



SUBR

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BATON ROUGE

Chancellor's REPORT

Presented by:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 *Message from the Chancellor*
- 2 Building Community Through Respect, Trust, and Legacy
- 3 AASCU Institute
- 4 La. BOR Meauxmentum Scholars Initiative
- 5-12 CSE... 70 Years of Excellence
- 13-15 News You Can Use
- 16 Connect With Us



"Jaguar Nation is more than a campus... it's a legacy of excellence, resilience, and pride that roars through every generation of Southern University."

MESSAGE FROM...


PIERRE

Dear Jaguar Nation,

As we welcome a new year and the start of the spring semester, I extend my warmest wishes to every member of the Southern University family. A new semester brings renewed energy, fresh opportunities, and a shared commitment to excellence that defines Jaguar Nation.

Spring at Southern University is one of the most vibrant and transformational times of the year. Our campus is alive with academic achievement, student engagement, research innovation, and meaningful community partnerships. Each day, our students, faculty, and staff continue to demonstrate the resilience, pride, and excellence that make this institution a beacon of opportunity and impact.

This semester, we look forward to Jaguar Preview Day, when we open our campus to future Jaguars and their families. This special tradition allows us to showcase the life-changing opportunities available at Southern University and welcome the next generation of leaders into our community.

We are also excited to celebrate Academic Homecoming, a time to honor scholarship, recognize achievement, and highlight the intellectual excellence that drives our institution forward. It is a moment to reaffirm that at Southern University, academic success remains the foundation of all we do.

During Black History Month, we will proudly celebrate the legacy, culture, and contributions of Black excellence that are deeply rooted in the history and mission of Southern University. This month serves as a powerful reminder of the responsibility we carry to educate, uplift, and lead with purpose.

This spring also brings national attention to our campus as we host the National Medical Association Region III & V Conference. The National Medical Association has expressed a strong desire to build a sustainable HBCU pipeline to postgraduate medical institutions, and we are honored that the first conference centered on this important work will be held at Southern University this April. Welcoming distinguished physicians, students, and healthcare leaders from across the region reflects our ongoing commitment to advancing health equity, expanding workforce pathways, and strengthening our impact in the medical and health sciences fields.

Across every college, division, and program, transformational work is underway. From innovative academic programs and research initiatives to student success initiatives and community partnerships, Southern University continues to move boldly toward the future while honoring the legacy that has shaped us.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission and to the success of our students. Together, we will make this spring semester one of progress, purpose, and pride.

Let's make it a great semester, Jaguars.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BATON ROUGE



Building Community Through Respect, Trust, and Legacy

Dear Jaguar Nation.

As we continue this meaningful season of reflection and celebration, our campus community stands at the intersection of two powerful observances: the centennial celebration of Black History Month and the upcoming Founders Month at Southern University. Together, these milestones invite us to reflect not only on our history, but on the values that must guide how we live, learn, and work together every day.

This year marks 100 years since Dr. Carter G. Woodson established the celebration that would become Black History Month. His vision was rooted in the belief that understanding our history strengthens our identity, deepens our purpose, and prepares us to build a better future. Dr. Woodson's work reminds us that education is not only about knowledge, but about character, responsibility, and community.

At Southern University, those ideals are inseparable from who we are. As we prepare to celebrate Founders Month in March, we honor the leaders and visionaries who established this institution with the belief that access to education could transform lives and communities for generations to come. Their legacy calls us to uphold a campus culture grounded in excellence, dignity, and shared responsibility.

In this spirit, I want to reaffirm the importance of mutual respect, healthy boundaries, and trust within our Jaguar community. A thriving university environment depends on how we treat one another - students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners alike. Respect means valuing the voices, perspectives, and experiences that make our community strong. Boundaries ensure that our interactions remain professional, supportive, and safe. Trust allows us to collaborate, innovate, and move forward together with confidence.

These values are not abstract ideals; they are daily commitments. They shape our classrooms, our workplaces, our campus spaces, and our engagement with the broader community. When we lead with respect, honor boundaries, and build trust, we create an environment where every Jaguar can learn, grow, and succeed.

As we honor the vision of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and celebrate the founding of Southern University, let us recommit ourselves to the principles that sustain strong institutions and strong communities. Our legacy is powerful, our responsibility is great, and our future is bright when we move forward together.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Southern University and to one another.

John K. Pierre
Chancellor

Southern University and A&M College

DR. JOCELYN M. FREEMAN SELECTED FOR AASCU DEPARTMENT CHAIR LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



Dr. Jocelyn M. Freeman

Dr. Jocelyn M. Freeman, Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Psychology at Southern University and A&M College, was selected to participate in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Department Chair Leadership Institute, Cohort 1.

Dr. Freeman was chosen as one of only 37 department chairs nationwide to participate in this intensive leadership program, reflecting the University's commitment to investing in faculty leadership and advancing institutional effectiveness, academic excellence, and student success.

The institute provided advanced training in academic leadership, strategic decision-making, change management, and cross-institutional collaboration. Through this national opportunity, Dr. Freeman represented Southern University while gaining insights and best practices that will directly benefit her department, college, and the broader university community.

This achievement highlights Southern University's continued dedication to strengthening leadership capacity and supporting professional development across the institution.



DR. ALISA M. ROSS SELECTED FOR LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS MEAUXMENTUM SCHOLARS INITIATIVE



Dr. Alisa M. Ross

Southern University and A&M College proudly celebrates Dr. Alisa M. Ross, Interim Dean of University College and Student Success, on her selection as a member of the Louisiana Board of Regents Cohort #2 of the Meauxmentum Scholars Initiative.

Dr. Ross joins three fellow Southern University faculty members, Drs. Rasheedah Jenkins, Phyllis Okwan, and Taylor Scott, who were nominated and selected for this prestigious statewide cohort. This recognition highlights their collective commitment to advancing teaching excellence, faculty collaboration, and student success.

As part of the initiative, each Meauxmentum Scholar will facilitate a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) designed to foster sustained, meaningful conversations about teaching and learning among colleagues from across campus. Faculty participants will meet monthly throughout the Spring 2026 semester to engage in collaborative learning and share innovative instructional practices. The Faculty Learning Communities will focus on Small Teaching, High Impact Practices, Transparency in Teaching and Learning (TiLT)

At the conclusion of the semester, each scholar will submit a critical reflection documenting instructional innovation and its impact on student learning. This reflection will include a description of course changes implemented, the intended goals of those innovations, student outcomes, lessons learned, and the ways participation in the FLC influenced their teaching practice.

Dr. Ross's selection reflects her deep commitment to academic excellence and student success. In her role as Interim Dean of University College and Student Success, she leads initiatives that strengthen student persistence, engagement, and achievement. She also serves as Chair of the Academic Appeal Committee, Founding Advisor of the Society of Virtuous Women, and Co-Advisor of the Southern University Chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta, demonstrating her dedication to mentorship and leadership development.

Southern University congratulates Dr. Ross and her colleagues on this well-deserved recognition and celebrates their continued efforts to enhance teaching and learning across the institution.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



Dr. Lealon L. Martin
Dean

The College of Sciences and Engineering at Southern University and A&M College proudly celebrates 70 years of innovation, impact, and academic excellence. Established in 1956 as the College of Sciences and the College of Engineering, these two cornerstone units laid the foundation for a legacy that has transformed lives and strengthened communities for generations.

Guided by its mission to provide transformative educational experiences that prepare students to become globally competitive scientists, engineers, leaders, and innovators, the College has remained steadfast in its commitment to access, opportunity, and academic rigor. This commitment has produced alumni who excel across industry, government, education, research, and entrepreneurship.

As the merged College of Sciences and Engineering commemorates this milestone, the 70th anniversary will be marked through alumni and student spotlights, historical retrospectives, special programs and events, and initiatives that highlight both the College's rich history and its forward-looking vision. Standing on a well-established legacy of producing top-quality scientists and engineers for close to a century, the College aspires to serve as a model institution for science and engineering education and an internationally renowned hub of innovation and knowledge generation.

Alumni, stakeholders, and friends are invited to help commemorate the 70th anniversary by sharing cherished memories and photographs, mentoring students, supporting scholarships and academic programs, sponsoring anniversary events, and participating in reunion and recognition activities. Together, we honor 70 years of excellence while investing boldly in the future of science and engineering at Southern University.

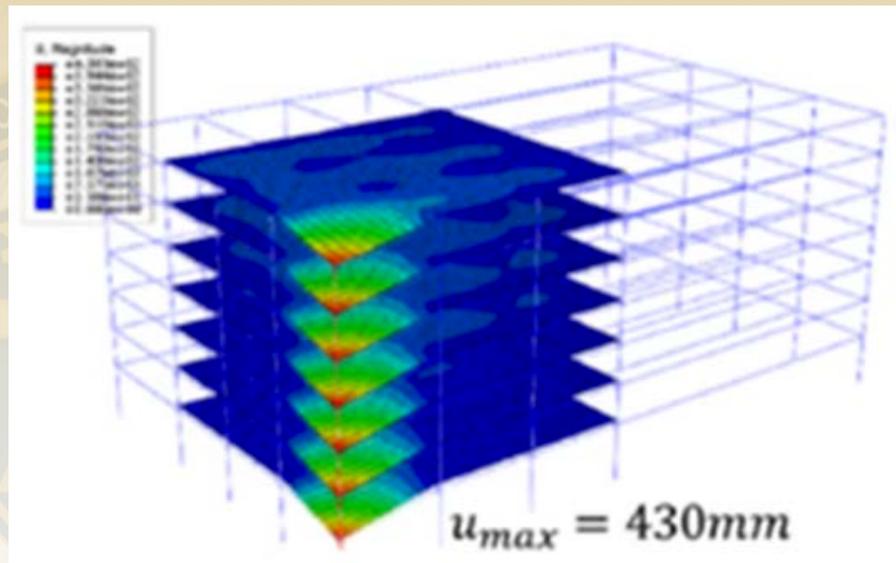
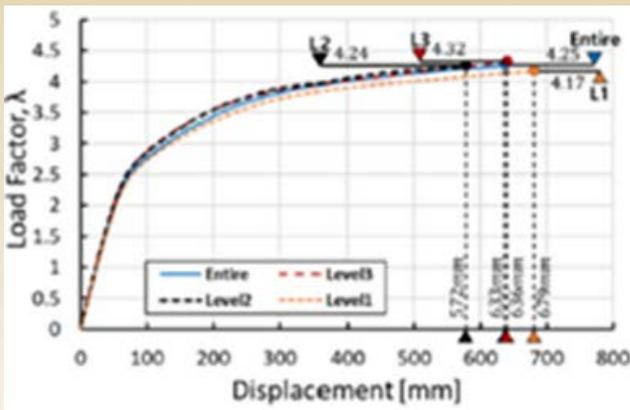
CIVIL ENGINEERING - FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. DONGKEUN LEE



Dr. Dongkeun Lee

Dr. Dongkeun Lee, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, published a research article in the International Journal of Steel Structures (Springer, SCIE). The study proposes an efficient assembly structural modeling approach for progressive collapse resistance analysis. Results demonstrated that the subassembly models significantly reduce analysis time compared to full structural models.

As shown in Figure (a), the load–displacement response of the sub-assembly models closely matches that of the complete structural model. Figure (b) presents the deformation of Level 3 under a corner column removal scenario at a load factor of 4.





CIVIL ENGINEERING - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | FACULTY SERVICE



Dr. Chukwu Onu

Dr. Chukwu Onu, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Southern University and A&M College, recently joined the Nigerian community in Baton Rouge in organizing the vibrant New Yam Festival (Iri Ji), a cultural celebration marking the yam harvest in Igboland. Similar to harvest festivals celebrated around the world, the event brought together community members to honor shared culture, food, and tradition while strengthening connections across the region.

The festival welcomed attendees from across the Baton Rouge community, including members of the Southern University family and representatives from

the Mayor's Office. A special highlight of the celebration was the Igbo Union's launch of its 25th anniversary publication, making the occasion especially meaningful for the local Nigerian community.

Dr. Onu has served Southern University for more than two decades, progressing from Assistant Professor to Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. His distinguished career includes prior industry and international academic experience, as well as active membership in professional organizations such as the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Environment and Water Resources Institute. He has also received numerous honors, including the Iraj Zandi Award for contributions to solid waste technology and management and appointment to the State of Louisiana Oil Spill Research and Development Program Review Board.

Through his continued engagement in community and cultural initiatives, Dr. Onu exemplifies Southern University's commitment to service, global engagement, and strengthening partnerships that enrich both the campus and the broader community.

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CIVIL ENGINEERING - FACULTY SPOTLIGHT | RESEARCH & PARTNERSHIPS



Dr. Alex Shin

Dr. Alex Shin, Professor of Civil Engineering, is collaborating on a University Transportation Center (UTC) Tier 1 proposal led by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Titled Alliance for Promoting Mobility of People and Goods (AIM-PG), the proposed center seeks \$8 million in funding over four years to advance transportation research, workforce development, and innovation.

If awarded, Southern University is projected to receive \$1.08 million to support research initiatives, expand workforce development opportunities, and strengthen contributions to transportation innovation. This collaboration highlights the University's continued commitment to advancing research partnerships and addressing critical infrastructure and mobility needs at the regional and national levels.



CIVIL ENGINEERING - FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT | RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP



Dr. Ron Lee, Laboratory Director, recently published a conference paper titled Design Optimization for Resilient Building Design in Coastal Environments. The research explores innovative design strategies that strengthen building resilience against extreme wind events, including hurricanes, and contributes to advancing safer and more sustainable infrastructure in coastal regions.

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MECHANICAL ENGINEERING - FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. FAREED DAWAN



Dr. Fareed Dawan

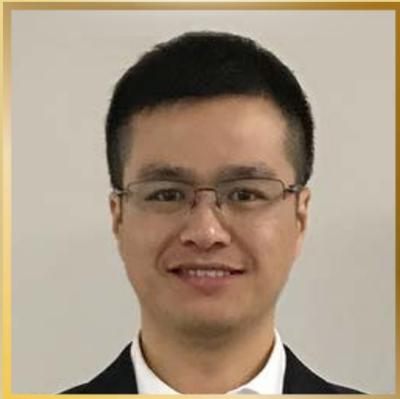
Dr. Fareed Dawan, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, made significant strides in research, education, and leadership during 2025. He was awarded U.S. Patent No. 12368007 B2 for a Nanotube Film-Enhanced 3D Photoanode for Dye-Sensitive Photovoltaic Cells, advancing high-efficiency energy-conversion technologies for space-constrained applications.

His innovation pipeline remains strong, with two patents pending, one on 3D-printable carbonated polymers for multifunctional composite materials and another introducing an X-ray-based 3D printing platform for precision fabrication of polymer nanocomposites and electronic materials.

Dr. Dawan also contributed to national conversations on engineering education through peer-reviewed conference presentations in 2025. His work examined machine-learning-based assessment of computational thinking skills and the impact of immersive virtual reality environments on student learning, with presentations at the SITE International Conference and the ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition.

In addition, Dr. Dawan demonstrated strong professional and institutional leadership. He attended the ASME Mechanical Engineering Education Division Conference and was appointed Chairperson of the Institutional Research Oversight Committee at Southern University and A&M College. His research excellence was further recognized with a \$5,000 Louisiana Board of Regents SURE award supporting AI-driven defect detection in 3D-printed composite materials. He also served on the TEDxBatonRouge 2025 Community Advisory Board, supporting community-focused innovation initiatives.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING - FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. CONGYUAN ZENG



Dr. Congyuan Zeng

Dr. Congyuan Zeng, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, continues to make significant strides in research, scholarship, and outreach. He recently secured an NSF HBCU Excellence in Research (EiR) award as sole Principal Investigator for his project “Understanding Dissimilar Metal Joints Formed Using Additive Friction Stir Deposition.” The three-year award totals \$896,186 and runs from July 2025 through June 2028, supporting advanced research in additive manufacturing and dissimilar metal joining.

Dr. Zeng has been actively engaged in the broader research community through invited talks and professional participation. He delivered an invited presentation

at the 2025 Southeast Symposium on Contemporary Engineering Topics (SSCET) at LSU and participated in the TMS 2025 Annual Meeting & Exhibition. He was also invited to the University of Wisconsin–Madison for a joint research meeting, further strengthening collaborative research efforts.

His scholarly output includes a recent publication in the Chemical Engineering Journal, with an additional paper published in the Journal of Engineering Materials and Technology, highlighting the impact and quality of his research contributions.

In addition to research and publications, Dr. Zeng remains deeply committed to outreach and education. He led bridge-building activities for the STEM Workforce of the Future program for K–12 teachers and students in Louisiana and facilitated a 3D printing workshop for K–12 students during Discover Southern U Day, helping inspire the next generation of engineers.



STUDENT AFFAIRS



The College of Sciences and Engineering hosted its Pinning Ceremony on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, in the Auditorium of the J. K. Haynes Building. The ceremony celebrated students' academic accomplishments and recognized an important milestone as they progressed toward commencement and the next phase of their professional journeys.



STUDENT AFFAIRS - CIVIL ENGINEERING

The Civil Engineering program proudly awarded nine Bachelor of Science degrees in Fall 2025. To mark this milestone, a graduation celebration was held on December 16, 2025, in the Civil Engineering Conference Room. Graduates were joined by their families, faculty, and staff to celebrate their achievements and the successful completion of their academic journey.



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STUDENT AFFAIRS - RECRUITMENT



Mr. Eldred Jackson

The College of Sciences and Engineering proudly spotlights Mr. Eldred Jackson, who joined the team in September 2025 as Director of Recruitment. Since stepping into the role, Mr. Jackson has quickly become a driving force in strengthening the College's strategic recruitment efforts and expanding its reach to prospective students.

Through intentional outreach, relationship-building, and direct engagement with partner schools, Mr. Jackson has established results-driven recruitment pipelines designed to connect talented students with opportunities at Southern University.

His work has been especially impactful in expanding access to pathways connected to FOSSI, the College of Sciences and Engineering, Computer Science programs, and Honors College scholarships.

By cultivating strong partnerships with high schools and key stakeholders, Mr. Jackson is helping increase awareness of the academic opportunities available at Southern University while guiding students and families through the admissions and scholarship process. His efforts are not only increasing recruitment visibility but also supporting the College's broader enrollment, retention, and student success goals.

Mr. Jackson's proactive approach, enthusiasm, and commitment to access and opportunity are already making a meaningful impact across the College and the University. The College of Sciences and Engineering is excited to have him on the team and looks forward to the continued growth of its recruitment partnerships and student pipelines under his leadership.



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NEWS



FULL CIRCLE
NEWS



[CLICK HERE](#)

NEWS AND EVENTS

**JAGUAR
PREVIEW DAY**

SAT FEBRUARY 28/2026



JAGUAR NEWS YOU CAN USE

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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BATON ROUGE CAMPUS WILL CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Southern University and A&M College will proudly celebrate Black History Month with a dynamic lineup of programs, lectures, screenings, and community engagement experiences that will honor the legacy, achievements, and future of Black excellence.

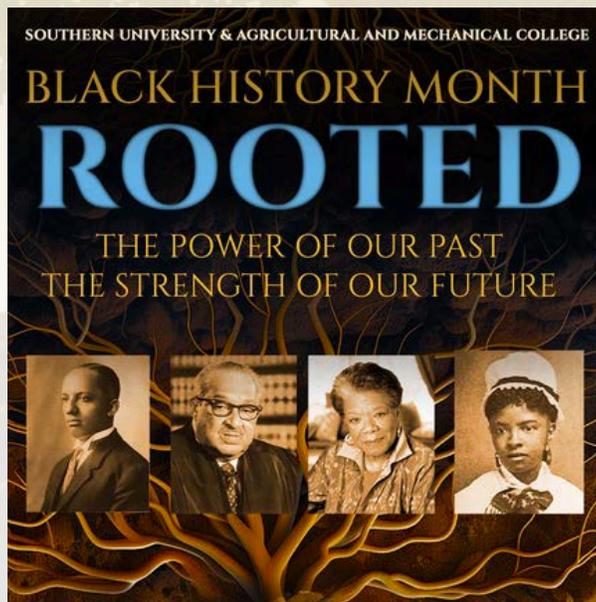
Throughout the month, the campus community will come together to reflect on history, uplift culture, and inspire the next generation of leaders through meaningful educational and cultural programming.

HONORING LEGACY THROUGH EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The month's programming will highlight Southern University's enduring role as a center of scholarship, cultural preservation, and civic engagement. Events across campus will create opportunities for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members to engage in dialogue, explore history, and celebrate the contributions of Black leaders past and present.

Special emphasis will be placed on literacy, historical awareness, civic engagement, and the arts... pillars that continue to shape the University's mission and impact.

[CLICK OR SCAN HERE FOR
SUBR BHM EVENTS](#)



CHANCELLOR PIERRE TO DELIVER BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPEECH

Southern University and A&M College Chancellor John K. Pierre will deliver a special Black History Month message at Highway Baptist Church in Vacherie, Louisiana, on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

Chancellor Pierre's remarks will reflect on the enduring legacy, resilience, and contributions of Black leaders and communities while uplifting the continued importance of education, service, and collective progress. His visit underscores Southern University's ongoing commitment to community engagement and to honoring Black history as a living, evolving story that continues to shape our future.

HIGHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

Sunday, February 15, 2026 @ 11 AM

Dr. Charles Oaits Sr., Pastor

GUEST SPEAKER
Chancellor John K. Pierre
Southern University & A&M College

JOIN US FOR AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE!
1185 Magnolia Heights St., Vacherie, LA 70090



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