

# ASU

ALABAMA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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President Quinton T. Ross, Jr.



Dr. Quinton T. Ross, Jr., serves with distinction as the 15th President of his alma mater, Alabama State University. He is a servant leader who set a bold vision for ASU. Dr. Ross assumed the helm of the University with a vision of growth and innovation and has been the driving force behind new initiatives and partnerships under his guiding mantra of “Moving ASU 150 years forward.” Under President Ross’s leadership, the University has experienced a number of significant achievements. Beginning his presidency at Alabama State University in October of 2017, President Ross took on the daunting task of bringing fiscal stability to the financially challenged institution by reducing debt, imposing across-the-campus budget cuts, reallocating resources, and eliminating wasteful spending. Dr. Ross’s transformative fiscal leadership has led to an upgrade in the institution’s Moody’s bond rating.

As a personal and an intentional priority, he immediately set out to improve the University’s declining infrastructure. With an aggressive plan, leveraging relationships and partnerships, Ross and his administration successfully completed numerous capital projects to include a campus wide asphalt resurfacing project, installation of new campus wide security cameras, replacement of boilers, HVAC systems and elevators, and residence halls renovations that included roof replacements which total an estimated \$13 million dollars.

In 2021, Ross and his leadership team successfully ushered the University through reaffirmation by its accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), with no recommendations, through 2030. Since becoming the 15th President, Dr. Ross has led in the development and implementation of an ambitious strategic plan and agenda for the institution, titled FOCUS 2030: Advancing the Legacy and Bridging Communities through Commitment, Collaborations, and Creativity. Alabama State University has risen to new heights in providing access and equitable opportunities for students. Under the leadership of Dr. Ross, ASU has seen improvements in academics, enrollment and retention, fundraising, partnerships, and student success. Amid enrollment stability, ASU saw its retention and graduation rates increase. According to the U.S. News and World Report 2022, ASU is in the Top 25 of HBCUs, moving up in rank by 10 spots since 2021, now ranked at 22.

Dr. Ross has set a new standard for fundraising at ASU. During the first two years of his administration, fundraising at the institution increased by nearly 130 percent with more than \$7.6 million raised over a two-year period through corporate and individual donations, as well as increased legislative appropriations. More recently, the University has experienced a 205% total giving increase with a 20% increase in total number of gifts received. Notably, his charismatic leadership has encouraged donors to increase the size of their contributions, growing the average gift size by 154%. The University also has experienced a 150% increase in its total number of donors. A good steward of resources with a commitment to fiscal responsibility, Dr. Ross leads an advancement team that raises 15% more per advancement staff member than its peer institutions and 67% more per dollar invested. President Ross’s increased focus on alumni engagement and prior established partnerships, coupled with his ability to develop innovative mutually beneficial relationships has transformed ASU’s growth and success.

Dr. Ross has led the charge for development and constituent relations, under John O. Killens’ concept of CommUniversity. ASU has forged new partnerships and re-energized existing relations with international, federal, state and local stakeholders. Dr. Ross has increased the institutional partnerships to enhance the institution’s visibility. He also has established a positive and open line of communication with local, state and national media. Dr. Ross has been engaged by national media as an expert on the future of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), thereby allowing for an elevation of the University’s brand. He has appeared on several networks such as ESPN, CNN, and Cheddar to name few. Dr. Ross has been featured in Bloomberg News, Chronicle of Higher Education, HBCU Connect Magazine, HBCU Digest, Reuters News Service, and USA Today. Dr. Ross continues to be engaged and serves as a pivotal voice in the community. In the wake of the George Floyd killing in 2020, Dr. Ross pinned an Open Op Ed, What do we tell our children and our Students,

which was published in the Atlanta Daily World Magazine (June 1, 2020), New Pittsburgh Courier (June 1, 2020) and Diversity Issues in Higher Education (June 3, 2020).

Recently, President Ross was appointed to the Board of Advisors of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) by President Joe Biden. President Ross was recognized as a Yellowhammer-15 Hall of Fame 2021, and given to those Alabamians who help to shape the state of Alabama in a positive and meaningful way. In June of 2021, Alabama Today Magazine named President Ross to its annual listing of Alabama’s 32 Powerful and Influential Alabamians to know. He was awarded the Leadership Award by the Alabama Alliance of Black School Educators 2021. Dr. Ross’s growing prominence as an educational leader was recognized by his election to the position of vice-chairman of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education’s Council of Presidents. The Council consists of the presidents of each public four-year institution of higher education in the state of Alabama, as well as the State Superintendent of Education and the presidents of three public two-year institutions of higher education.

Dr. Ross has made it his mission to be a community advocate for public education and to help young people “grasp the light of knowledge through embracing diversity.” Dr. Ross is a distinguished career educator with more than 27 years of experience in Higher and K-12 public education. Dr. Ross held various leadership positions in Secondary Education to include being a classroom teacher, administrative assistant, assistant principal and a high school principal. Prior to becoming President of his alma mater, he had begun his fourth term in the Alabama State Senate after having been elected to his first term in 2002. While serving in the Senate, Dr. Ross distinguished himself as a true statesman and was one of seven African Americans serving in the Alabama State Senate. In 2015, he was elected as Senate Minority Leader and the first Minority Leader elected to a four-year term. During his legislative tenure, Dr. Ross served on numerous legislative committees and was an established legislative leader with an unwavering advocacy for public education, as well as issues dealing with child safety and the general welfare of all Alabamians.

Dr. Ross has received regional and national recognition for his outstanding leadership through numerous awards and recognitions. Dr. Ross received The Montgomery Advertiser King Spirit Award, K.E.E.P. Production’s Young Legend Award and the Dare to Make a Difference Community Service Award. Dr. Ross also received the Alabama School Board Association’s Power of One Award. He has been recognized by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., locally, statewide and district wide as Citizen of the Year. Dr. Ross is the recipient of the Michigan Chronicle Men of Distinction Award. Other awards include the Alabama Adult Education Director’s Association Champion Award, Citizen of the Year for the Montgomery Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Beloved Community Award from the Alabama State University Friends of the Theatre. Dr. Ross also was selected by the Business Council of Alabama as a Business Champion and was the recipient of the Charles Townsel Higher Education Leader Award.

Dr. Ross is a three-time graduate of Alabama State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science, a Master of Education degree in Secondary Education English, and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership, Policy and Law.

President Ross is an active community leader who serves with various local and national civic, professional, and community organizations such as the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, YMCA Board, and I See Me, Inc. board of directors, Montgomery Committee of 100, Alabama Council of Presidents, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, National Education Association, National Council of Higher Education, Alabama Education Association, and 100 Black Men, Inc. A lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., President Ross serves as the International Chair for the Omega HBCU Education Committee.

His most notable accomplishment is being a loving husband and father of two sons.

To contact the Office of the President, call 334-229-4202.