

Values and Principles

Jay Gogue

- The foundation of all human relationships is integrity. Relationships among people are governed by mutual respect, but integrity is most fundamental. There will be differing views on the various topics we address, yet we will value each view because it is offered in the context of mutual trust and respect with integrity as our foundation.
- Each individual is unique and special. Our respect for our differences allows us to grow, learn, understand and form new perspectives. It is our differences that can serve to unite us in our effort to better serve.
- Our most fundamental mission is that of helping people achieve their goals. Each day, the “hopes and dreams” of a people come in contact with Auburn. We have an obligation to provide education, research and extension programs of the highest quality to enhance economic prosperity and quality of life. In return, people so served have a responsibility to support Auburn as we endeavor to fulfill our mission in the future.
- Central to our heritage as a land-grant university is the responsibility to provide opportunities for all people. We are equally proud of our top academic achievers as well as those who struggle if each has used their unique talents to the best of their ability. We deeply care about all people and the value we can add to their life and our society by their involvement with us. There is no place for arrogance in higher education as we strive to offer diverse educational opportunities to all people.
- Leadership is ultimately measured by how well we help others achieve. With a leadership philosophy of service, I will be active and intentional with a belief that most things are possible if we choose to cooperate, share and help each other.
- It has been my experience that through shared governance much can be accomplished if we all — students, faculty, staff and external constituencies — work together in an open and consultative manner with respect for professional judgment. While governance is the clear responsibility of the Board, our Trustees grant us a special privilege to share and participate in the process. Our participation is a special privilege and not a “right” to be taken for granted.
- In working at six land-grant universities during my career, I have found each to be a special place with a unique family that is bound together by a rich heritage, common purpose and concern for one another. It is important to me that we celebrate the many accomplishments of our land-grant heritage but also daily ask, “How can we become better?” So, I will rejoice and reflect but also recognize that we all need to constantly strive for improvement.
- Working in the field of education has been the most professionally satisfying career that I could have chosen. I feel blessed with the opportunity of helping people, and I look forward to serving you in the future.