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Rebel Research: Real Results

University of Mississippi. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

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With the start of a new year, faculty, staff and students at the University of Mississippi are celebrating the university’s recent designation again as a top research university while also continuing to push the boundaries of learning in the state and nation, including using mixed-reality teaching technology to improve classroom education.

Here are a few examples of recent activity at UM:

**Turning 50**

The university’s Marijuana Project, under a competitive contract from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, has turned 50 years old. The project was started to provide qualified researchers with high-quality, standardized plant material, extracts and purified materials. The project is part of the National Center for Natural Products Research, which is housed within the UM School of Pharmacy and contributes to the university’s unique research profile.

**Top-tier research**

UM has been included again in the prestigious group of R1: Doctoral Universities — Very High Research Activity released in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The classification was first received by UM in 2015. More importantly, UM research dollars are benefiting lives in Mississippi and around the globe, fueling economic growth and prosperity, educating future leaders and innovators, and more.

**Virtual teaching**

Thanks to cutting-edge technology that delivers customized virtual reality training, UM education majors are gaining valuable, hands-on teaching experience even before their student teaching. The technology at the School of Education allows students to “teach” avatars in a virtual classroom that mirrors professional challenges that exist in real life and allows the students to watch for feedback and see themselves teaching for the first time.