PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR
RICHARD C. ADKERSON SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

Mississippi State University invites nominations and applications for the position of Director of the Adkerson School of Accountancy in the College of Business. The successful candidate in this national, external search will also hold the Richard C. Adkerson Endowed Chair in Accounting.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
Located in Starkville, MS, Mississippi State University is a Carnegie Research University holding the “Very High Research Activity” designation, as well as a Carnegie designation for “Community Engagement.” It has over 1,300 faculty members, over 4,300 total full-time employees, and enrolls a total of 20,365 students, making it the largest university in the state. As a founding member of the Southeastern Conference for intercollegiate athletics, Mississippi State offers six intercollegiate sports for men and eight for women. For more information about Mississippi State University, please visit www.msstate.edu.

STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI
Mississippi State University adjoins the city of Starkville. With a population of over 24,000, Starkville offers an appealing blend of college town traditions and 21st-century innovations. Located in the piney hills of northeast Mississippi, Starkville has a growing economy supported by a strong manufacturing base and small businesses, as well as state-of-the-art research and technology companies. Named a “Healthy Hometown” by Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Starkville provides residents with an opportunity to enjoy an active lifestyle while serving as the home to a regional medical center.
Support for the arts and Mississippi State University athletics makes Starkville an attractive location for those searching for a balance of small town security with cultural opportunities typically found in much larger cities.

Starkville has a temperate climate with warm, humid summers and mild, dry winters, and is within a six-hour driving radius of Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, Nashville, and New Orleans. The Golden Triangle Regional Airport, servicing the cities of Starkville, Columbus, and West Point, Mississippi, is 20 miles from campus and provides Delta Airlines jet service to Atlanta. For more information about Starkville, please visit www.visit.starkville.org.

THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The College of Business at Mississippi State consists of four academic units: the Adkerson School of Accountancy, the Department of Finance and Economics, the Department of Management and Information Systems, and the Department of Marketing, Quantitative Analysis, and Business Law. Additionally, the College houses many other programs and centers including PGA Golf Management, International Business, and a Division of Business in Meridian, Mississippi.
With over 65 professional faculty and over a dozen instructional faculty, the College currently enrolls over 2,200 undergraduate students and over 400 graduate students. Last year the College awarded 580 bachelor degrees, 219 masters degrees, and four Ph.D. degrees. Notably, Mississippi State's Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs, both on-campus and online, were recently named among the Top 100 Graduate Business Programs in this year's U.S. News & World Report rankings. For more information, please visit www.business.msstate.edu.

THE ADKERSON SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY
The Richard C. Adkerson School of Accountancy is a professional school inside the College of Business at Mississippi State University. The School is separately accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The most recent reaffirmation of AACSB accreditation was completed in 2013.

Chartered in 1979, the Adkerson School of Accountancy became the only named unit within the College of Business in 2007. It was at this time that Richard C. Adkerson, a 1969 graduate and current president, CEO, and vice chairman of Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., established a $5 Million endowment for the School of Accountancy, creating an endowed faculty position and an operating fund for the School. Mr. Adkerson continues to support the program both financially and with his time.
Degree programs in the Adkerson School of Accountancy include the Bachelor of Accountancy (BACC), the Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA), and the Master of Taxation (MTX). In addition, students may enroll in the Pre-Accountancy (PACC) program prior to admission as a candidate for the BACC degree in the third year of studies. Over the past three years, undergraduate enrollment has averaged 421 students with an average of 186 of those being third and fourth year students that have been admitted to candidacy for the BACC degree. Over the same period of time, enrollment in the graduate degree programs has averaged 45 students.

While at Mississippi State, students in the Adkerson School of Accountancy have numerous opportunities for scholarships and professional development. In the Spring 2014 semester, students were awarded more than $75,000 in scholarships and in excess of $190,000 in graduate assistantships, while more than 30 students completed internships with ten different accounting firms, including Deloitte LLP, Ernst & Young LLP, and KPMG, and with corporations such as AutoZone, FedEx, and Georgia-Pacific. Mississippi State also has an active Beta Alpha Psi chapter. The chapter attends both regional and national meetings and has competed in “Project Run With It” in each of the last three years. Finally, the Adkerson School of Accountancy partners with Becker Professional Education to provide students with the opportunity to prepare for the CPA examination.

The Adkerson School of Accountancy has 14 faculty members, of which five are tenured and an additional five are progressing toward tenure. The non-tenure track faculty includes a current member of the Mississippi State Board of Accountancy and a retired audit partner from Ernst & Young. Faculty members boast such awards as the Grisham Master Teacher Award, Mississippi State’s highest honor as an educator, and the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants’ Educator of the Year Award. In addition, faculty members in the Adkerson School of Accountancy possess one of four faculty chairs, one of three professorships, and one of six competitive fellowships in the College of Business.
Faculty research is supported with graduate assistants for teaching and research, funding for travel, and a subscription to WRDS that includes access to CRSP, Compustat, Audit Analytics, Eventus, and Execucomp. In the past five years, the faculty of the Adkerson School of Accountancy have published in outlets such as The Accounting Review, MIS Quarterly, Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory, Journal of Corporate Finance, The Journal of the American Taxation Association, Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance, Journal of Accounting and Public Policy, Journal of Information Systems, and Accounting Horizons.

The Adkerson School of Accountancy Advisory Council consists of 27 members and is predominately made up of Mississippi State alumni. In addition, members of the Advisory Council represent companies and firms that hire many of our graduates. As a result, the Advisory Council has a vested interest in both the students and the faculty of the Adkerson School of Accountancy. The primary roles of the Advisory council include serving as a sounding board for the faculty regarding practical applications of concepts and principles being taught in courses, meeting with students and speaking with various groups about career opportunities, and providing oversight for the resources of the Adkerson School of Accountancy. The members of the Advisory Council also provide financial support for the Adkerson School of Accountancy and have encouraged other alumni and friends to give to the School through the establishment of the Accounting Bulldog Circle.

**The Position**

The Director exercises intellectual leadership for the School and facilitates the success of both students and faculty alike. Reporting to the Dean of the College of Business, the Director is responsible for developing and promoting the educational, research, service, and external affairs of the School. The Director oversees the School’s academic programs which include the Bachelor of Accountancy, Master of Professional Accountancy, Master of Taxation, and Ph.D. in Business Administration with a major in Accounting.
The Director will be expected to engage in development activities, build relationships between the School and the profession, and supervise the preparation and management of the School’s budget and other financial resources. He or she is also responsible for overseeing the recruitment of faculty, promoting and supporting staff and faculty development, facilitating maintenance of accreditation requirements, communicating and interacting with alumni and stakeholders, and performing other tasks and duties as appropriate.

MINIMUM AND PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will have an earned doctorate or terminal degree and a distinguished record of teaching and scholarly activity commensurate with appointment as a Professor with tenure in Adkerson School of Accountancy. Key competencies include strong communication skills, the ability to create a collegial environment that fosters excellence of scholarship and learning, capacity to conduct the planning, review, and assessment of programs, and leadership skills necessary to work effectively with internal and external constituencies to achieve the goals and elevate the profile of both the Adkerson School of Accountancy and Mississippi State University.

Prior administrative experience is preferred, and the ideal candidate will have a significant understanding of budgetary and academic affairs, experience with AACSB accreditation standards, demonstrated skills in fundraising and development, a commitment to cultural diversity, and appropriate professional certifications (CPA, CMA, or CIA).
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The successful candidate in this national, external search will lead a school with an outstanding faculty and a reputation for attracting and retaining premier students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. There are abundant opportunities for engagement with the profession and industry as the Adkerson School of Accountancy ascends to the next level in quality and national stature. Among opportunities awaiting the Director:

- Lead faculty and staff in defining a vision and a strategic plan for the Adkerson School of Accountancy that will promote the visibility, as well as the regional and national reputation, of the School and University.
- Emphasize external engagement with the accounting profession and industry to build support for academic chairs and professorships, professional programs, scholarships and fellowships, and the School’s endowment.
- Utilize college and school resources to attract top students from the region’s premier secondary institutions and the state’s extensive community college network, as well as develop incentives for the School’s best students to enroll in either the MPA or MTX program.
- Leverage the University’s award-winning career center to enhance internship opportunities and student placement.
- Implement strategies to critically evaluate, redesign, and deploy the School’s academic programs.
- Identify strategies to enhance the School’s ability to attract and retain talented faculty and students.

The position offers a competitive compensation package, commensurate with qualifications and experience of the candidate.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING AND TIMELINE

Confidential inquiries and nominations should be directed to Michael J. Highfield, Search Committee Chair, at m.highfield@msstate.edu. Candidates should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, contact information for three professional references, and a personal data information form on-line at www.jobs.msstate.edu (PARF# 7937). Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position has been filled.

Mississippi State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. We strive to recruit, develop, and retain the most talented people from a diverse candidate pool, and we encourage applications from persons with varied backgrounds and perspectives. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.