

### **III. GREETINGS AND WELCOME**

The Honorable Harvey Johnson, Jr.  
Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi

Dr. Ronald Mason, President  
Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi

After being introduced by Dr. N. Joyce Payne, Director, Office for the Advancement of Public Black Colleges, National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), Mayor Johnson and President Mason each spoke briefly, welcoming the Conference participants to Jackson, Mississippi.

The Honorable Harvey Johnson, Jr. welcomed the attendees on behalf of the people of the City of Jackson. He then spoke about the importance of Jackson State University. “We’re so proud the Conference is being held here at Jackson State University, the very heart of Jackson, Mississippi, the capital of our great state. We are working together to make Jackson the best of the New South, and Jackson State University is our most important partner as it builds programs to serve future generations through educational excellence.”

Dr. Ronald Mason first acknowledged the hard work that so many had done to make the Conference possible. He welcomed everyone to Jackson State University, and he talked about the new construction occurring at the university. The Conference was held in the new Liberal Arts building, and work on new buildings for the School of Business, School of Engineering, and a new e-Center for computers and remote sensing would begin in the next year. Dr. Mason offered to host the next Conference as the entire campus, including a new pedestrian mall, would be finished. As Dr. Mason would be the speaker at the Conference banquet, he kept his remarks brief, concluding, “Welcome to our campus, enjoy the Conference, and we’ll be seeing you all later this evening.”