



# SUBR

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BATON ROUGE

# *Chancellor's* REPORT

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*Chancellor*

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#WeAreSouthern

"THIS YEAR STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE WHEN PURPOSE, PARTNERSHIP, AND PERSEVERANCE GUIDE OUR WORK. AS WE REFLECT ON OUR SUCCESSES, WE REMAIN FOCUSED ON THE OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD AND STEADFAST IN OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE."

- JOHN K. PIERRE

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#WeAreSouthern

## MESSAGE FROM...

Chancellor  
PIERRE

Dear Jaguar Nation,

As we conclude the 2025 calendar year, I am proud to reflect on a year defined by progress, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the mission of Southern University and A&M College. Together, our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners continued to advance excellence while honoring the rich legacy that defines Jaguar Nation.

Throughout the year, our focus remained firmly on student success. We worked intentionally to strengthen student engagement, leadership development, and wellness, ensuring that our campus remains a place where students feel supported, challenged, and inspired. From academic milestones and commencements to cultural and leadership programming, we celebrated the achievements of our students and reaffirmed our responsibility to prepare them for lives of purpose and impact.

Academic excellence continued to guide our work. Faculty and staff across the University collaborated to enhance instructional quality, expand interdisciplinary opportunities, and align our academic programs with workforce and community needs. As an HBCU and land-grant institution, Southern University remains committed to access, innovation, and preparing graduates who are equipped to lead and serve.

Equally important was our continued engagement with the broader community. Southern University strengthened partnerships at the local, state, and national levels, expanding opportunities for experiential learning, workforce development, and civic engagement. Our cultural and heritage programming remained a vital bridge between campus and community, reinforcing our role as a regional anchor institution and a steward of history, culture, and dialogue.

Behind the scenes, we also advanced efforts to strengthen operational effectiveness and institutional stewardship. Through strategic planning, responsible resource management, and cross-divisional collaboration, we worked to ensure that our systems and processes support a high-functioning campus and a positive experience for all who learn and work here.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication, resilience, and excellence of the Southern University community. I am deeply grateful for the collective efforts that made this a productive and impactful year.

As we look ahead, the momentum built in 2025 provides a strong foundation for continued growth and innovation. Together, we will remain rooted in our legacy, focused on opportunity, and committed to shaping a strong and vibrant future for Southern University.

John K. Pierre



## Moving Forward Together

Dear Members of the Southern University Community,

I write to share an important leadership update and to acknowledge a significant moment of transition within the Southern University System.

After dedicated service to the institution, Southern University System President Dennis Shields will be departing his role. We extend our sincere appreciation to President Shields for his leadership and contributions to the Southern University System and for his service during this chapter of our history. We wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

As we move forward, I am pleased to share that Chancellor Orlando McMeans has been named Interim President of the Southern University System. Chancellor McMeans brings deep institutional knowledge, steady leadership, and a strong commitment to our campuses. His experience and perspective will provide continuity and stability during this transition.

This moment marks not only a change in leadership, but the beginning of a new era, one grounded in reflection, renewal, and opportunity. Southern University remains steadfast in its mission to serve students, advance academic excellence, honor our legacy, and strengthen our impact across all campuses and the communities we serve.

I encourage each member of Jaguar Nation to remain engaged, supportive, and unified as we move forward together. The strength of the Southern University System has always been rooted in its people, and it is through our collective commitment that we will continue to thrive.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Southern University and for all that you do in support of our students and our institution.

Go Jags!

*John K. Pierre*  
Chancellor

Southern University and A&M College



# SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ALUMNA FELICIA CONEY ADDRESSES UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

Southern University and A&M College was honored to welcome Ms. Felicia W. Coney, a global technology executive and distinguished Southern University alumna, as a speaker during the undergraduate commencement ceremony held on Friday, December 19, at 10:00 a.m..

Ms. Coney brings more than 30 years of industry experience as a visionary and accomplished supply chain and operations executive, widely recognized for leading large-scale transformation and delivering world-class operational excellence across global organizations. Her career reflects a proven ability to drive strategic growth through lean operational strategies, the cultivation of high-performing organizational cultures, and the effective use of advanced digitization and automation technologies.

Since June 2021, Ms. Coney has served as Vice President at Google, Inc., where she leads the company's global server (hardware) operations. In this role, she is responsible for transforming Google's data-powered innovation engine into an integrated, agile, and efficient value stream that supports cutting-edge technology and sustained business growth.

Prior to joining Google, Ms. Coney served as Divisional Vice President for Grocery at Walmart (2019–2021), where she led significant improvements in environment, health, and safety, quality, and customer on-time delivery, while advancing automation and digital capabilities across supply chain operations. Her career also includes senior leadership roles at United Technologies – Collins Aerospace, where she developed a groundbreaking Smart Factory roadmap to accelerate



Ms. Coney is a proud graduate of Southern University and A&M College, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. She continues to give back to the academic and professional community through service on the Board of Directors for Simpson Manufacturing Company (SSD), the North Carolina A&T Engineering Advisory Board, and the Albert Lepage Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She also serves as a trusted supply chain and technology advisor to several Fortune 100 companies.

In recognition of her leadership and impact, Ms. Coney was named by BoardProspects in February 2025 as one of “100 Black Board Members Making a Difference.”

Ms. Coney's return to campus as a commencement speaker served as a powerful example of the global impact possible for Southern University graduates. Her career reflects the University's mission to prepare leaders who excel in innovation, service, and ethical leadership across industries and communities.

# DR. MELVA K. WALLACE ADDRESSES SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY FALL GRADUATES

Southern University and A&M College proudly welcomed Dr. Melva K. Wallace, Ph.D., President and CEO of Huston-Tillotson University, as the commencement speaker for the Fall Graduate Commencement Ceremony held on Friday, December 19, at 2:00 p.m., marking a significant milestone in the academic journey of the Class of 2025.

Dr. Wallace, the seventh President and CEO of Huston-Tillotson University, is widely recognized as a visionary higher education leader, global technology executive, and national advocate for HBCUs. Under her leadership, Huston-Tillotson University has experienced significant transformation, rising to national prominence and earning recognition as one of the top-ranked HBCUs in the country, including distinction for strong post-graduation earnings outcomes for its graduates.



Drawing from more than two decades of experience across higher education, corporate leadership, and public service, Dr. Wallace delivered a powerful address centered on purpose-driven leadership, innovation, resilience, and service. She challenged graduates to use their education not only as a means of professional advancement, but as a responsibility to uplift communities and lead with integrity in an increasingly complex global society.

Dr. Wallace's distinguished career includes serving as a Presidential Leadership Scholar, studying leadership under three former U.S. Presidents, and receiving numerous national honors recognizing her impact on higher education and community development. Her leadership journey also a dynamic global environment.

includes significant service within the Southern University System, where she previously held senior leadership roles, including Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment and Chief of Staff for the Southern University System. In those roles, she played a critical part in advancing enrollment growth, securing institutional funding, and supporting the University through pivotal periods of transition.

The selection of Dr. Wallace as commencement speaker reflected Southern University's commitment to exposing students to leaders who exemplify excellence across education, innovation, and service, leaders who understand both the national landscape and the unique mission of HBCUs. Her message resonated deeply with graduates, families, faculty, and administrators in attendance.

Southern University congratulates its Fall graduates and remains steadfast in its commitment to preparing students for leadership, service, and success in a dynamic global environment.



# FALL COMMENCEMENTS

A SHARED MESSAGE OF EXCELLENCE AND PURPOSE



**FELICIA CONEY**  
GLOBAL TECH EXECUTIVE



**DR. MELVA K. WALLACE**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY

TOGETHER, MS. CONEY AND DR. WALLACE OFFERED GRADUATES A COMPELLING VISION OF LEADERSHIP ROOTED IN INTEGRITY, INNOVATION, AND SERVICE. THEIR ADDRESSES REINFORCED SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT TO PREPARING STUDENTS NOT ONLY FOR PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS, BUT FOR MEANINGFUL LEADERSHIP IN AN EVER-EVOLVING GLOBAL SOCIETY.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY CONGRATULATES ITS FALL GRADUATES AND PROUDLY CELEBRATES LEADERS WHOSE LIVES AND CAREERS EXEMPLIFY THE PROMISE, EXCELLENCE, AND IMPACT OF JAGUAR NATION.



# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

## ***A YEAR DEFINED BY PURPOSE, PROGRESS, AND PROMISE***

IN 2025, SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE  
CONTINUED TO BUILD UPON ITS HISTORIC LEGACY  
WHILE ADVANCING BOLD PRIORITIES THAT  
STRENGTHENED STUDENT SUCCESS, ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND  
INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY.  
THE UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATED WHAT  
IS POSSIBLE WHEN **VISION,**  
**COLLABORATION,** AND **COMMITMENT**  
GUIDE OUR COLLECTIVE WORK.

# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

## ***STUDENT SUCCESS & CAMPUS LIFE***

- EXPANDED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND RETENTION EFFORTS, EMPHASIZING BELONGING, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, AND WELLNESS
- INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, INTERNSHIPS, AND CAREER READINESS PROGRAMMING
- STRENGTHENED STUDENT-CENTERED SPACES AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING THAT SUPPORT IDENTITY, CREATIVITY, AND ACADEMIC PERSISTENCE
- CELEBRATED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH HONORS, COMMENCEMENTS, AND RECOGNITION EVENTS THAT ELEVATED JAGUAR PRIDE



# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

## ***ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION***

- CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTION AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS ALIGNED TO WORKFORCE NEEDS
- ENHANCED INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION ACROSS COLLEGES AND DEPARTMENTS
- SUPPORTED FACULTY EXCELLENCE THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES, AND INSTRUCTIONAL INNOVATION
- ADVANCED ACADEMIC INITIATIVES THAT REFLECT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY'S MISSION AS AN HBCU AND LAND-GRANT INSTITUTION



# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS**

- DEEPENED PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO EXPAND ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY, AND IMPACT
- HOSTED AND SUPPORTED CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND CIVIC EVENTS THAT POSITIONED SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AS A REGIONAL ANCHOR INSTITUTION
- STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALUMNI, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT PATHWAYS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- ELEVATED COMMUNITY-FOCUSED PROGRAMMING CENTERED ON CULTURE, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND SERVICE

# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

## ***INSTITUTIONAL PRIDE***

- AMPLIFIED THE UNIVERSITY'S RICH HISTORY THROUGH TAILORED PROGRAMMING, INITIATIVES, AND VARIOUS CELEBRATIONS
- STRENGTHENED THE ROLE OF CAMPUS SPACES AS HUBS FOR LEARNING, DIALOGUE, AND ENGAGEMENT
- CELEBRATED MILESTONES THAT HONORED SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY'S LEGACY WHILE INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS
- REINFORCED JAGUAR NATION PRIDE ACROSS STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF, AND SUPPORTERS

# 2026 LOOKING AHEAD 2025

AS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY CLOSES A PRODUCTIVE AND IMPACTFUL CALENDAR YEAR, THE INSTITUTION REMAINS FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE, COMMITTED TO STUDENT SUCCESS, ACADEMIC DISTINCTION, COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, AND INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE.

THE MOMENTUM BUILT IN 2025 PROVIDES A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR CONTINUED GROWTH AND INNOVATION IN THE YEARS AHEAD.



# NEWS



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**NEWS AND EVENTS**

**JAGUAR  
PREVIEW DAY**

SAT FEBRUARY 28/2026



**JAGUAR NEWS YOU CAN USE**

**SUDBR**  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BATON ROUGE



# CHANCELLOR PIERRE HOSTS HOLIDAY SOCIAL



Chancellor John K. Pierre hosted the Annual Holiday Social on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the Leon R. Tarver II Cultural & Heritage Center, bringing together faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and community partners to mark the close of a productive year at Southern University and A&M College.



The event provided an opportunity to reflect on shared accomplishments, express appreciation for collective efforts, and strengthen campus fellowship. Chancellor Pierre thanked attendees for their dedication to the University's mission and encouraged continued collaboration as Southern University looks ahead to the coming year.





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