

Dear usmnews.net

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Thank you for loaning me your copy of Dr. Bennett's dissertation. After reading it, I can't help but question whether Dr. Bennett's dissertation meets the standards for a doctoral dissertation at any respectable university. Having reviewed this dissertation it is easy to understand Dr. Bennett's focus on retention and credentialing. A doctorate supported by an unpublished and, in my opinion unpublishable, dissertation supported his road to the position of president of Southern Miss.

The abstract from Dr. Bennett's dissertation, "The Impact of Selected Factors Related to Completing the Doctor of Arts Degree at Middle Tennessee State University," alone underscores how woefully weak his academic background is. I have copied the abstract for your readers.

The purpose of this study was to provide a profile of students who were and were not able to successfully complete all degree requirements for the Doctor of Arts program at Middle Tennessee State University from 1990 through 1995. Differences, as well as similarities, between degreed and non-degreed students were identified in regard to following areas: (a) demographics; (b) attitudes and perceptions of the program in the area of curriculum, administration, and interaction with faculty, advisors, and committee members; and (c) specific factors impacting the student's current status of either degreed or non-degreed.

The study found that the profile of a degreed DA student at MTSU was a white married male, about 35 years old, who was a senior college faculty member earning between \$30,000 and \$35,000 per year. The profile of a non-degreed DA student was also white married male, about 36 years old, who was not a faculty member and made less than \$30,000 per year.

The study found that degreed students consistently reported a favorable attitude in all areas of subjective factors tested in this study. Non-degreed students did not provide such a favorable response in the same areas...

Name withheld by request