

**Mississippi Board of Trustees State Institutions of Higher Learning  
Amendment-Professional Services Contract with Clifton Larson Allen, LLP  
IHL Contract Number: 2018-029E  
Amendment 1**

This amendment made the\_\_ day of March 2022, by and between the MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, (hereinafter referred to as IHL) and Clifton Larson Allen, LLP (hereinafter referred to as Contractor).

WHEREAS, the parties agree to modify the terms and conditions of their original agreement entered into May 9, 2018, for the purpose of continuing to provide audit services for the years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023 (IHL contract number 2018-029E).

**The following provisions are amended as follows:**

The purpose of amendment number one includes the following:

1. This agreement will be extended to expire 120 days after the conclusion of the last services provided and final deliver of the items listed in Attachment A – Audit Service Schedule.
2. To continue to provide external audit service for years ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, per attached engagement letter.
3. Increase the total Contract amount from not to exceed \$4,000,000 to not to exceed \$6,000,000.
4. This agreement may be renewed at the discretion of IHL upon written notice to the contractor at least 60 days prior to the end of the conclusion of the last services for two additional years of auditing services.
5. Debarment and Suspension – The Contractor certifies, by the initials of the primary signatory below, that it is not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal Assistance Programs under Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, codified at 29 CFR Part 98, and that it will not subgrant with individuals or organizations which are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal Assistance Programs

Initials of Primary Signatory CB Date 5/16/2022

All other terms and conditions of the original agreement (IHL contract number 2018-029E) remain the same.

IHL and Contractor hereby accept the amendment to the provisions specified in this document.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this agreement is duly executed.

**Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning:**

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr., Commissioner**  
**Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning**

5/21/2022  
**Date**

**Mississippi Board of Trustees State Institutions of Higher Learning  
Amendment-Professional Services Contract with Clifton Larson Allen, LLP  
IHL Contract Number: 2018-029E  
Amendment 1**

**For the Contractor:**

DocuSigned by:

*Christina Bowman*

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**Christina Bowman, Principal  
Clifton Larson Allen, LLP**

5/16/2022

**Date**

**For the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor:**

DocuSigned by:

*Stephanie Palmertree*

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**Stephanie Palmertree, CPA  
Director, Financial Audit Division  
Mississippi Office of State Auditor  
801 Woolfolk Building  
501 North West St.  
Jackson, MS 39201**

5/18/2022

**Date**

February 7, 2022

Board of Trustees and Management  
State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
3825 Ridgewood Road  
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagement and the nature and limitations of the audit and nonaudit services CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (“CLA,” “we,” “us,” and “our”) will provide for the State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (“you,” “your,” or “the entity”) for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2023.

Christina Bowman is responsible for the performance of the audit engagement.

#### **Scope of audit services**

We will audit the financial statements of the business-type activities and the aggregate discretely presented component units, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) provides for certain required supplementary information (RSI) to accompany the entity’s basic financial statements. The following RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited.

1. Management’s discussion and analysis.
2. GASB-required supplementary pension and OPEB information.

We will also evaluate and report on the presentation of the supplementary information other than RSI accompanying the financial statements in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

#### **Audit objectives**

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors’ report that includes our opinions about whether your basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

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Our audit will be conducted in accordance with U.S. GAAS; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards require us to be independent of the entity and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. Our audit will include tests of your accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express opinions and render the required reports. We will apply certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with U.S. GAAS. However, we will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. We will also perform procedures to enable us to express an opinion on whether the supplementary information (as identified above) other than RSI accompanying the financial statements is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

The objectives of our audit also include:

- Reporting on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Reporting on internal control over compliance related to major programs and expressing an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We will issue written reports upon completion of our audit of your financial statements and compliance with requirements applicable to major programs. We will make reference to the Mississippi State University Foundation, Inc., the University of Mississippi Foundation, The University of Mississippi Educational Building Corporation, the State Institutions of Higher Learning Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Fund and the State Institutions of Higher Learning Tort Liability Funds' audits in our report on your financial statements. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditors' report, or if necessary, withdraw from the engagement. If our opinions on the financial statements or the single audit compliance opinion is other than

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unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If circumstances occur related to the condition of your records, the availability of sufficient, appropriate audit evidence, or the existence of a significant risk of material misstatement of the financial statements or material noncompliance caused by error, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets, which in our professional judgment prevent us from completing the audit or forming opinions on the financial statements or an opinion on compliance, we retain the right to take any course of action permitted by professional standards, including declining to express opinions or issue reports, or withdrawing from the engagement.

### **Auditor responsibilities, procedures, and limitations**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with U.S. GAAS, the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance. Those standards require that we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. As part of our audit, we will:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement or a material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing opinions on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the basic financial statements that we have identified during the audit.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the basic financial statements, including the amounts and disclosures, and whether the basic financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Although our audit planning has not been concluded and modifications may be made, we have identified the following significant risk of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

- Improper revenue recognition
- Management Override of Controls
- Cutoff of accounts payable

There is an unavoidable risk, because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected, even

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though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance. Because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, material misstatements, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity, may not be detected. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not require auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or on major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. We will include such matters in the reports required for a single audit.

Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting fraud or errors that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses in internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the basic financial statements that we identify during the audit that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the entity's compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

We will include in our report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance relevant information about any identified or suspected instances of fraud and any identified or suspected noncompliance with

provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements that may have occurred that are required to be communicated under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that may have a direct and material effect on each of the entity's major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the "OMB Compliance Supplement" for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the entity's major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the entity's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

We will evaluate the presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards accompanying the financial statements in relation to the financial statements as a whole. We will make certain inquiries of management and evaluate the form, content, and methods of preparing the schedule to determine whether the information complies with U.S. GAAP and the Uniform Guidance, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We will compare and reconcile the schedule to the underlying accounting records and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

### **Management responsibilities**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you (management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance) acknowledge and understand that you have certain responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of an audit.

You are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, RSI, and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Management is also responsible for identifying all federal awards received, understanding and complying with the compliance requirements, and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance.

Management's responsibilities include the selection and application of accounting principles; recording and reflecting all transactions in the financial statements; determining the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates included in the financial statements; adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements; and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months beyond the financial statement date.

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Management is responsible for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs. Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control, including internal control over compliance, relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, including evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities and safeguarding assets to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; and that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements.

You are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud; assessing the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud; and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs; identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs; and informing us of all instances of identified or suspected noncompliance whose effects on the financial statements should be considered.

You are responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that we may report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified, including noncompliance identified in audit findings; and to follow up and take prompt corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review on June 30, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

You are responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, including amounts and disclosures, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters, and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from within and outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers), and for ensuring management information and financial information is reliable and properly reported; (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance; (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. You agree to inform

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us of events occurring or facts discovered subsequent to the date of the financial statements that may affect the financial statements. You are also responsible for providing us access to component information, those charged with governance of components, component management, and component auditors (including relevant audit documentation and communications).

Management is responsible for providing us with, or making arrangements to facilitate (1) unrestricted communication between us and the component auditor(s) to the extent permitted by law or regulation; (2) communications between the component auditor(s), those charged with governance of the component(s), and component management, including communications of significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control; (3) communications between regulatory authorities and the component(s) related to financial reporting matters; (4) access to component information, those charged with governance of the component(s), component management, and the component auditor(s) (including relevant audit documentation requested by us); and (5) permission to perform work, or request a component auditor to perform work, on the financial information of the component(s).

You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of other supplementary information in accordance with U.S. GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. You agree to provide us written representations related to the presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for the preparation of other information included in your annual report. You agree to provide the final version of such information to us in a timely manner, and if possible, prior to the date of our auditors' report. If the other information included in your annual report will not be available until after the date of our auditors' report on the financial statements, you agree to provide written representations indicating that (1) the information is consistent with the financial statements, (2) the other information does not contain material misstatements, and (3) the final version of the documents will be provided to us when available, and prior to issuance of the annual report by the entity, so that we can complete the procedures required by professional standards. Management agrees to correct material inconsistencies that we may identify. You agree

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to include our auditors' report in any document containing financial statements that indicates that such financial statements have been audited by us.

Management is responsible for providing us with a written confirmation concerning representations made by you and your staff to us in connection with the audit and the presentation of the basic financial statements and RSI. During our engagement, we will request information and explanations from you regarding, among other matters, the entity's activities, internal control, future plans, specific transactions, and accounting systems and procedures. The procedures we will perform during our engagement and the conclusions we reach as a basis for our report will be heavily influenced by the representations that we receive in the representation letter and otherwise from you. Accordingly, inaccurate, incomplete, or false representations could cause us to expend unnecessary effort or could cause a material fraud or error to go undetected by our procedures. In view of the foregoing, you agree that we shall not be responsible for any misstatements in the entity's financial statements that we may fail to detect as a result of misrepresentations made to us by you.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies to us of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the "Audit objectives" section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other engagements or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

### **Use of financial statements**

The financial statements and our report thereon are for management's use. If you intend to reproduce and publish the financial statements and our report thereon, they must be reproduced in their entirety. Inclusion of the audited financial statements in a document, such as an annual report or an offering document, should be done only with our prior approval of the document. You are responsible to provide us the opportunity to review such documents before issuance.

If the parties (i.e., you and CLA) agree that CLA will not be involved with your official statements related to municipal securities filings or other offering documents, we will require that any official statements or other offering documents issued by you with which we are not involved clearly indicate that CLA is not involved with the contents of such documents. Such disclosure should read as follows:

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. CliftonLarsonAllen LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website or submitted on a regulator website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in those sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

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We may issue preliminary draft financial statements to you for your review. Any preliminary draft financial statements should not be relied on or distributed.

#### **Engagement administration and other matters**

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations, account analyses, and audit schedules we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing. A list of information we expect to need for our audit and the dates required will be provided in a separate communication.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the auditor sections of the electronic Data Collection Form SF-SAC and perform the steps to certify the Form SF-SAC and single audit reporting package. It is management's responsibility to complete the auditee sections of the Data Collection Form. We will create the single audit reporting package PDF file for submission; however, it is management's responsibility to review for completeness and accuracy and electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse and, if appropriate, to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be electronically submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the entity; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing confidential or sensitive information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

We are available to perform additional procedures with regard to fraud detection and prevention, at your request, as a separate engagement, subject to completion of our normal engagement acceptance procedures. The terms and fees of such an engagement would be documented in a separate engagement letter.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the sole and exclusive property of CLA and constitutes confidential and proprietary information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to oversight agencies, or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of CLA personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release date. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

CLA will not disclose any confidential, proprietary, or privileged information of the entity to any persons without the authorization of entity management or unless required by law. This confidentiality provision does not

prohibit us from disclosing your information to one or more of our affiliated companies in order to provide services that you have requested from us or from any such affiliated company. Any such affiliated company shall be subject to the same restrictions on the use and disclosure of your information as apply to us.

Professional standards require us to be independent with respect to you in the performance of these services. Any discussion that you have with our personnel regarding potential employment with you could impair our independence with respect to this engagement. Therefore, we request that you inform us prior to any such discussions so that we can implement appropriate safeguards to maintain our independence and objectivity. Further, any employment offers to any staff members working on this engagement without our prior knowledge may require substantial additional procedures to ensure our independence. You will be responsible for any additional costs incurred to perform these procedures.

Our relationship with you is limited to that described in this letter. As such, you understand and agree that we are acting solely as independent accountants. We are not acting in any way as a fiduciary or assuming any fiduciary responsibilities for you. We are not responsible for the preparation of any report to any governmental agency, or any other form, return, or report or for providing advice or any other service not specifically recited in this letter.

Our engagement ends on delivery of our signed report. Any additional services that might be requested will be a separate, new engagement. The terms and conditions of that new engagement will be governed by a new, specific engagement letter for that service.

*Government Auditing Standards* require that we make our most recent external peer review report publicly available. The report is posted on our website at [www.CLAconnect.com/Aboutus/](http://www.CLAconnect.com/Aboutus/).

### **Mediation**

Any disagreement, controversy, or claim (“Dispute”) that may arise out of any aspect of our services or relationship with you, including this engagement, shall be submitted to non-binding mediation by written notice (“Mediation Notice”) to the other party. In mediation, we will work with you to resolve any differences voluntarily with the aid of an impartial mediator.

The mediation will be conducted as specified by the mediator and agreed upon by the parties. The parties agree to discuss their differences in good faith and to attempt, with the assistance of the mediator, to reach an amicable resolution of the Dispute.

Each party will bear its own costs in the mediation. The fees and expenses of the mediator will be shared equally by the parties.

### **Time limitation**

The nature of our services makes it difficult, with the passage of time, to gather and present evidence that fully and fairly establishes the facts underlying any Dispute that may arise between the parties. The parties agree that, notwithstanding any statute or law of limitations that might otherwise apply to a Dispute, including one arising out of this agreement or the services performed under this agreement, for breach of contract or fiduciary duty, tort, fraud, misrepresentation or any other cause of action or remedy, any action or legal proceeding by you against us must be commenced within twenty-four (24) months (“Limitation Period”) after the date when

we deliver our final audit report under this agreement to you, regardless of whether we do other services for you relating to the audit report, or you shall be forever barred from commencing a lawsuit or obtaining any legal or equitable relief or recovery.

The Limitation Period applies and begins to run even if you have not suffered any damage or loss, or have not become aware of the existence or possible existence of a Dispute.

### **Fees**

Our professional fees will be \$951,130 and \$998,690 for the system-wide financial statement audits and single audits for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2023. We will also bill for a technology and client support fee of five percent (5%) of all professional fees billed. These fees are based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and their assistance with preparing confirmations and requested schedules. If the requested items are not available on the dates required or are not accurate, the fees and expenses will likely be higher. If unexpected circumstances require significant additional time, we will advise you before undertaking work that would require a substantial increase in the fee and expense estimates. Our invoices, including applicable state and local taxes, will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 60 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed even if we have not issued our reports. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and related fees and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination.

### ***Unanticipated services***

We do not anticipate encountering the need to perform additional services beyond those described in this letter. Below are listings of services considered to be outside the scope of our engagement. If any such service needs to be completed before the audit can proceed in an efficient manner, we will determine whether we can provide the service and maintain our independence. If appropriate, we will notify you and provide a fair and reasonable price for providing the service. We will bill you for the service at periodic dates after the additional service has been performed.

#### **Bookkeeping services**

Bookkeeping services are not audit services. Bookkeeping services include the following activities:

- Preparation of a trial balance
- Account reconciliations
- Bank statement reconciliations
- Capital asset accounting (e.g., calculating depreciation, identify capital assets for additions and deletions)
- Calculating accruals
- Analyzing transactions for proper recording

- Converting cash basis accounting records to accrual basis
- Preparation of financial statements and the related notes to the financial statements
- Processing immaterial adjustments through the financial statements
- Adjusting the financial statements for new activities and new disclosures

**Additional work resulting from unanticipated changes in your organization or accounting records**

If your organization undergoes significant changes in key personnel, accounting systems, and/or internal control, we are required to update our audit documentation and audit plan. The following are examples of situations that will require additional audit work:

- Revising documentation of your internal control for changes resulting from your implementation of new information systems
- Deterioration in the quality of the entity's accounting records during the current-year engagement in comparison to the prior-year engagement
- Significant new accounting issues
- Significant changes in your volume of business
- Mergers, acquisitions, or other business combinations
- New or unusual transactions
- Changes in audit scope or requirements resulting from changes in your activities
- Erroneous or incomplete accounting records
- Evidence of material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control
- Substantial increases in the number or significance of problem loans
- Regulatory examination matters
- Implementation or adoption of new or existing accounting, reporting, regulatory, or tax requirements
- New financial statement disclosures

**Changes in engagement timing and assistance by your personnel**

The fee estimate is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and their assistance with timely preparation of confirmations and requested schedules. If the requested items are not available

on the dates required or are not accurate, we will advise management. Additional time and costs may be necessary because of such unanticipated delays. Examples of situations that may cause our estimated fee to increase include:

- Significant delays in responding to our requests for information such as reconciling variances or providing requested supporting documentation (e.g., invoices, contracts, and other documents)
- Rescheduling our fieldwork
- Schedule disruption caused by litigation, financial challenges (going concern), loan covenants (waivers), etc.
- Identifying a significant number of proposed audit adjustments
- Schedules prepared by your personnel that do not reconcile to the general ledger
- Numerous revisions to information and schedules provided by your personnel
- Restating financial statements for accounting errors in the prior year
- Lack of availability of entity personnel during audit fieldwork

***Changes in accounting and audit standards***

Standard setters and regulators continue to evaluate and modify standards. Such changes may result in new or revised financial reporting and disclosure requirements or expand the nature, timing, and scope of the activities we are required to perform. To the extent that the amount of time required to provide the services described in this letter increases due to such changes, our fee may need to be adjusted. We will discuss such circumstances with you prior to performing the additional work.

***Changes related to COVID-19***

COVID-19 continues to have significant direct and indirect impacts on financial reporting, disclosure requirements, and the nature, timing, and scope of the activities we are required to perform. To the extent that the amount of time required to provide the services described in this letter increases due to such changes, our fee may need to be adjusted. We will discuss such circumstances with you prior to performing the additional work.

***Other fees***

You also agree to compensate us for any time and expenses, including time and expenses of legal counsel, we may incur in responding to discovery requests or participating as a witness or otherwise in any legal, regulatory, or other proceedings that we are asked to respond to on your behalf.

***Finance charges and collection expenses***

You agree that if any statement is not paid within 30 days from its billing date, the unpaid balance shall accrue interest at the monthly rate of one and one-quarter percent (1.25%), which is an annual percentage rate of 15%.

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State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
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In the event that any collection action is required to collect unpaid balances due us, reasonable attorney fees and expenses shall be recoverable.

**Consent**

***Consent to use information for benchmarking analysis***

In an effort to better serve the needs of our clients, we develop a variety of benchmark, performance indicator, and predictive analysis reports, using anonymized client data obtained from our audit, tax, and other engagements. Business and financial information that you provide to us may be combined with information from other clients and included within the aggregated data that we use in these reports. While some of these analytical reports will be published and released publicly, please be assured that the separate information that we obtain from you will remain confidential, as required by the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct.

***Subcontractors***

CLA may, at times, use subcontractors to perform services under this agreement, and they may have access to your information and records. Any such subcontractors will be subject to the same restrictions on the use of such information and records as apply to CLA under this agreement.

**Agreement**

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. This letter constitutes the entire agreement regarding these services and supersedes all prior agreements (whether oral or written), understandings, negotiations, and discussions between you and CLA. If you have any questions, please let us know. Please sign, date, and return this letter to us to indicate your acknowledgment and understanding of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of your financial statements including the terms of our engagement and the parties' respective responsibilities.

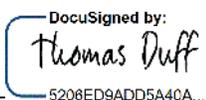
Sincerely,

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

DocuSigned by:  
  
AB602B7382634F8...  
Christina Bowman, CPA  
Principal  
410-308-8064  
Christina.bowman@CLAconnect.com

**Response:**

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

Authorized governance signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
5208ED9ADD5A4CA...

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Title: Trustee  
Date: 5/21/2022

Authorized management signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Commissioner of Higher Education  
Date: 5/21/2022

Authorized Representative of OSA signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Director of Audit  
Date: 5/18/2022



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP  
1966 Greenspring Drive, Suite 300  
Timonium, MD 21093  
410-453-0900 | fax 410-453-0914  
CLAconnect.com

April 11, 2018

Board of Trustees and Management  
State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning  
3825 Ridgewood Rd  
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the terms and objectives of our engagements and the nature and limitations of the audit and nonaudit services CliftonLarsonAllen LLP ("CLA," "we," "us," and "our") will provide for the State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning ("you," "your," or "the entity") for the years ended June 30, 2018, June 30, 2019, June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

Christina Bowman and Jeff Bonick are responsible for the performance of the audit engagements.

#### **Audit services**

We will audit the financial statements of the business-type activities and the aggregate discretely presented component units, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2018, June 30, 2019, June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) provides for certain required supplementary information (RSI) to accompany the entity's basic financial statements. The following RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited.

1. Management's discussion and analysis.
2. GASB-required supplementary pension and OPEB information.

We will also evaluate and report on the presentation of the following supplementary information other than RSI accompanying the financial statements in relation to the financial statements as a whole:

1. Schedule of expenditures of federal awards
2. Combining supplemental information
3. Component unit information

### **Nonaudit services**

We will also provide the following nonaudit services:

- Assist with preparation of your financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes.
- Preparation of adjusting journal entries.

### **Audit objectives**

The objective of our audits is the expression of opinions about whether your basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). Our audits will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS); the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our audits will include tests of your accounting records, a determination of major program(s) in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express opinions and render the required reports. We will apply certain limited procedures to the RSI in accordance with U.S. GAAS. However, we will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. We will also perform procedures to enable us to express an opinion on whether the supplementary information (as identified above) other than RSI accompanying the financial statements is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

The objectives of our audits also include:

- Reporting on internal control over financial reporting and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.
- Reporting on internal control over compliance related to major programs and expressing an opinion (or disclaimer of opinion) on compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

The *Government Auditing Standards* report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The Uniform Guidance report on internal control over compliance will include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the result of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Both reports will state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We will issue written reports upon completion of our audits of your financial statements and compliance with requirements applicable to major programs. We will make reference to other auditors' audits of Mississippi State

University Foundation, Inc., The University of Mississippi Foundation, the University of Southern Mississippi Foundation, The University of Mississippi Medical Center Educational Building Corporation, The University of Mississippi Educational Building Corporation, The University of Mississippi Medical Center Tort Claims Fund, the State Institutions of Higher Learning Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Fund, and the State Institutions of Higher Learning Tort Liability Fund in our report on your financial statements. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement. If our opinions on the financial statements or the single audit compliance opinion are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If circumstances occur related to the condition of your records, the availability of sufficient, appropriate audit evidence, or the existence of a significant risk of material misstatement of the financial statements or material noncompliance caused by error, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets, which in our professional judgment prevent us from completing the audit or forming opinions on the financial statements or an opinion on compliance, we retain the right to take any course of action permitted by professional standards, including declining to express opinions or issue reports, or withdrawing from the engagement.

#### **Auditor responsibilities, procedures, and limitations**

We will conduct our audits in accordance with U.S. GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the basic financial statements.

There is an unavoidable risk, because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, that some material misstatements or noncompliance may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance. Because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, material misstatements, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity, may not be detected. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements or on major programs. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management and those charged with governance of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. We will include such matters in the reports required for a single audit.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements and compliance in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the

entity's internal control. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting fraud or errors that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

As required by the Uniform Guidance, we will perform tests of controls over compliance to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of controls that we consider relevant to preventing or detecting material noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements applicable to each major federal award program. However, our tests will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on those controls and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses in internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the basic financial statements that we identify during the audits that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the entity's compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements that have a material effect on the financial statements. However, the objective of our audits will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

We will include in our report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance relevant information about any fraud; noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements; or abuse that may have occurred that are required to be communicated under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Uniform Guidance requires that we also plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the auditee has complied with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards that may have a direct and material effect on each of the entity's major programs. Our procedures will consist of tests of transactions and other applicable procedures described in the "OMB Compliance Supplement" for the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of the entity's major programs. The purpose of these procedures will be to express an opinion on the entity's compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major programs in our report on compliance issued pursuant to the Uniform Guidance.

We will evaluate the presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards accompanying the financial statements in relation to the financial statements as a whole. We will make certain inquiries of management and evaluate the form, content, and methods of preparing the schedule to determine whether the information complies with U.S. GAAP and the Uniform Guidance, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audits of the financial statements. We will compare and reconcile the schedule to the underlying accounting records and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the periods covered by our audits and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

### **Management responsibilities**

Our audits will be conducted on the basis that you (management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance) acknowledge and understand that you have certain responsibilities that are fundamental to the conduct of an audit.

You are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, RSI, and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Management is also responsible for identifying all federal awards received, understanding and complying with the compliance requirements, and for the preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (including notes and noncash assistance received) in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance.

Management's responsibilities include the selection and application of accounting principles; recording and reflecting all transactions in the financial statements; determining the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates included in the financial statements; adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements; and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. Management is responsible for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs. Your responsibilities also include identifying significant contractor relationships in which the contractor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information.

You are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control, including internal control over compliance, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements.

You are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud; assessing the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud; and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs; identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, including compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards applicable to the entity's federal programs; and informing us of all instances of identified or suspected noncompliance whose effects on the financial statements should be considered.

You are responsible for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy any fraud; noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements; or abuse that we may report. Additionally, as required by the Uniform Guidance, it is management's responsibility to evaluate and monitor noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of federal awards; take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified, including noncompliance identified in audit findings; and to follow up and take prompt corrective action on reported audit findings and to prepare a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan. The summary schedule of prior audit findings should be available for our review on June 30, 2018.

You are responsible for ensuring that management is reliable and for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters, and for the accuracy and completeness of that information, and for ensuring the information is reliable and properly reported; (2) access to personnel, accounts, books, records, supporting documentation, and other information as needed to perform an audit under the Uniform Guidance; (3) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (4) unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. You agree to inform us of events occurring or facts discovered subsequent to the date of the financial statements that may affect the financial statements. You are also responsible for providing us access to component information, those charged with governance of components, component management, and component auditors (including relevant audit documentation and communications).

Management is responsible for providing us with, or making arrangements to facilitate (1) unrestricted communication between us and the component auditor(s) to the extent permitted by law or regulation; (2) communications between the component auditor(s), those charged with governance of the component(s), and component management, including communications of significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control; (3) communications between regulatory authorities and the component(s) related to financial reporting matters; (4) access to component information, those charged with governance of the component(s), component management, and the component auditor(s) (including relevant audit documentation requested by us); and (5) permission to perform work, or request a component auditor to perform work, on the financial information of the component(s).

You agree to include our report on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to intended users of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards no later than the date the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the representation letter that (1) you are responsible for presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (2) you believe the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with the Uniform Guidance; (3) the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (4) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of other supplementary information in accordance with U.S. GAAP. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the supplementary information. You also agree to include

the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. You agree to provide us written representations related to the presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for providing us with a written confirmation concerning representations made by you and your staff to us in connection with the audits and the presentation of the basic financial statements and RSI. During our engagement, we will request information and explanations from you regarding, among other matters, the entity's activities, internal control, future plans, specific transactions, and accounting systems and procedures. The procedures we will perform during our engagement and the conclusions we reach as a basis for our report will be heavily influenced by the representations that we receive in the representation letter and otherwise from you. Accordingly, inaccurate, incomplete, or false representations could cause us to expend unnecessary effort or could cause a material fraud or error to go undetected by our procedures. In view of the foregoing, you agree that we shall not be responsible for any misstatements in the entity's financial statements that we may fail to detect as a result of misrepresentations made to us by you.

Management is responsible for authorizing the predecessor auditor to allow us to review the predecessor auditor's workpapers and to respond fully to our inquiries, thereby providing us with information to assist us in planning and performing the engagement. You will be responsible for any fees billed by the predecessor auditor related to our review of their workpapers and our inquiries.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies to us of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the "Audit objectives" section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other engagements or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

#### **Responsibilities and limitations related to nonaudit services**

For all nonaudit services we may provide to you, management agrees to assume all management responsibilities; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably within senior management, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee the services; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for the results of the services.

The responsibilities and limitations related to the nonaudit services performed as part of this engagement are as follows:

- We will assist in preparing a draft of your financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes in conformity with U.S. GAAP and the Uniform Guidance based on information provided by you. Since the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and schedule of expenditures of federal awards is your responsibility, you will be required to acknowledge in the representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and schedule of expenditures of federal awards and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted

responsibility for them. You have a responsibility to be in a position in fact and appearance to make an informed judgment on those financial statements and schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

- We will propose adjusting journal entries as needed. You will be required to review and approve those entries and to understand the nature of the changes and their impact on the financial statements.

These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

#### **Use of financial statements**

Should you decide to include or incorporate by reference these financial statements and our auditors' report(s) thereon in a future private placement or other offering of equity or debt securities, you agree that we are under no obligation to re-issue our report or provide consent for the use of our report in such a registration or offering document. We will determine, at our sole discretion, whether we will re-issue our report or provide consent for the use of our report only after we have performed the procedures we consider necessary in the circumstances. If we decide to re-issue our report or consent to the use of our report, we will be required to perform certain procedures including, but not limited to, (a) reading other information incorporated by reference in the registration statement or other offering document and (b) subsequent event procedures. These procedures will be considered an engagement separate and distinct from our audit engagements, and we will bill you separately. If we decide to re-issue our report or consent to the use of our report, you agree that we will be included on each distribution of draft offering materials and we will receive a complete set of final documents. If we decide not to re-issue our report or decide to withhold our consent to the use of our report, you may be required to engage another firm to audit periods covered by our audit reports, and that firm will likely bill you for its services. While the successor auditor may request access to our workpapers for those periods, we are under no obligation to permit such access.

If the parties (i.e., you and CLA) agree that CLA will not be involved with your official statements related to municipal securities filings or other offering documents, we will require that any official statements or other offering documents issued by you with which we are not involved clearly indicate that CLA is not involved with the contents of such documents. Such disclosure should read as follows:

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. CliftonLarsonAllen LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document.

With regard to the electronic dissemination of audited financial statements, including financial statements published electronically on your website or submitted on a regulator website, you understand that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in those sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

We may issue preliminary draft financial statements to you for your review. Any preliminary draft financial statements should not be relied on or distributed.

### **Engagement administration and other matters**

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations, account analyses, and audit schedules we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing. A list of information we expect to need for our audits and the dates required will be provided in a separate communication.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the auditor sections of the electronic Data Collection Form SF-SAC and perform the steps to certify the Form SF-SAC and single audit reporting package. It is management's responsibility to complete the auditee sections of the Data Collection Form. We will create the single audit reporting package PDF file for submission; however, it is management's responsibility to review for completeness and accuracy and electronically submit the reporting package (including financial statements, schedule of expenditures of federal awards, summary schedule of prior audit findings, auditors' reports, and corrective action plan) along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse and, if appropriate, to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be electronically submitted within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditors' reports or nine months after the end of the audit period.

We will provide copies of our reports to the entity; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

We are available to perform additional procedures with regard to fraud detection and prevention, at your request, as a separate engagement, subject to completion of our normal engagement acceptance procedures. The terms and fees of such an engagement would be documented in a separate engagement letter.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the sole and exclusive property of CLA and constitutes confidential and proprietary information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to U.S. Department of Education, or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of CLA personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the U.S. Department of Education. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

CLA will not disclose any confidential, proprietary, or privileged information of the entity to any persons without the authorization of entity management or unless required by law. This confidentiality provision does not prohibit us from disclosing your information to one or more of our affiliated companies in order to provide services that you have requested from us or from any such affiliated company. Any such affiliated company shall be subject to the same restrictions on the use and disclosure of your information as apply to us.

Professional standards require us to be independent with respect to you in the performance of these services. Any discussion that you have with our personnel regarding potential employment with you could impair our

independence with respect to this engagement. Therefore, we request that you inform us prior to any such discussions so that we can implement appropriate safeguards to maintain our independence and objectivity. Further, any employment offers to any staff members working on this engagement without our prior knowledge may require substantial additional procedures to ensure our independence. You will be responsible for any additional costs incurred to perform these procedures.

Our relationship with you is limited to that described in this letter. As such, you understand and agree that we are acting solely as independent accountants. We are not acting in any way as a fiduciary or assuming any fiduciary responsibilities for you. We are not responsible for the preparation of any report to any governmental agency, or any other form, return, or report or for providing advice or any other service not specifically recited in this letter.

Our engagement and responsibility end on delivery of our signed report. Any additional services that might be requested will be a separate, new engagement. The terms and conditions of that new engagement will be governed by a new, specific engagement letter for that service.

*Government Auditing Standards* require that we make our most recent external peer review report publicly available. The report is posted on our website at [www.CLAconnect.com/Aboutus/](http://www.CLAconnect.com/Aboutus/).

#### **Mediation**

Any dispute concerning a question of fact arising under this contract shall be disposed of by good faith negotiation between duly authorized representatives of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, the Office of the State Auditor of Mississippi (OSA), and CLA. Such a resolution shall be reduced to writing and a copy thereof mailed or furnished to CLA and shall be final and conclusive. If a resolution cannot be reached, CLA shall mail or furnish to the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and OSA a written request for review. CLA shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard and to offer evidence in support of his/her/its position on the issue in dispute and under review. The review will be handled under a three (3) person panel for arbitration composed of the Deputy State Auditor, the Director of Technical Assistance and the Director of the Financial and Compliance Audit Division. The decision of the arbitration panel of OSA on the review shall be final and conclusive unless determined by a court of competent jurisdiction in Hinds County, State of Mississippi, to have been fraudulent, capricious, or so grossly erroneous as necessarily to imply bad faith, or not be supported by substantial evidence. Pending final decision of a dispute hereunder, CLA shall proceed diligently with the performance of the duties and obligations of the contract.

Any Dispute will be governed by the laws of the state of Mississippi, without giving effect to choice of law principles.

#### **Fees**

Our fees for these services will be \$842,000, \$857,000, \$874,000 and \$892,000 for the system-wide financial statement audits and single audits for the years ended June 30, 2018, June 30, 2019, June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, respectively. The fees are based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and their assistance with preparing confirmations and requested schedules. If the requested items are not available on the dates required or are not accurate, the estimated fee for services will likely be higher. If unexpected circumstances require significant additional time, we will advise you before undertaking work that would require a substantial increase in the fee estimate. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 60 days or more overdue and will not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed even if we have not issued our reports.

You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket expenditures through the date of termination.

CLA acknowledges that the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and OSA are relying on the timely completion of this contract in its scheduling and budgeting and that time is of the essence. If CLA fails to meet the completion date prescribed herein, the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and/or OSA may, at their option, reduce the agreed compensation by an amount not to exceed ten percent (10%) of the total contract amount as liquidated damages for the failure to complete the contract by the completion date provided the failure to meet the report delivery deadline is not the result of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning delays.

The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning with the written consent of the OSA's authorized representative is empowered to accept or reject the services furnished by CLA in compliance with the material provisions of this contract. However, any rejection of services must be based solely on CLA's failure to comply with the material terms of this contract and cannot be based on the nature of CLA's opinion on the financial status of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning in its audit report. However, prior to termination of this contract by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning must provide written justification to the OSA documenting the reasons for requesting the contract be terminated. The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning must obtain written approval from the OSA prior to terminating the contract.

#### ***Unanticipated services***

We do not anticipate encountering the need to perform additional services beyond those described in this letter. Below are listings of services considered to be outside the scope of our engagement. If any such service needs to be completed before the audit can proceed in an efficient manner, we will determine whether we can provide the service and maintain our independence. We will notify you and provide a fair and reasonable price for providing the service. We will not proceed with additional unanticipated services without the approval of the OSA and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. We will bill you for the service at periodic dates after the additional service has been performed.

#### **Bookkeeping services**

Bookkeeping services are not audit services. Bookkeeping services include the following activities:

- Preparation of a trial balance
- Account reconciliations
- Bank statement reconciliations
- Capital asset accounting (e.g., calculating depreciation, identify capital assets for additions and deletions)
- Calculating accruals
- Analyzing transactions for proper recording
- Converting cash basis accounting records to accrual basis
- Preparation of financial statements and the related notes to the financial statements

- Processing immaterial adjustments through the financial statements
- Adjusting the financial statements for new activities and new disclosures

**Additional work resulting from unanticipated changes in your organization or accounting records**

If your organization undergoes significant changes in key personnel, accounting systems, and/or internal control, we are required to update our audit documentation and audit plan. The following are examples of situations that will require additional audit work:

- Revising documentation of your internal control for changes resulting from your implementation of new information systems
- Deterioration in the quality of the entity's accounting records during the current-year engagement in comparison to the prior-year engagement
- Significant new accounting issues
- Significant changes in your volume of business
- Mergers, acquisitions, or other business combinations
- New or unusual transactions
- Changes in audit scope or requirements resulting from changes in your activities
- Erroneous or incomplete accounting records
- Evidence of material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control
- Substantial increases in the number or significance of problem loans
- Regulatory examination matters
- Implementation or adoption of new or existing accounting, reporting, regulatory, or tax requirements
- New financial statement disclosures

**Changes in engagement timing and assistance by your personnel**

The fee estimate is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and their assistance with timely preparation of confirmations and requested schedules. If the requested items are not available on the dates required or are not accurate, we will advise management. Additional time and costs may be necessary because of such unanticipated delays. Examples of situations that may cause our estimated fee to increase include:

- Significant delays in responding to our requests for information such as reconciling variances or providing requested supporting documentation (e.g., invoices, contracts, and other documents)

- Rescheduling our fieldwork
- Schedule disruption caused by litigation, financial challenges (going concern), loan covenants (waivers), etc.
- Identifying a significant number of proposed audit adjustments
- Schedules prepared by your personnel that do not reconcile to the general ledger
- Numerous revisions to information and schedules provided by your personnel
- Restating financial statements for accounting errors in the prior year
- Lack of availability of entity personnel during audit fieldwork

#### ***Changes in accounting and audit standards***

Standard setters and regulators continue to evaluate and modify standards. Such changes may result in new or revised financial reporting and disclosure requirements or expand the nature, timing, and scope of the activities we are required to perform. To the extent that the amount of time required to provide the services described in the letter increases due to such changes, our fee may need to be adjusted. We will discuss such circumstances with you prior to performing the additional work.

#### ***Other fees***

You also agree to compensate us for any time and expenses, including time and expenses of legal counsel, we may incur in responding to discovery requests or participating as a witness or otherwise in any legal, regulatory, or other proceedings that we are asked to respond to on your behalf.

#### ***Finance charges and collection expenses***

The State of Mississippi requires CLA to submit invoices electronically throughout the term of the agreement. Vendor invoices shall be submitted to the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning using the processes and procedures identified by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. Payments by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning using Mississippi Accountability System for Government Information and Collaboration (MAGIC) shall be made and remittance information provided electronically as directed by the State of Mississippi. These payments shall be deposited into the bank account of CLA's choice. CLA understands and agrees that the State is exempt from the payment of taxes. All payments shall be in United States currency.

CLA's invoices will outline the work performed and the number of hours worked. The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning will pay ninety percent (90%) of each invoice and will retain the remaining ten percent (10%) until final payment is made. The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning will pay such invoices in accordance with the law related to timely payment for purchases by public bodies (Miss. Code Ann. Section 31-7-301 et seq., Rev.1990). The final payment, including retained amounts, shall be made after completion and acceptance of the audit services. In no instance will a payment be made in excess of the contract amount.

Any accrual rate for interest owed on an unpaid balance past due shall be in accordance with applicable Mississippi law. In the event that any collection action is required to collect unpaid balances due us, reasonable attorney fees and expenses shall be recoverable.

### ***Termination***

**Termination for Cause.** Upon the failure of either party to perform any obligation or observe any covenant required hereunder, the non-defaulting party, with the written consent of the OSA, shall have the right to send a written notice to the defaulting party specifying such failure and demanding cure within ten (10) days of receipt of such notice. If the defaulting party has not remedied such failure within the cure period, or has not made substantial progress toward remedying such failure within the cure period, then the non-defaulting party may terminate the contract immediately by sending a written notice of termination to the defaulting party. However, prior to termination of this contract by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning must provide written justification to the OSA documenting the reasons for requesting the contract be terminated. The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning must obtain written approval from the OSA prior to terminating the contract. In the event of termination for cause by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and/or OSA, in addition to other remedies provided herein or available at law or in equity, CLA shall bear all costs associated with the issuance of a new contract for audit services, including, but not limited to, the cost of reissuing another request for proposals and any additional costs resulting from an acceleration of services necessary for the timely completion of such auditing services.

**Termination by Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Without Cause.** The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, with the written consent of the OSA, may terminate this contract, without cause, by providing a fifteen (15) day written notice of termination to CLA. However, prior to termination of this contract by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning must provide written justification to the OSA documenting the reasons for requesting the contract be terminated. The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning must obtain written approval from the OSA prior to terminating the contract.

In the event of termination, CLA will be entitled to payment for services in an amount which bears the same ratio to the total compensation as the services actually performed bear to the total services of CLA covered by the contract, less payments previously made. All finished or unfinished tests, surveys, checklists, forms, manuals, reports or other material prepared by CLA under this contract shall become the property of the OSA.

### ***Subcontractors***

CLA may, at times, use subcontractors to perform services under this agreement, and they may have access to your information and records. Any such subcontractors will be subject to the same restrictions on the use of such information and records as apply to CLA under this agreement.

### ***Agreement***

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. This letter and Entity's "IHL Standard Services Contract" attached hereto as Exhibit "A" constitute the entire agreement regarding these services and supersedes all prior agreements (whether oral or written), understandings, negotiations, and discussions between you and CLA. If you have any questions, please let us know. Please sign, date, and return the enclosed copy of this letter to us to indicate your acknowledgment and understanding of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audits of your financial statements including the terms of our engagement and the parties' respective responsibilities.

## Request for Documents

As requested, CLA shall provide the following documents to OSA and/or the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning:

- Draft and Final reports on the fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.
- A report, Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS report), on CLA's consideration of internal control over financial reporting and tests of compliance made as part of its audit of the financial statements. Management of the Agency is responsible for providing CLA with written responses in accordance with Government Auditing Standards to the findings included in the GAGAS report within 30 days of being provided with draft findings. If such information is not provided on a timely basis prior to release of the report, the GAGAS report will indicate the status of management's responses.
- Engagement Letter
- Journal Entries Summary – Including entries approved and made by Auditee and a Summary of Passed Adjustments.
- Signed Representations of Management as of the date of the Report and an update of representations as of the date of the CAFR report.
- Independence and Related Party statements for CLA.
- Letters to Those Charged with Governance, including any management comments made regarding control deficiencies.
- Written findings to be included in the report, as applicable.
- Summary of verbal findings presented to client.
- Reconciliation of Treasury Fund Trial balances (MAGIC ZBL report) to the Audit Report, if applicable.
- Firm representations to OSA and/or the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.
- Workpapers detailing component materiality and fund materiality used during the audit process.
- Subsequent Event Inquiries
  - From fiscal year end (June 30) to the date of CLA audit report;
  - From the date of CLA audit report to the date of the CAFR report date; and
  - From the date of the CAFR report to the date of the Single Audit Report (as applicable).
- Corrective Action Plans, if applicable.

- Additional information as needed by OSA and/or the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning to satisfy the requirements of AU-C 600.

Sincerely,

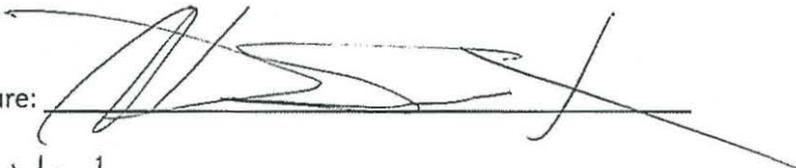
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

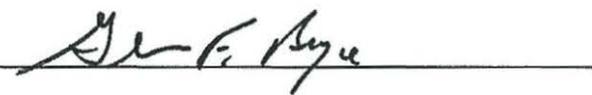


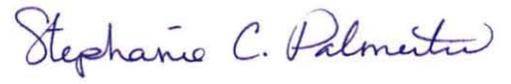
Christina Bowman, CPA  
Principal  
410-308-8064  
Christina.bowman@CLAconnect.com

**Response:**

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the State of Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

Authorized governance signature:   
Title: Board President  
Date: 4.30.18

Authorized management signature:   
Title: Commissioner of Higher Education  
Date: 4-30-18

Authorized Representative of OSA signature:   
Title: Director, Financial and Compliance Audit Division  
Date: 5/8/2018

"EXHIBIT A"

IHL STANDARD SERVICES CONTRACT

Contractor: Clifton Larson Allen, LLP Phone Number: 410-453-0900  
Address: 1966 Greenspring Drive, Suite 300,  
City: Timonium State: MD Zip Code: 21093

Are you currently receiving a benefit from the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi? Yes  No   
If the answer is yes, individual must contact the Office of Human Resources (601.432.6134) to discuss eligibility of retirees to earn compensation from the IHL Executive Office prior to completing this form.

U.S. Citizen: Yes  No  If no, Country of Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_ and Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
If no, are you a non-resident alien? \_\_\_\_\_ Visa Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Resident Alien: \_\_\_\_\_  
Incorporated: Yes  No  Small Business, Minority, Woman-Owned? (Circle all applicable)

U.S. Social Security Number or U.S. Federal Tax Identification Number: 41-0746749

STATEMENT OF WORK:

IHL has determined that these services are essential and could not satisfactorily be performed by IHL Executive Office employees. Therefore, the Contractor noted above will perform the services and/or tasks as follows: external audit services for years ending June 30, 2018, June 30, 2019, June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021 per attached engagement letter and RFP Response.

Contractor shall provide the following: Services per attached engagement letter, RFP and RFP Response.

(Please reference attachment if additional space required. Any attachment is incorporated into this contract.)

Contract Begin Date: effective date upon full execution of all parties

Contract Completion Date: expires 120 days after the conclusion of the last services performed

CONSIDERATION AND COMPENSATION: Account to be Charged: Not to exceed \$

Rate of Pay: (Indicate hourly, daily, scheduled deliverables/tasks, total project, etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(If charged to a Corporation for National and Community Service Grant, consultant daily rate cannot exceed \$540.)

Payment Terms: Total fees equal \$3,465,000 for the four audit years, plus additional services as needed as outlined in the engagement letter, RFP and RFP Response. Invoiced monthly as work progresses.

Services shall not exceed: \$4,000,000.00 Expenses shall not exceed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Expenses: \_\_\_\_\_

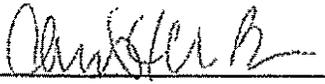
Signed original invoices referencing the IHL contract number should be submitted to the following address:

Mississippi Board of Trustees State Institutions of Higher Learning  
Attention: IHL contact will be designated upon execution of contract.  
3825 Ridgewood Road  
Jackson, MS 39211-6453

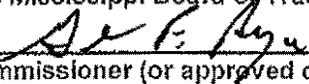
IHL EXECUTIVE OFFICE CONTACT:

Name: D'Anna White Phone Number: 601-432-6142

Contractor Certification: I understand I must submit a signed W-9 Form (available at the following link: <http://www.mississippi.edu/finance/downloads/fw9.pdf>). I agree to the terms noted above and to the general terms and conditions referenced in Appendix A. I am an independent Contractor for the IHL; therefore, the IHL is not liable for Social Security Contributions pursuant to Section 418, 42 U.S. Code. Furthermore, IRS Form 1099 will be forwarded at the end of the calendar year if total payments exceed \$600.

Signature of Contractor:  Date: 4-27-18

The Mississippi Board of Trustees Institutions of Higher Learning acceptance of contract:

 Date: 5-9-18  
Commissioner (or approved designee)

- 1. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:** The Contractor will act as an independent contractor under this contract, and neither the Contractor nor any employee or agent of the Contractor is an employee of the IHL Executive Office. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed or construed by the IHL Executive Office, the Contractor, or any third party as creating the relationship of principal and agent, master and servant, partners, joint ventures, employer and employee, or any similar such relationship between the IHL Executive Office and the Contractor. Neither the method of computation of fees or other charges, nor any other provision contained herein, nor any acts of the IHL Executive Office or the Contractor hereunder, create or shall be deemed to create a relationship other than the independent relationship of the IHL Executive Office and the Contractor. Contractor's personnel shall not be deemed in any way, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, to be employees of the State. IHL Executive Office shall be at no time legally responsible for any negligence or other wrongdoing by the Contractor, its servants, agents, or employees. The IHL Executive Office shall not withhold from the contract payments to the Contractor any federal or State unemployment taxes, federal or State income taxes, Social Security tax, or any other amounts for benefits to the Contractor. Further, the IHL Executive Office shall not provide to the Contractor any insurance coverage or other benefits, including Workers' Compensation, normally provided by the State for its employees.

The Contractor will provide the services and achieve the results specified by the IHL, free from the direction or control of the IHL as to means and methods of performance.

- 2. INSURANCE.** The Contractor, as an independent contractor, shall provide proof of Comprehensive General Liability insurance, Worker's Compensation insurance and Commercial Auto Liability Insurance. The Contractor must provide a Certificate of Coverage mailed to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, Office of Contracts and Grants Compliance, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Suite 417, Jackson, MS, 39211. The Certificate of Coverage should, at a minimum, contain the name of the carrier, effective and expiration dates of coverage, a description of the covered perils, and the amount of coverage by peril, the name and mailing address of the insurance company, and the name and mailing address of the insurance agent. The Certificate of Coverage must name the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning as an additional insured. The Comprehensive General Liability coverage and the Commercial Auto Liability coverage shall be a minimum amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) per occurrence and Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) annual aggregate through an insurance company with a Best rating of A- or higher and a financial size Class X or higher approved by the Mississippi Department of Insurance.
- 3. NONRESIDENT ALIEN.** If the Contractor is a nonresident alien performing services in the United States or its territories, the Contractor agrees that proof of visa status (I-94 Form) documenting authorization to receive payment for work performed will be provided to the IHL prior to payment by the IHL.
- 4. AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT.** The CONTRACTOR warrants (a) is authorized to enter into this agreement; (b) that it is qualified to do business and in good standing in the State of Mississippi; (c) that entry into and performance under this agreement is not

restricted or prohibited by any loan, security, financing, contractual, or other agreement of any kind; and (d) notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement to the contrary, that there are no existing legal proceedings, either voluntary or otherwise, which may adversely affect its ability to perform its obligations under this agreement.

5. **ACCESS TO RECORDS.** The Contractor shall maintain books, records, documents, and other evidence and accounting procedures and practices to sufficiently reflect properly all costs of whatever nature claimed to have been incurred in the performance of the Contract. The IHL, any sponsor, the state of Mississippi, or the Comptroller General of the United States or their authorized representatives shall have access to the books, documents, papers, and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to the Contract for the purpose of making audit, examination, excerpts and transcripts. Such books and records shall be maintained by the Contractor for five (5) years from the date of the completion of work, however, if any litigation or other legal action, by or on behalf of the State of Mississippi has begun that is not completed at the end of the five (5) year period, or if audit findings, litigation or other legal action has not been resolved at the end of the five (5) year period, the records shall be retained until resolution. Contractor is responsible for any audit discrepancies involving deviation from the terms of the Contract and for any commitments or expenditures in excess of amounts authorized by the IHL.
6. **OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCTS.** The working papers prepared in conjunction with the services under this contract constitute confidential information and will be retained by the audit FIRM in accordance with its policies and procedures. The audit FIRM will provide the IHL Board and the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor the right of access to the work papers as necessary.

Audit working papers will also be made available upon request to the cognizant agency or oversight agency for audit or its designee, a Federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the Government Accountability Office (GAO) at the completion of the audit, as part of a quality review, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities.

The audit FIRM is prohibited from use of the above described information and/or materials without the express written approval of the IHL Board.

Any discovery, patent, copyright, invention, work papers, software, software applications, written materials, publications, data, information, by-product or end-product arising as a direct result of the performance of this Contract shall be the sole property of the IHL.

7. **IHL EXECUTIVE OFFICE EMPLOYEES.** The Contractor will not hire any employee of the IHL Executive Office to perform any services covered by this agreement without prior written approval from IHL Executive Office Human Resources Department.
8. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.** In connection with the contract hereunder, the IHL and the Contractor shall be free to exchange such technical information and know-how as may be necessary to carry out the objective of the agreement. Neither party shall be required to disclose to the other party technical information and know-how which it

received in confidence from a third party or which is developed for a third party under conditions giving rise to an obligation or confidentiality. Employees of the IHL Executive Office performing services hereunder shall enter into confidentiality agreements should such exchange of information be needed to conduct the project. The IHL shall have the appropriate individuals execute said agreements and provide copies to the Contractor. The Contractor shall have the appropriate individuals execute said agreements and provide copies to the IHL.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained herein, it is recognized that the IHL is a public agency of the State of Mississippi and is subject to the Mississippi Public Records Act, section 25-61-1, et seq., Miss. Code Ann. If a public records request is made for any information provided to the IHL pursuant to this agreement, the IHL shall promptly notify the disclosing party of such request. The disclosing party shall promptly institute appropriate legal proceedings to protect its information. No party to this agreement shall be liable to the other party for disclosures of information required by Court order or required by law.

9. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPONSORSHIP.** The Contractor agrees that, in any publication, acknowledgement shall be made of sponsorship by the IHL and/or other sponsor by use of the following statement "This work was performed under the sponsorship of the Mississippi Board of Trustees State Institutions of Higher Learning. This work does not necessarily represent the views of the IHL or the sponsoring agency." If the publication is copyrighted, the statement "Reproduction of this article, with the customary credit to the source, is permitted," shall be added. With the exception of acknowledging sponsorship of research, the name of the IHL may not be used in publications, news releases, advertising, speeches, technical papers, photographs, and other releases of information regarding this Contract or data developed under this Contract without written approval of the IHL.
10. **APPLICABLE LAW.** The contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws, regulations, and procedures of the State of Mississippi, excluding its conflicts of laws provisions, and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the courts of the state. The CONTRACTOR shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. If a court determines that any provision of this contract is not enforceable against IHL, the CONTRACTOR agrees that the individual signing this agreement on behalf of IHL is not personally responsible or liable for any of the obligations and duties contained herein. Specifically, but not limited to, the CONTRACTOR shall not illegally discriminate against any employee nor shall any party be subject to illegal discrimination in the performance of this contract because of race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin or disability.
11. **INDEMNIFICATION.** To the fullest extent allowed by law, the CONTRACTOR shall indemnify, defend, save and hold harmless, protect, and exonerate IHL, its Commissioner, Board Members, officers, employees, agents and representatives, and the State of Mississippi from and against all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses, and costs of every kind and nature whatsoever, including, without limitation, court

costs, investigative fees and expenses, attorney's fees, arising out of or caused by the CONTRACTOR and/or its partners, principals, agents, employees and/or Subcontractors in the performance of or failure to perform this agreement. In IHL's sole discretion, the CONTRACTOR may be allowed to control the defense of any such claim, suit, etc. In the event the CONTRACTOR defends said claim, suit, etc., the CONTRACTOR shall use legal counsel acceptable to IHL; the CONTRACTOR shall be solely responsible for all costs and/or expenses associated with such defense, and IHL shall be entitled to participate in said defense. The CONTRACTOR shall not settle any claim, suit, etc., without IHL's concurrence, which IHL shall not unreasonably withhold.

12. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** The Contractor affirms that, to the best of his/her knowledge, there exists no actual or potential conflict between Contractor's family, business, or financial interests and his/her services under this Contract, and, in the event of change in either his/her private interests or service under this Contract, he/she will inform the IHL regarding possible conflict of interest that may arise as a result of such change. In the event that an organizational conflict of interest should arise concerning this procurement, the IHL Board shall have the authority and responsibility to make the affirmative determination as to whether: (1) there would exist a conflict as a result of an award or (2) that such conflict would be avoided after appropriate conditions are included in the award instrument. In the event that the IHL Board determines that a conflict of interest exists and that such conflict cannot be avoided by including appropriate conditions in the award instrument, the IHL Board may nevertheless authorize the award, if a determination is made that it is in their best interest to make such award, and the award instrument includes appropriate conditions in such contract agreement, or arrangements to mitigate such conflict.
13. **SEVERABILITY.** If any term or provision of this contract is prohibited by the laws of the State of Mississippi or declared invalid or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the contract shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
14. **TOTAL AGREEMENT.** This Contract contains the entire agreement between the parties, superseding any prior or concurrent agreements as to the services being provided, and no oral or written terms or conditions that are not contained in this Contract shall be binding. This Contract may not be changed except by mutual agreement of the parties. Any such change shall be reduced to writing and signed by both parties.
15. **CONTRACT CHANGES.** The IHL and the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor may, at any time, by written order, make changes within the general scope of the contract or any of its task orders as to the services or work to be performed. If such changes cause an increase or a decrease in the CONTRACTOR's cost or time required to perform any services under this contract or assigned task orders, whether or not changed by an order, the IHL shall make an equitable adjustment and modify this contract, or the appropriate task order, in writing. The CONTRACTOR must assert any claim for adjustment under this clause in writing within thirty (30) days from the date the CONTRACTOR received the IHL's notification of change, unless the IHL grants additional time before the date of

final payment. No services for which the CONTRACTOR will charge any additional compensation shall be furnished without the prior written authorization of the IHL.

**16. ASSIGNMENT/TRANSFER/SUBCONTRACTING.** The Contractor shall not assign, transfer, subcontract, or otherwise give to or impose on any other party any obligation or right of the Contractor under this Contract, without prior written consent of the IHL and the Office of the State Auditor.

**17. THIRD PARTY ACTION NOTIFICATION.** The CONTRACTOR shall give the IHL prompt notice in writing of any action or suit filed, and prompt notice of any claim made against the CONTRACTOR by any entity that may result in litigation related in any way to this contract.

**18. EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION.** CONTRACTOR represents and warrants that it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act (Senate Bill 2988 from the 2008 Regular Legislative Session) and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. CONTRACTOR agrees to maintain records of such compliance and, upon request of the State, to provide a copy of each such verification to the State. CONTRACTOR further represents and warrants that any person assigned to perform services hereunder meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws of the State of Mississippi. Contractor understands and agrees that any breach of these warranties may subject Contractor to the following: (a) termination of this Agreement and ineligibility for any state or public contract in Mississippi for up to three (3) years, with notice of such cancellation/termination being made public, or (b) the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Contractor by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year, or (c) both. In the event of such termination/cancellation, Contractor would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to contract cancellation or loss of license or permit.

**19. WAIVER.** Failure of either party hereto to insist upon strict compliance with any of the terms, covenants and conditions hereof shall not be deemed a waiver or relinquishment of any similar right or power hereunder at any subsequent time or of any other provision hereof, nor shall it be construed to be a modification of the terms of this contract.

**20. DEBARMENT SUSPENSION** – The Contractor certifies, by the initials of the primary signatory below, that it is not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal Assistance Programs under Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, codified at 29 CFR Part 98, and that it will not subgrant with individuals or organizations which are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal Assistance Programs

OMAB Initials of Primary Signatory 4-27-18 Date

21. **NOTICE.** Any notice required or permitted to be given under this contract shall be in writing and sent by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to IHL by writing the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, Attention: Office of Contracts and Grants Compliance, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Suite 417, Jackson, MS 39211 or to the contractor by writing Clifton Larson Allen, LLP, 1966 Greenspring Drive, Suite 300  
Timonium, MD 21093

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The parties agree to promptly notify each other of any change of address.

**Contractor**

**Institutions of Higher Learning**

By: <u>Christina Bowman</u>	By: <u>Dr. Glenn Boyce</u>
Name: <u>Christina Bowman</u>	Name: <u>Dr. Glenn Boyce</u>
Title: <u>Principal</u>	Title: <u>Commissioner of Higher Education</u>
Company: <u>Clifton Larson Allen LLP</u>	Date: <u>5.9.18</u>
Date: <u>4-27-18</u>	

**Office of the State Auditor**

By: Stephanie C. Palmertree  
Name: Stephanie Palmertree, CPA  
Title: Director, Financial and Compliance Audit Division  
Date: 5/8/2018

Mississippi Office of the State Auditor  
801 Woolfolk Building  
501 North West St.  
Jackson, MS 39201