

Editorial

Innovation?

Dear Dr. Bennett,

Instead of throwing the word “innovation,” around, why don’t you tell us, in detail, what you have accomplished. Let’s hear about your failures, too. You’ll claim successes—your PR blather -- but let’s hear about them in detail. Now, do the same with failures. If you don’t reveal your failures, you and those who will soon sit in your seat will continue to make the same mistakes over and over. Want an example? How about Martha Saunders’, and now your, very expensive airplane fiasco.

We’ve heard enough “new” ideas over the decades from one bureaucrat after another; it’s wearisome. Innovate: tell us truly your institution’s accomplishments and failures. In detail.

Let your faculty and students make a suggestion. Innovate in the form of honesty. Innovate by reducing the waste. Innovate by holding the costs of education down.



Dr. Rodney Bennett, President, University of Southern Miss

[“INNOVATION SERVES AS CORNERSTONE OF SOUTHERN MISS MISSION](#)

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As a top-tier research university, we pride ourselves on developing new innovation techniques...”.

Editor’s note: It’s easy to claim USM is a “top-tier research university”, but the facts don’t back you up. This year, [U.S. News & World Report](#) didn’t even publish a ranking for Southern Miss, except to make sure that everyone knew that it fell somewhere in the bottom quarter. If you are embarrassed about the U.S. News “Rank Not Published,” take a look at [Forbes](#). It is not nearly as reluctant to publish ratings for the bottom tier. If you go to Forbes rating of colleges, Southern Miss ranks 576 out of 650 colleges. If my math is right, that puts Southern Miss in the bottom 11%.