ACHIEVING NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE THROUGH LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Jacksonville State University’s EPIC

JSU’s Environmental Policy and Information Center (EPIC)

Established in 1995 and directed by JSU’s Pete Conroy, EPIC works closely with organizations, government, business, and the public to guide and provide projects and policies that encourage economic development through sustainable practices, as well as the protection of natural, recreational and cultural resources.

PUBLIC LANDS

EPIC led efforts in establishing:

- Little River Canyon National Preserve – Bush 1992
- Dugger Mountain National Wilderness – Clinton 1999
- Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge – Bush 2002
- Pinhoti Trail extension to Appalachian Trail – Nation’s longest walking path
- Chief Ladiga Rail Trail – Nation’s longest, hard surfaced bicycle path.

INITIATIVES & FACILITIES

Little River Canyon Center

Opened in 2009 adjacent to the Little River Canyon National Preserve as a unique state/federal partnership. Built as one of the state’s first LEED certified public buildings, the Center and Preserve attract approximately 500,000 visitors annually, creating $16 million economic impact.

Mountain Center

Adjacent to the Talladega National Forest and near the Alabama/Georgia Stateline, this sustainable facility hosts many school groups and special events.

Longleaf Studios

Established in 2013, this educational film studio hosts a wide range of productions, film premieres, workforce development initiatives and boasts having Alabama largest green screen.

Southeastern Water Wars

Leading efforts to conserve and share interstate water resources, EPIC’s director was appointed by Clinton and retained by Bush, serving as a Federal Commissioner of the ACT/ACF Water compact between AL, GA, and FL.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

At all JSU EPIC facilities, visitors learn about features such as geothermal heating and cooling, recycled building materials, and rooftop rainwater collection.

JSU Field Schools

Established in 1992 JSU Field Schools provide educational opportunities for diverse audiences nurturing an appreciation of natural and cultural assets. With approximately 4000 students seen on field trips annually – an additional 2500 visitors are reached by other educational programs, such as festivals, conferences and concerts.

For more information please call 256-782-8010, or go to www.jsu.edu.