

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
Board of Supervisors

Justended by:
John K. Pierre

Chancellor

#WeAreSouthern

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MESSAGE FROM...

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Greetings:

February is most noted for its celebration of Black History Month, a time dedicated to honoring the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. It is a period for reflection, education, and appreciation, highlighting the struggles and triumphs that have shaped the course of history. Additionally, February brings the joy of Valentine's Day, a celebration of love and affection, where people exchange heartfelt messages and tokens of appreciation. As we embrace the unique aspects of this month, let us also recognize the importance of coming together as a community to celebrate diversity and foster a spirit of unity and understanding.

Over the past month, I had the pleasure of welcoming our cherished students, administrators, faculty, and staff back to our beautiful campus. We kicked off our inaugural Institute of Teaching and Learning Excellence, bringing together the brilliant minds at Southern University Baton Rouge Campus. Previously known as Convocation, this event focused on fostering innovation and collaboration among educators.

During the two-day event, thought leaders, faculty members, and education professionals united to explore advanced teaching strategies and share best practices. Attendees participated in engaging workshops designed to enhance their teaching methods and improve student learning outcomes.

I take immense pride in the work being done. With a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm, we embarked on a journey filled with potential and promise. The start of the academic year is always a special time, as it brings with it new faces, fresh ideas, and the exciting energy of beginnings. We have introduced a range of initiatives aimed at enhancing the learning environment and fostering innovation across all departments.

As we move forward, I am confident that our collective efforts will lead to meaningful progress and success. In the spirit of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Dr. Joseph S. Clark, let us continue to work together, support each other, and strive for excellence. Thank you for your dedication and passion, which are the driving forces behind our achievements. Together, we can make a significant impact and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.



Southern University and A&M College Spring 2025

To the Southern University and A&M College Community:

Another semester is upon us and we are filled with excitement and anticipation for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. As we embark on this journey together, I want to express my gratitude for your continued commitment to excellence and innovation in education. Our collective efforts have not only enriched the lives of our students but have also strengthened our community and its impact.

This semester, we are pleased to introduce a range of new initiatives and programs designed to enhance the academic experience and support student success. These include expanded resources in our libraries, new collaborations with industry partners, and initiatives aimed at fostering a more inclusive and supportive campus environment.

Additionally, we are proud to celebrate the achievements of our faculty, staff, and students who continue to excel in their respective fields. Their dedication and hard work are a testament to the spirit of excellence that defines Southern University and A&M College.

As we move forward, let us remain committed to our mission of providing high-quality education and preparing our students to be leaders in their communities and beyond. Thank you for your unwavering support, and I look forward to a successful and fulfilling semester for all. John L. Pierre

Southern University and A&M College

Southern University School of Nursing (SUSON) voted Best Nursing School by Nurse.org







The Southern University School of Nursing (SUSON) was recently voted the Best Nursing School in the United States by <u>Nurse.org</u>.

The recognition came after Nurse.org — a website that supports and empowers nursing professionals and students — held its annual Best of Nursing Awards. SUSON was named a finalist for Best Nursing School, along with Emory University School of Nursing, Florida State University College of Nursing, the University of Michigan School of Nursing, and the University of Washington School of Nursing.

Dr. Sandra Brown, dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health, said the award holds special significance for the program.

"Winning this award is more than just a recognition for SUSON—it's a win for the entire Jaguar Nation," Brown said. "We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who voted and supported this moment of recognition. Together, we have demonstrated the remarkable power, passion, and pride of the Jaguar Nation."

This award marks the first time in the program's 39-year history that it has been named Best Nursing School by Nurse.org.

Source: **SUBR Website**

Historic Milestone Achieved by Nelson Mandela College (NMC) and College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences (CAHES)

In Fall 2023, with the approval of Dr. Damien D. Ejigiri, Professor and Dean of Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences and Dr. Charmaine Williams collaborated with Dr. Renita Marshall to establish a contract between the Nelson Mandela College (NMC) and College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences (CAHES) on the Baton Rouge campus, creating the M. P. A. and Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics program.

This agreement enables graduate students in Family and Consumer Sciences to earn concurrent credit for courses completed across both colleges. Students will achieve both a degree and a certificate within 18 months by completing a total of 39 credit hours: 18 hours of graduate-level coursework through the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (DFCS) and 21 hours of public administration graduate-level coursework through the Public Administration program at NMC.

As a result, the Fall 2024 Commencement was a historic event, celebrating the first three students—Evan Egana, Michael Henderson, and Brittany Howard—who received their Master of Public Administration degree and completed their Dietetic Internship Program. This internship grants a certificate that qualifies graduates to take the National Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Exam.

It is noteworthy that Southern University A&M College is among only five Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) nationwide that offer a Dietetic Internship Program. Alarmingly, African Americans represent just 3% of all registered dietitians in the United States.

Dr. Ejigiri highlighted that Nelson Mandela College has produced the last four student Marshals of the university and has consistently produced the largest number of graduates.

Source: Dr. Damien D. Ejigiri

Chancellor Pierre Extends Support to Alumni Affected by Wildfires in Los Angeles and Nearby Regions

Members of the Southern University Los Angeles Alumni Chapter have been actively sharing resources and updates to keep our community informed and united during these trying times. Chancellor Pierre highlighted the importance of unity and resilience, assuring alumni that the university stands by them and will seek ways to support those affected. He emphasized that although the journey to recovery may be lengthy, the university's steadfast commitment to its alumni will remain a reliable source of support.

Plans for an upcoming fundraising initiative are also underway, aimed at providing financial assistance to those who have faced significant losses. The university community is encouraged to engage and contribute in any way, reinforcing the strength of their bonds and their shared dedication to overcoming challenges together.

Chancellor Pierre expressed profound admiration for the alumni who have already demonstrated remarkable courage and compassion by organizing relief efforts and volunteering in impacted areas. Their actions embody the spirit of the Southern University community—one that is grounded in empathy, collaboration, and a persistent desire to uplift one another in times of need.

Source: SUBR Social Media



SUBR Inaugural Institute of Teaching and Learning Excellence

Chancellor Pierre, Dr. Luria Young and representatives from the Office of Academic Affairs held the inaugural Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence (ITLE) on January 8th and 9th, successfully bringing together educators for workshops and discussions aimed at enhancing teaching quality.

Attendees explored new pedagogical methods, shared best practices, and fostered a community focused on continuous improvement. Keynote speakers inspired participants, reinforcing the university's dedication to academic excellence and faculty development, ultimately benefiting students' educational experiences. The faculty's commitment to improving academic standards and student success was a point of pride for the institution. Source: <u>SUBR Social Media</u>





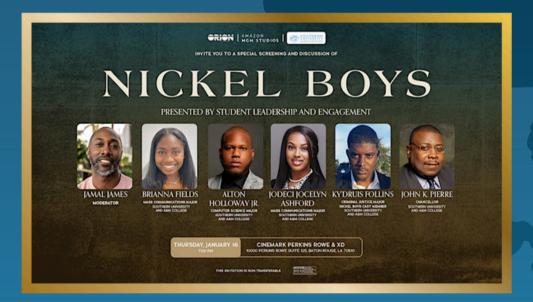




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Chancellor Pierre joined student leaders for a viewing and discussion of "Nickel Boys"

Chancellor John K. Pierre and the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement hosted an exclusive screening of "Nickel Boys," followed by a panel discussion on its themes of racial injustice and resilience. The diverse panel emphasized the need to confront difficult truths for meaningful change. Participants engaged in rich dialogue about historical and contemporary issues, highlighting their roles in advocating for equity and justice. The event concluded with a call to action, inspiring attendees to remain proactive in supporting systemic change. Source: <u>SUBR Social Media</u>





With a production budget of \$23.2 million, the principal photography for Nickel Boys occurred in Louisiana between October and December 2022. The filming took place in various locations, including LaPlace, New Orleans, Hammond, and Ponchatoula.

College of Sciences and Engineering (CSE) Students Receives IBM Master's Fellowship Awards

Students from the College of Sciences and Engineering, including Faiza Dad, Carlos Munoz Salazar, Mussie Syrak Samuel, Jordin Lewis, Emmanuel Essel, Edem Honu, Sirisha Nallaguttahalli Byrareddy, Likem Dunyo, and Channing Catchings, have recently been honored with IBM Masters Fellowships. These fellowships recognize and support exceptional master's degree students who are making significant strides in researching the application of groundbreaking and disruptive technologies.

Now in its fifth year, the esteemed IBM Masters Fellowship program awards \$10,500 to ten chosen master's degree students. Additionally, IBM offers recipients the opportunity to work closely with experts who provide coaching and guidance on their research endeavors. The IBM Masters Fellowship program is an integral part of IBM's wider social impact initiatives aimed at enhancing education and equipping students for careers in STEM fields.

Southern University and A&M College proudly houses one of the 20 IBM Cybersecurity Leadership Centers. Through this collaboration, faculty and students at Southern University benefit from IBM SkillsBuild coursework, lectures, immersive training experiences, certifications, IBM Cloud-hosted software, and professional development resources, all offered at no cost.

Source: Dr. Edwin H. Walker, Jr.

College of Sciences and Engineering (CSE) Participates in Building Bridges: Recruitment Visit to New Orleans Parochial Schools

On December 16, 2024, the College of Sciences and Engineering (CSE) leadership team embarked on an impactful recruitment trip to two prominent parochial schools in New Orleans. This visit was part of the College's ongoing initiative to inspire and engage the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators, particularly those from underrepresented communities.

The leadership team met with enthusiastic students, faculty, and school administrators to share insights about the academic opportunities and resources available at Southern University and A&M College. From hands-on research opportunities to state-of-theart facilities, the team showcased the transformative potential of a CSE education.

Interactive presentations and Q&A sessions allowed students to explore the diverse programs offered by the College. Conversations highlighted pathways in engineering, computer science, biology, and other STEM disciplines. The Dean's Leadership Team also shared personal experiences, underscoring the supportive and inclusive environment awaiting prospective students at Southern.



CSE Leadership at St. Augustine High School with Asst. Principal Areah Bocage.



CSE Leadership and SUBR Recruiter Isiah Myers visits St. Katherine Drexel Prep, alongside Principal Latasha Skidmore.

This recruitment trip reflects the College's commitment to fostering partnerships with high schools and broadening access to STEM education. By connecting directly with students and educators, the CSE team aims to inspire young minds to envision themselves as future leaders in science and engineering.

We are excited to continue building relationships with schools across the region and welcoming a new wave of talented students into our Jaguar family.

Source: Dr. Edwin H. Walker, Jr.

SU Alumna Dr. Karen Butler-Purry Receives Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring



Southern University and A&M College alumna Dr Karen Butler-Purry received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) for her significant mentoring contributions and impact on the U.S. STEM workforce. She has enhanced graduate students' experiences and mentored hundreds, fostering their academic and professional growth.

Robert Bishop praised her dedication to students and the STEM community. The PAESMEM award, established by Congress in 1995, honors those expanding STEM opportunities for underrepresented individuals. Butler-Purry expressed pride in creating a supportive community for her mentees.

As a professor at Texas A&M University and former associate provost, her research includes electric power systems and engineering education. Recognized nationally, she has received various accolades, including the Mentor Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science and election as an IEEE Fellow. Each PAESMEM awardee receives a certificate signed by the President and a \$10,000 award.

For more information, please visit Dr. Karen Butler-Purry Receives Presidential Award.

WalletHub once again chooses Associate Professor Dr. Onyumbe E. Ben Lukongo to offer expert insights.



Associate Professor Onyumbe E. Ben Lukongo has once again been recognized as an expert, providing insights on the top auto insurance options featured by the financial company WalletHub. This organization selects specialists from across the United States to assist customers in making informed financial choices. This marks his second contribution to WalletHub's expert commentary.

In addition, Dr. Lukongo has recently been inducted into Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Honor Society, a prestigious organization known for its association with many Nobel Laureates. He is currently waiting for the matching of one of the Nobel Laurates to be his mentor.

Dr. Lukongo states, "My work from the Bluff of the Mississippi River is visible on the lens of the academy. I will continue to work hard and shine the lights from the Bluff to elevate Southern University flagship. I would like to thank you for your encouragements and supports".

To read Dr. Lukongo's second article, please visit WalletHub.



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Southern University School of Education Launches Southern University Academy for Current and Aspiring Superintendents



The Southern University School of Education has launched the Southern University Academy for Current and Aspiring Superintendents, aimed at preparing K-12 educators—including current and aspiring principals, as well as Central Office staff—for the role of public school superintendent. This 10-week virtual program features in-person sessions on the campus at Southern University.

Attendees will discover how increasing representation from underrepresented groups in leadership positions can positively impact the public school landscape and benefit students. Begin your LEADERSHIP LEVEL UP journey to prepare for a superintendency.

Currently, only five percent of public school superintendents are women, Black, or Hispanic. Key obstacles include a lack of specialized, real-world leadership training aimed at aspiring educators and a disconnect from peers who share similar goals.

The Southern University Academy for Current and Aspiring Superintendents is designed to empower K-12 educators—both current and aspiring principals, as well as Central Office staff—with the skills necessary to become effective public school superintendents. This 10-week virtual program includes two in-person sessions at Southern University A&M College, the only HBCU System in the nation. Upon completion, participants will receive graduate credit that can be applied towards their studies at Southern University School of Education.

Led by seasoned education leaders, the curriculum aligns with PSEL standards and will address crucial topics aimed at LEVELING UP your leadership skills, confidence, and opportunities, including: Day-to-Day District Operations, District Budgeting, Board Relations, Communications and Marketing, and Community Engagement.

Human Jukebox makes Super Bowl announcement on 'The Jennifer Hudson Show'



The "often imitated, never duplicated" Southern University Human Jukebox remains at the top of the charts.

Southern University's band director Dr. Kedric Taylor, announced on the <u>Jennifer Hudson Show</u> that the Human Jukebox will be headlining the Super Bowl's pregame show. This now makes it their tenth Super Bowl appearance.

He also recapped their weekend performance at the 2025 Honda Battle of the Bands.

The band performed alongside Alabama A&M University, Hampton University, Alabama State University, North Carolina A&T University, and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff amongst thousands at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, CA.

Source: WAFB & Social Media







Southern University Students Participate in The First-Ever HBCU Day Super Bowl Experience

Southern University students took part in the inaugural HBCU Day at the Super Bowl Experience in New Orleans on Thursday, February 6th.

The event, designed to celebrate and showcase the rich heritage and contributions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), provided a unique platform for students to engage with NFL leaders, alumni, and industry professionals. The day was filled with inspiring networking opportunities, and interactive exhibits that highlighted the achievements alumni and potential of HBCU students.

Southern University's contingent, proudly donning their school colors, participated enthusiastically in various activities where they connected with potential employers and explored employment opportunities. The students also had the chance to meet with successful alumni who shared insights and advice on navigating their future careers.

Additionally, the atmosphere was electrified with cultural performances and showcases that celebrated the vibrancy of HBCUs, underscoring their importance in shaping future leaders. This memorable experience not only fostered school pride but also reinforced the significance of HBCUs in the broader educational and professional landscape.



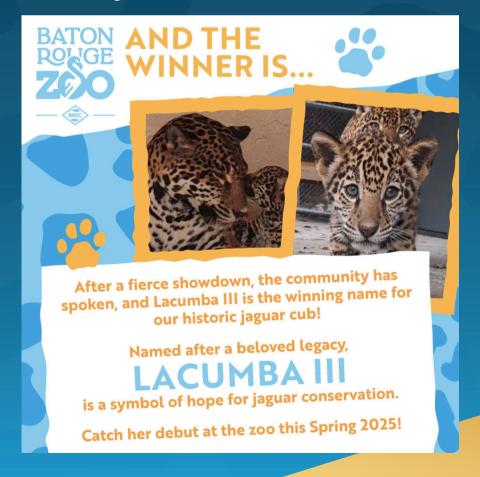
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo Hosts Name Runoff Contest for Jaguar Cub and the WINNER IS...

Exciting Announcement! The Baton Rouge Zoo has welcomed a new jaguar—meet Lacumba III! This historic cub marks the first jaguar birth at BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo in over 20 years!

This significant event is not only a triumph for the Baton Rouge Zoo but also a step forward for jaguar conservation on a global scale. Named after our beloved mascot Lacumba, Lacumba III naming also pays tribute to Louisiana's rich heritage while representing hope for this vulnerable species.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who voted and supported wildlife conservation efforts! Be sure to visit Lacumba III in the exhibit this spring.

Discover more at www.brzoo.org.



SUBR Participated in East Baton Rouge Public Library (EBRPL) MidCity Micro-Con

Southern University and A&M College took part in the East Baton Rouge Public Library's MidCity Micro-Con on Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Main Library at Goodwood. This exciting event celebrated various facets of comic book culture, featuring panels, workshops, and a diverse array of activities for attendees of all ages.

SUBR's involvement included a booth showcasing student projects, interactive sessions led by faculty, and provided opportunities to explore the university's arts and media programs. Visitors discovered the creative talents and innovative ideas nurtured at Southern University.

Whether you're an avid comic enthusiast or just beginning to delve into the genre, the MidCity Micro-Con was an event filled with inspiration, creativity, and community engagement.



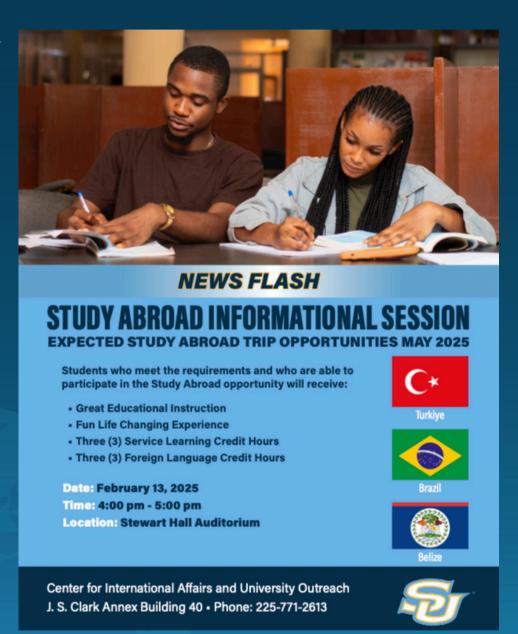
Center for International Affairs and University Outreach Offers Study Abroad Opportunities for Students

Students who are considering studying abroad in Summer 2024 had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Center for International Affairs and University Outreach on Thursday, February 13.

They gathered to discover more about travel options to Turkiye, Brazil, and Belize!

For additional details regarding this exciting opportunity, please call (225) 771-2613.

Source: SUBR Social Media





SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025 JCPenney® Suit-Up Event

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 R.E.A.C.H. Taskforce - Departmental Visits

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025 R.E.A.C.H. Taskforce - Departmental Visits

Business and Industry Cluster 1st Quarter General Body Meeting

Welcome Reception Donald C. Wade House

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Career Fair F.G. Clark Activity Center

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Next Day Interviews Valdry Center for Philanthropy



Corporate Sponsors and Business & Industry Cluster Members









































2025 SPRING CAREER EXPLORATION DAY

CAREER EXPLORATION WEEK SPRING 2025 ACTIVITIES

Sponsored by the SUBR Career Services Center

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

5:00PM - 8:00PM SPRING 2025 JCPENNEY SUIT-UP Event JCPenney - Mall of Louisiana

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 9:00AM – 3:00PM RÉSUMÉ REVIEWS | R.E.A.C.H. Taskforce -Departmental Visits T.T. Allain, P.B.S. Pinchback, Higgins Hall

12:00PM Noon **OPEN HOUSE**

Career Services Center - T.H. Harris Hall, Suite 1100

2:00PM - 4:00PM **RÉSUMÉ REVIEWS**

Career Services Center - T.H. Harris Hall, Suite 1100

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025

9:00AM - 3:00PM RÉSUMÉ REVIEWS | R.E.A.C.H. Taskforce -Departmental Visits T.T. Allain, P.B.S. Pinchback, Higgins Hall

12:00PM - 2:00PM Business and Industry Cluster General Session and Committee Meetings Valdry Center for Philanthropy

3:00PM - 4:00PM EARLY CHECK-IN AND BOOTH ASSIGNMENT F.G. Clark Activity Center

5:30PM - 8:00PM WELCOME RECEPTION AND NETWORKING EVENT Valdry Center for Philanthropy (Invitation Only)

WEDNEDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025 (CAREER FAIR DAY)

8:00AM. - 9:00AM

CHECK-IN, BOOTH ASSIGNMENT CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00AM - 3:00PM **CAREER FAIR DAY** Felton G. Clark Activity Center

11:30AM - 1:30PM LUNCH (for Career Fair Participants)

CAREER FAIR DAY (CONTINUED)

1:30PM - 2:30PM CORPORATE LOUNGE AFTERNOON REFRESHER SPONSOR (Special Deserts) SOLICITING SPONSORSHIP FOR THE 2025 EVENT

Contact: Tamara Montgomery tamara.montgomery@sus.edu

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

8:00AM - 9:00AM NEXT-DAY INTERVIEWS CHECK-IN **BREAKFAST**

9:00AM - 3:00PM **NEXT-DAY INTERVIEWS** Valdry Center for Philanthropy - Auditorium

11:30AM - 1:30PM LUNCH (for Career Fair Participants)

Spring 2025 Corporate Sponsors and Business & Industry Cluster Members





































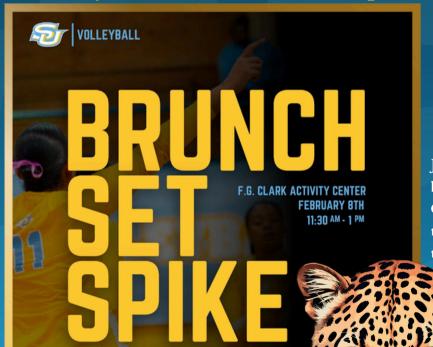


Chancellor Pierre congratulates Coach Carlos Funchess and the Southern University Women's Basketball Team on their victory over Jackson State.

On January 30th, the Southern University Women's Basketball team triumphed over the Jackson State Tigers. The Jaguars used a huge second quarter to dominate Jackson State by double digits to win their sixth straight game. Final score from F.G. Clark Activity Center was 64-47.

Source: GoJagSports.com

SU Volleyball Hosts... Brunch, Set, Spike





Jaguar Volleyball enthusiasts gathered for a delightful brunch and socializing on February 8th at the F.G. Clark Activity Center at 11:30 AM. During this event, the highly skilled volleyball team was introduced and the vision for launching a Booster Club was shared.

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FINAL

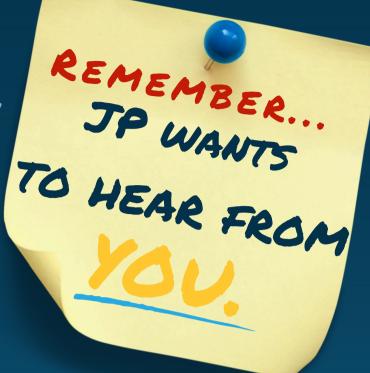
For more information visit #BrunchSetSpike



Chat, with mancellog

Chat with Chancellor is an exciting new initiative that encourages you to share your thoughts and insights.

Whether you have an update on recent developments or a creative idea to share, your perspectives are appreciated and can create meaningful impact.



Chancellor Pierre is enthusiastic about engaging in constructive discussions, promoting collaboration, and inspiring positive change.

We invite you to connect and be a part of this vital conversation. Your input is invaluable, and *together*, we can achieve extraordinary results.

For any correspondence, please reach out to Chancellor Pierre at ChancellorSubr@sus.edu.



