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**Better. Together.**
Albany State University, established originally as the Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute and supported by private and religious organizations, was founded in 1903 by Joseph Winthrop Holley. The institute provided religious and manual training for African American youths of Southwest Georgia. The mission was to train teachers to teach basic academic skills and to train in the trades and industries, with special emphasis on domestic science. The institute remained privately supported through 1917.

In 1917, the institution became a state supported, two-year college with a Board of Trustees, and its name was changed to Georgia Normal and Agricultural College. Offering only a limited program in agriculture, the College viewed as its primary purpose the training of elementary school teachers. In 1932, the Board of Regents was established, and the institution became a part of the newly established University System of Georgia.

Albany State College was granted University status in July 1996, and the name of the institution was changed to Albany State University.

For More History On the Great ASU, visit us at the James Pendergrast Memorial Library/Archives Department.