grant institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, resolution of complex issues and the empowerment of citizens and communities. The University provides a student-centered environment consistent with its core values. The faculty is committed to educating students at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and professional levels, preparing graduates to apply their knowledge, critical thinking skills and creativity in their service to society. FAMU's distinction as a doctoral/research institution will continue to provide mechanisms to address emerging issues through local and global partnerships. Expanding upon the University's land-grant status, it will enhance the lives of constituents through innovative research, engaging cooperative extension, and public service. While the University continues its historic mission of educating African Americans, FAMU embraces persons of all races, ethnic origins and nationalities as life-long members of the University community.

### Vision

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) will be recognized as a premier land-grant, doctoral-research university that produces globally competitive graduates.

Achieving this vision requires the University to provide students with an educational experience that allows them to compete in the 21st century global economy. Today's students are interested in becoming entrepreneurs and innovators. They are not just interested in getting a job, but addressing social issues and providing transformational solutions to world and community problems. At FAMU, we are enhancing our status as a first-choice institution that students will pay for and in which donors will invest. We will create strategies and choices to accomplish this, using six guiding principles: quality, integrity, transparency, accountability, core values, and outstanding customer service.

### Values

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University holds the following values essential to the achievement of the university's mission:

- Scholarship
- Excellence
- Openness
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Accountability
- Collaboration

- Diversity
- Service
- Fairness
- Courage
- Integrity
- Respect
- Collegiality
- Freedom
- Ethics
- Shared Governance

## *FAMU Rising: Strategic Plan 2017-2022*

The values of the University are at the core of FAMU's mission and are reflected in the Strategic Priorities and Goals described below:

### **Strategic Priority 1: Exceptional Student Experience**

Student success. We will increase student success and improve the overall student experience by enhancing academic support services, strengthening our academic degree programs, enhancing our living-learning environment, and promoting innovative co-curricular activities.

### **Strategic Priority 2: Excellent and Renowned Faculty**

Faculty excellence. We will attract and retain world-class faculty, improve faculty incentives and invest in critical research facilities.

### **Strategic Priority 3: High Impact Research, Commercialization, Outreach, and Extension Services**

Research that makes a difference. We will refine our research priorities, expand our research productivity and commercialization footprint, and build upon our contributions in outreach and extension, as we continue to grow the University's reputation as a doctoral-research university.

### **Strategic Priority 4: Transformative Alumni, Community, and Business Engagement**

Building and expanding our partnerships. We will increase engagement with our alumni base, business partners, and within our local, national, and global communities to increase our impact and grow financial support for the University.

### **Strategic Priority 5: First-Class Business Infrastructure**

Business operations that support our mission. We will recruit and retain an excellent and diverse staff, enhance our administrative services, adopt a more transparent and effective budgeting model, and leverage technology to make our operations more effective and efficient.

### **Strategic Priority 6: Outstanding Customer Experiences**

Leadership through service. We will consistently provide high-quality customer experiences in all facets of university operations.

## FAMU Administration

Table 1: Administration - Leadership Team

### University Leadership Team

<i>President</i>	Larry Robinson, Ph.D.
<i>Provost /Vice President, Academic Affairs</i>	Maurice Edington, Ph.D.
<i>Vice President, Student Affairs</i>	William E. Hudson, Jr., Ph.D.
<i>Vice President, Finance and Administration/CFO</i>	W. Rebecca Brown (Interim)
<i>Vice President, Research</i>	Charles A. Weatherford, Ph.D.
<i>Vice President, Audit</i>	Joseph Maleszewski
<i>Vice President, University Advancement</i>	Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Ph.D.
<i>Director, Communications</i>	Keith Miles
<i>Assistant VP, Alumni Affairs/University Advancement</i>	Carmen Cummings Martin
<i>Chief of Staff/Board Liaison</i>	Linda F. Barge-Miles, J.D.
<i>Director, Governmental Relations</i>	Danielle McBeth, J.D.
<i>Director, Athletics</i>	Michael Smith (Interim)
<i>Associate VP, Strategic Planning, Analysis and Institutional Effectiveness</i>	Kelly McMurray, Ph.D.
<i>Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer</i>	Rica Calhoun, J.D.
<i>Vice President, Legal Affairs/General Counsel</i>	D. Denise Wallace, J.S.D.
<i>Director, Title III Programs</i>	Erick Akins, Ph.D.
<i>Vice President, Information Technology Services/CIO</i>	Robert Seniors
<i>Faculty Representative</i>	Kyle Eidahl, Ph.D.
<i>Faculty Senate Representative</i>	Tiffany Ardley, Ph.D.
<i>Executive Assistant to the President</i>	Cynthia Henry

Table 2: Administration - Deans' Council

**Council of Academic Deans**

College of Agriculture and Food Sciences	Robert Taylor, Ph.D., Dean
College of Education	Allyson Watson, Ph.D., Dean
College of Law	Deidre Keller, J.D., Dean
College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Institute of Public Health	Johnnie Early, Ph.D., Dean
College of Science and Technology	Richard Aló, Ph.D., Dean
College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities	Valencia Mathews, Ph.D., Dean
FAMU-FSU College of Engineering	Farrukh Alvi, Ph.D., Interim Dean
School of Allied Health Sciences	Cynthia Hughes-Harris, Ph.D., Dean
School of Architecture and Engineering Technology	Rodner Wright, AIA, Dean
School of Business and Industry	Shawnta Friday-Stroud, Ph.D., Dean
School of Journalism and Graphic Communication	Mira Lowe, Dean
School of Nursing	Shelley A. Johnson, Ed.D., Dean
School of the Environment	Victor Ibeanusi, Ph.D., Dean
FAMU DRS	Michael D. Johnson, Superintendent
FAMU Libraries	Fay Watkins, Dean
Graduate Studies and Research	Michael Abazinge, Ph.D., Dean
Faculty Senate Representative	Ebenezer Oriaku, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Representative	Kyle Q. Harris, Ph.D.
University Registrar	Agatha Onwunli, Ed.D.



## Governing Bodies

### FAMU Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees governs the University and consists of thirteen members. The Governor appoints six trustees, and five trustees are appointed by the Florida Board of Governors, subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate. The Faculty Senate and Student Government Association Presidents, appointed by their bodies, serve a one-year term on the Board of Trustees. The other Trustees are appointed for staggered terms of five years.

As the governing body of the University, the Board of Trustees is charged with policymaking for the University. Trustees serve without compensation and meet at least quarterly. The officers of the Board of Trustees are the chair and vice-chair. Each is elected for a term of two years and may be re-elected for one additional consecutive term. The president serves as the corporate secretary to the Board of Trustees. The president has the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the University. For this reason, one of the Board of Trustees' most important responsibilities is the president's selection, retention, and replacement.

Table 3: Board of Trustees

<b>Members</b>	<b>Term</b>
<i>Kelvin Lawson (Chair)</i>	March 2011 – January 2026
<i>Kimberly Moore (Vice-Chair)</i>	January 2018 – January 2023
<i>Professor Anne Marie Cavazos</i>	August 2021 – August 2023
<i>Otis Cliatt, II</i>	December 2020 – January 2025
<i>Thomas Dortch</i>	January 2021 – January 2026
<i>Michael Dubose</i>	December 2020 – January 2023
<i>Kristin Harper</i>	January 2021 – January 2026
<i>Belvin Perry, Jr.</i>	March 2016 – January 2026
<i>Craig Reed</i>	January 2021 – January 2026
<i>Kenward Stone</i>	October 2020 – January 2025
<i>Nicole Washington</i>	January 2020 – January 2025
<i>Vacant</i>	January 2021 – January 2026
<i>Carrington Whigham (Student Representative)</i>	June 2021 – May 2022



### Florida Department of Education – State Board of Education

The mission of the State Board of Education is to increase the proficiency of all students within one seamless, efficient system by providing them with the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents, and communities, and to maintain an accountability system that measures student progress toward the following goals:

- Highest student achievement
- Seamless articulation and maximum access
- Skilled workforce and economic development
- Quality, efficient services

### State University System of Florida Board of Governors

The Florida Board of Governors serves as the governing body for the State University System of Florida, which includes all public universities in the state of Florida, including FAMU.

The Board of Governors is comprised of seventeen members, fourteen of whom are appointed by the Florida Governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate for a term of seven years. The remaining members include the Chair of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates, the Commissioner of Education, and the Chair of the Florida Student Association. The Board oversees the operation and management of the Florida public university system's 12 institutions.

### Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, professional, and doctorate degrees. FAMU also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of FAMU may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).