



Southern University and A&M College
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
to the
Southern University Board of Supervisors

January 2022

“We Are Southern”

Report No. 15

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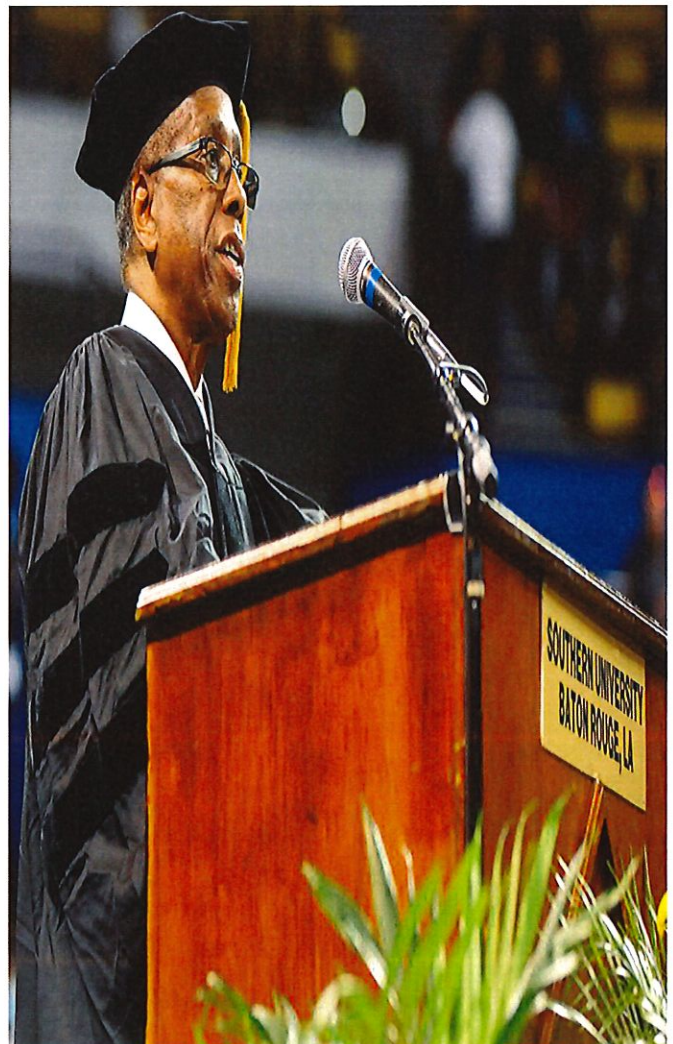
\$1 million to help create the Southern University service as a member of the Southern University Foundation Board of Supervisors and a recent gift of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center.

SUBR Recognizes Graduates During Fall Commencement

Nearly 450 graduates earned degrees from **Southern University Baton Rouge (SUBR)** during the Fall 2021 Commencement Ceremony on Friday, Dec. 10 at The F.G. Clark Activity Center on campus. Bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees were presented during the ceremony which marked an official return to in person commencement activities for the campus.

Mr. Irving Matthews Delivers Commencement Address

Mr. Irving Matthews, an SUBR alumnus and current owner of The Matthews Automotive Group, which employs more than 337 employees with reported sales over \$171 million in 2020, served as the commencement speaker. Following his address Matthews was presented with an honorary doctorate from the University in recognition of his many contributions to society and his alma mater to include



On Campus...

University College

- **Dr. Bijoy K. Sahoo**, SUBR Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost and **Dr. Zackeus Johnson** Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs hosted a Student Success open forum on Dec.. 8 to discuss the importance of collaborative efforts and achieving higher persistence, attrition, and graduation rates with effective high impact practices. The goal is to host similar sessions with faculty and staff within the six academic units to provide better support and additional resources that will enhance the classroom and virtual learning experience. The highlights of the session included:
- The Mission and Vision of University College and its alignment with the Strategic Plan
- Intrusive Academic Advising
- Transition from 0-30 to 31+ credit hours
- Keep doing, Quit doing, Start doing Team Activity
- Automating Processes

College of Sciences and Engineering

Dr. Sudhir K. Trivedi, Chair of the SUBR Department of Computer Sciences announced the selection of two students to receive \$16,000 each for the IBM Masters Fellowship Award. The award recipients are:

- **Saisudha Naragoni** for his research entitled: Predicting Covid-19 Infections Based on Environmental Factors Using Machine Intelligence and Data Science Techniques.
- **Sunita Sagi** for her research entitled: Fraud Detection System for Credit Card Transactions Using Specialized Machine Learning Algorithms.

The Delores Margaret Richard Spikes Honors College

- Congratulations to the 14 Honors College students who completed all requirements including a successful thesis defense for graduation with full academic honors. Among the 14 graduates is SUBR Chief Student Marshall, Mary Smith who earned a degree in political science. Additional Honors College graduates included:
- Sydnee Collins – Psychology
- Simone Craven – Nursing
- Melvin Emery, III – Accounting/Finance
- Whitley Franklin – Accounting/Finance
- Jera’Nae G. Donald – Biology
- Darrell Harry – Chemistry/Chem. Eng.
- Maxwell Jackson – Mathematics/Physics
- Caellen Kimble – Agricultural Sciences
- Lia McCloyn – Nursing
- Shaeda Nickle – Biology
- Britney Sanders – Finance
- Jamal Smiles – Civil Engineering
- William Waddell - Psychology



On Campus...

College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Services

- **Dr. Yadong Qi**, Professor of Urban Forestry and MS Program Leader, was the recipient of the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) "Presidents Award of Appreciation" during the 57th Annual SMA Conference in Louisville, KY on Nov. 16, 2021. The award was presented in recognition of Dr. Qi's support of the goals and programs of the society, the Municipal Forestry Institute, and her career long dedication to growing leaders while promoting professionalism and diversity throughout the arborist profession.

College of Nursing and Allied Health

Faculty Accomplishments:

- **Dean Sandra Brown** received the **D. Jensen Holliday Memorial Award** from the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center (MBPCC) in recognition for her sustained and measurable difference in the fight against cancer and for her outstanding leadership and visionary skills in working for the greater good and betterment of the community. Dr. Brown has volunteered her time and expertise to provide free clinical breast exams and breast health education for over 20 years via the MBPCC mobile unit, "The Early Bird." The award was presented to Dr. Brown on Oct. 20 in conjunction with the annual SUBR Homecoming Health Fair.



- **The Southern University School of Nursing** has been recognized by the Louisiana Nurse Foundation as the 2021 Nightingale Award recipient for the Nursing School of The Year - Graduate Degree Programs. This is the fifth time that the School of Nursing has been chosen as Nursing School/Program of the Year. Southern was also selected as Nursing School/Program of the Year in 2010, 2012, 2015 and 2017.

On Campus...

Online and Distance Education

- **Attorney Tracy Barley**, Director of the Office of eLearning and Associate Vice President of Online and Distance Education, announced that the proposed SUBR Master of Education in Educational Leadership was approved by the Board of Regents during its December 14, 2021 meeting. The Educational Leadership graduate program will be offered 100 percent online by the School of Education.

