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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BATON ROUGE

Chancellor's REPORT

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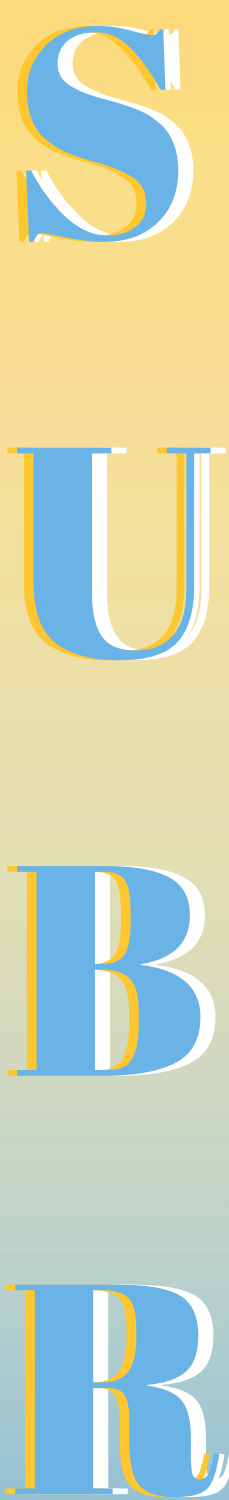
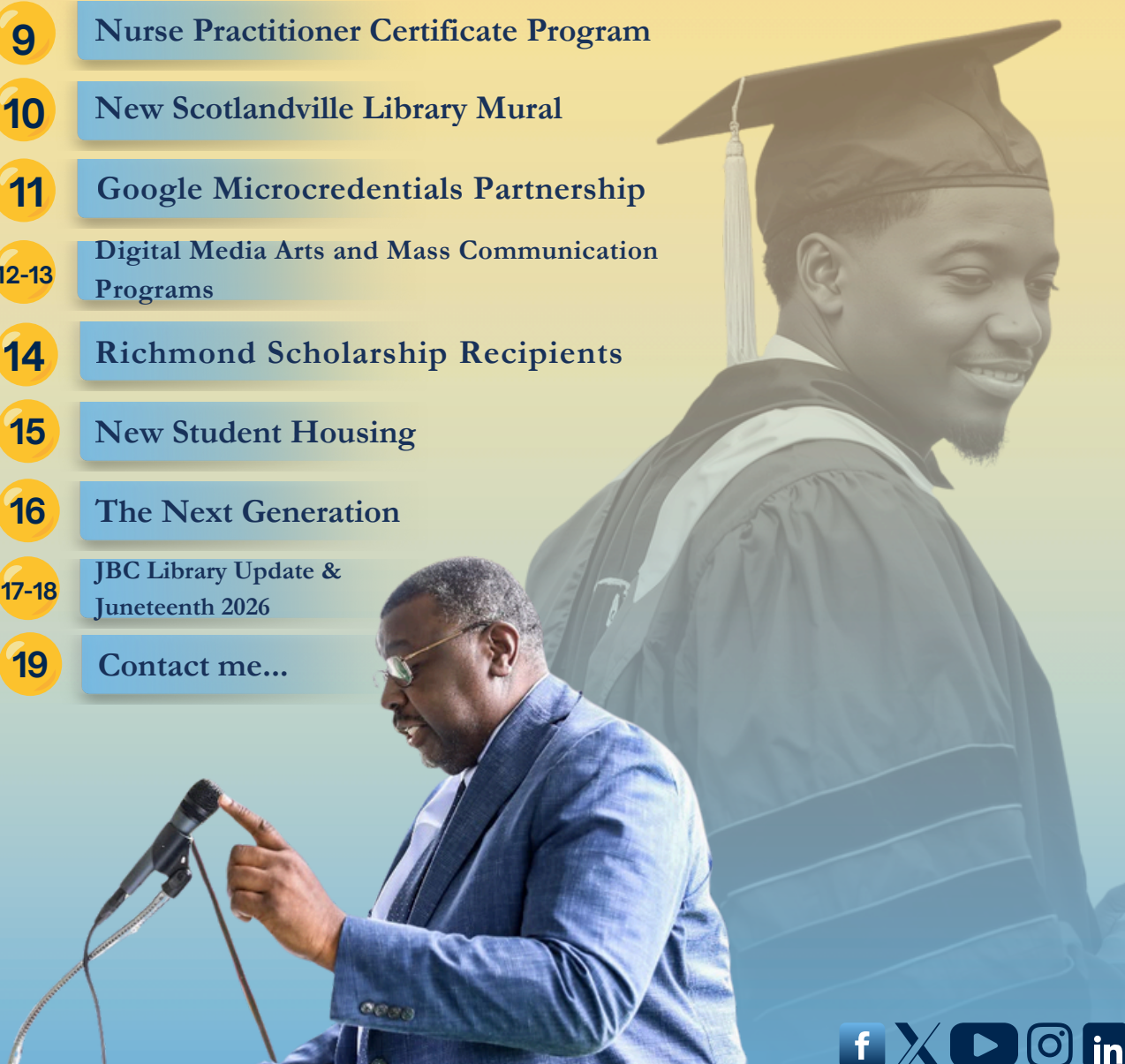
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MESSAGE FROM...


PIERRE

Dear Jaguar Nation,

As we conclude another successful spring semester and begin an exciting summer, I am filled with immense pride in all that Southern University and A&M College has accomplished. The past several months have been marked by extraordinary achievements that reflect the talent, resilience, and unwavering commitment of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters.

Our Spring Commencement ceremonies celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2026... graduates who now join the distinguished ranks of Southern University alumni. Their success represents years of perseverance and dedication, and I am confident they will continue our proud tradition of leadership, innovation, and service in communities across Louisiana, the nation, and the world.

This edition of the Chancellor's Report highlights many of the milestones that continue to propel our University forward. From the approval of new academic programs and national recognitions to innovative workforce development initiatives, strategic partnerships, and outstanding student achievements, Southern University remains committed to providing transformative educational experiences while addressing the evolving needs of our state and beyond.

I am particularly encouraged by the continued growth of programs that prepare our students for careers in emerging industries, expand access to healthcare, strengthen research and innovation, and celebrate the academic excellence that has long defined Southern University. These accomplishments are possible because of the collective dedication of our campus community and our shared commitment to advancing the mission of this historic institution.

As we look toward the new academic year, we do so with optimism, purpose, and a renewed commitment to excellence. Together, we will continue and ensure that Southern University generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support of
I invite you to reflect on the many
edition and to join us as we continue

to build on our legacy, embrace new opportunities,
remains a beacon of opportunity and excellence for

Southern University and A&M College.
accomplishments featured in this
moving Southern Forward.


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John K. Pierre
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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2026 AND CONCLUDES A SEMESTER OF EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT

Rounding out a remarkable spring semester and embarking on a productive summer, Southern University and A&M College continues to build momentum through student achievement, academic excellence, innovative programming, and institutional accomplishments. From celebrating the Class of 2026 during Spring Commencement to expanding academic offerings, earning national recognition, and strengthening strategic partnerships, the University remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence and its mission of preparing graduates to lead, serve, and transform their communities.

The University's 2026 Spring Commencement ceremonies, held on May 14 and 15, marked one of the defining moments of the academic year as graduates joined the proud ranks of Southern University alumni. The Graduate Commencement Ceremony, held on May 14, featured Dr. Harry L. Williams, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, as keynote speaker. Drawing upon his distinguished career in higher education leadership, Dr. Williams challenged graduates to embrace purpose-driven leadership, pursue excellence without compromise, and use their education to create meaningful change in their professions and communities. His inspiring message resonated deeply with graduates as they prepared to begin the next chapter of their personal and professional journeys.

The celebration continued on May 15 during the Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony, where the University welcomed Paula A. Shepherd, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Banner Plans and Networks, as commencement speaker. Shepherd encouraged graduates to lead with integrity, embrace lifelong learning, remain adaptable in an evolving workforce, and use every opportunity to positively impact the lives of others. Her remarks reflected the values of resilience, service, and innovation that define the Southern University experience.

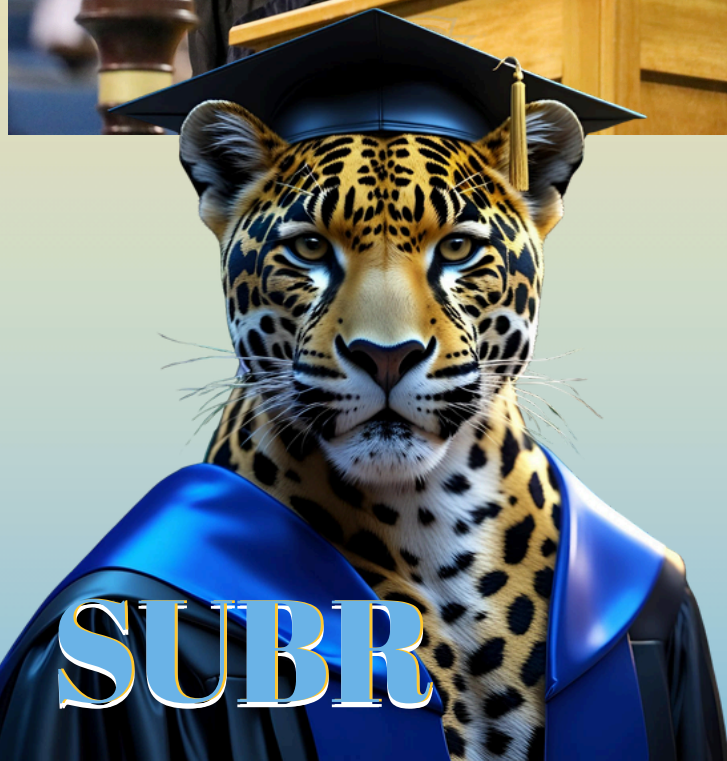
Throughout both ceremonies, Chancellor John K. Pierre conferred degrees upon the Class of 2026, recognizing the perseverance, determination, and academic excellence that brought each graduate to this milestone. Family members, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends gathered to celebrate not only the conferral of degrees but also the transformational journeys that prepared these graduates to become educators, engineers, healthcare professionals, scientists, entrepreneurs, public servants, artists, and leaders.

Beyond commencement, the spring semester concluded with numerous milestones that underscore Southern University's continued momentum. The University celebrated the approval of innovative academic programs, nationally recognized student and faculty achievements, expanded workforce development initiatives, groundbreaking research opportunities, and strategic partnerships that strengthen Southern's impact across Louisiana and beyond.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2026 AND CONCLUDES A SEMESTER OF EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT

As the summer began, that momentum continued through technology bootcamps, youth engagement initiatives, community partnerships, and experiential learning opportunities designed to prepare students for success in an increasingly dynamic global economy. Collectively, these accomplishments reflect a campus community dedicated to innovation, scholarship, service, and student success while reinforcing Southern University's position as a leader in higher education.

The achievements highlighted throughout this edition of the Chancellor's Report are a testament to the dedication, resilience, and excellence demonstrated daily by Southern University's students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters. Together, they represent the remarkable progress being made across the University as Southern continues building upon its rich legacy while creating new opportunities for future generations of Jaguars.



SUBR AND SULC STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN GEORGIA TECH CARBON MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Three students from Southern University are participating in the prestigious Georgia Tech Carbon Management Fellowship Program, further demonstrating Southern University's commitment to providing transformative experiential learning opportunities that prepare students to address complex environmental and energy challenges.

The fellowship provides students with exposure to interdisciplinary approaches in carbon management, sustainability, and emerging technologies while fostering collaboration among future leaders in engineering, environmental sciences, policy, and law.

Representing Southern University in the 2026 cohort are:

- Mia Shepherd, a Mechanical Engineering student in the College of Sciences and Engineering;
- Mishanti Johnson, an Urban Forestry student in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences; and
- Xavier Chatman, a student at the Southern University Law Center.

Their participation reflects the University's continued emphasis on student engagement, research, and professional development opportunities that extend learning beyond the classroom and position students for success in rapidly evolving fields related to energy, climate resilience, and environmental stewardship.

Southern University congratulates Mia, Mishanti, and Xavier on this outstanding achievement and looks forward to the knowledge and experiences they will bring back to the Jaguar community

Pictured: Mia Shepherd, Mechanical Engineering student and participant in the Georgia Tech Carbon Management Fellowship Program.



CHANCELLOR PIERRE HONORED AT INAUGURAL TDJ LEGACY FOUNDATION SOIRÉE



On April 11, 2026, the Dr. Tyre' Jenkins Legacy Foundation hosted its inaugural Legacy Soirée in New Orleans, bringing together educators, mentors, advocates, and community leaders from across the nation for an evening celebrating service, education, and the enduring impact of leadership.

Among the distinguished honorees was Chancellor John K. Pierre, who received the 2026 Legacy in Education Award in recognition of his steadfast commitment to student success, educational excellence, and transformative leadership at Southern University and A&M College.

The Legacy Soirée highlighted the Foundation's mission of investing in future generations through scholarships and meaningful community partnerships. During the event, the Foundation awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to deserving students, announced the establishment of the Dr. Renee Akbar Torchbearer Scholarship, and recognized individuals whose work exemplifies excellence in education, mentorship, and service.

Other 2026 Legacy in Education honorees included Renee Akbar, along with Julie Scott and Kacy Edwards of Career Compass of Louisiana. Honorees in mentorship and service categories represented organizations and institutions committed to empowering students and strengthening communities throughout Louisiana. Southern University congratulates Chancellor Pierre on this well-deserved recognition and celebrates his continued dedication to advancing opportunities for students, fostering academic achievement, and inspiring the next generation of leaders.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY EARNS TOP HBCU RANKING FOR CAMPUS DINING

Southern University has been recognized as the No. 1 Historically Black College and University (HBCU) for Campus Food and Dining in the 2026 Best College Food & Dining in America rankings published by Niche.

In addition to leading all HBCUs in the category, Southern University was also ranked the No. 1 institution in Louisiana for Campus Food, highlighting the University's commitment to providing an exceptional student experience both inside and outside the classroom. The rankings are based largely on student reviews and evaluations of dining quality, meal plan options, accessibility, and overall satisfaction.

For many prospective students and their families, campus dining plays an important role in the college selection process. This distinction offers Southern University another opportunity to showcase the vibrant Jaguar experience and the many factors that contribute to student success and satisfaction.

From its rich traditions and spirited campus life to academic excellence and student-centered amenities, Southern University continues to distinguish itself as a destination institution for scholars seeking a dynamic and supportive collegiate environment.

As the University expands its recruitment and enrollment efforts, this national recognition serves as an additional point of pride and an effective tool for engaging prospective students through admissions materials, campus tours, and social media campaigns.

Southern University congratulates its dining services partners, students, and campus community for helping make this achievement possible and for continuing to demonstrate why Southern remains a premier choice among HBCUs nationwide.



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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP WITH IBM EXPANDS ACCESS TO DIGITAL CREDENTIALS AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

Southern University continues to position students, faculty, and staff for success in an increasingly technology-driven workforce through its longstanding partnership with IBM and the Louisiana Association for Business and Industry Skills and Emerging Technology (LAABSET) Center.

Through LAABSET, a continuing education and workforce development initiative housed within the Southern University System, learners have access to industry-recognized certifications, badges, and other digital credentials in high-demand fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Blockchain, Cloud Computing, and Quantum Computing. The program serves participants from diverse academic disciplines, including law, arts, agriculture, business, science, engineering, and technology.

Using IBM SkillsBuild course content, participants engage in intensive 10- to 12-day bootcamps designed to upskill and reskill students, faculty, and staff in emerging technologies aligned with current and future workforce needs. Upon successful completion, learners earn digital credentials through Credly, a globally recognized digital badge platform that helps bridge the gap between academic preparation and employment opportunities.

During June 2026, more than 200 learners from across the Southern University System, Grambling State University, and North Carolina Central University participated in IBM SkillsBuild bootcamps. Of those participants, 85 learners successfully completed programs in Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Data Science.

Among the completers, 35 participants earned credentials in Artificial Intelligence, including 21 students from Southern University and A&M College; 29 participants completed the Cybersecurity Bootcamp, including 12 SUBR students; and 21 participants completed the Data Science Bootcamp, including 13 SUBR students.

Over the past five years, the LAABSET program has awarded more than 600 digital credentials and continues to expand its reach to additional historically Black colleges and universities. The initiative supports a bold vision: ensuring that every Southern University graduate leaves with at least one digital credential that enhances career readiness and prepares them to solve complex business and societal challenges through technology.

Southern University commends the leadership of Dr. Yolander A. Smith, Interim Director of SU Online/eLearning and LAABSET Development Director, for advancing innovative learning opportunities that equip learners with the skills, credentials, and experiences needed to thrive in the digital economy.

SCHOOL OF NURSING RECEIVES APPROVAL FOR POST-MASTER'S PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Southern University's School of Nursing has reached a significant milestone with the unanimous approval of its Post-Master's Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Certificate Program by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing.

During its June 2026 meeting, members of the Board commended the University's application materials, describing the submission as "phenomenal" and noting that it was among the best application packets they had reviewed for the launch of a new academic program. The recognition reflects the dedication, expertise, and collaborative efforts of Southern University's graduate nursing faculty and staff.

*SCHOOL OF NURSING
Caring is the Essence
of Nursing*

The newly approved certificate program is designed to prepare advanced practice registered nurses to address the growing demand for mental health services by expanding access to specialized psychiatric and mental health care. Graduates of the program will be equipped with the knowledge and clinical competencies necessary to provide comprehensive mental health assessment, diagnosis, and treatment across diverse populations and settings.

The approval represents an important advancement for the College of Nursing and Allied Health and aligns with Southern University's mission to respond to critical healthcare workforce needs while improving the health and well-being of communities throughout Louisiana and beyond.

The University extends its congratulations to Dr. Sandra C. Brown, Vice Chancellor for Health Initiatives, Dean and Professor in the College of Nursing and Allied Health, and the graduate faculty and staff whose leadership and commitment made this achievement possible. The Post-Master's PMHNP Certificate Program will provide new opportunities for nursing professionals to advance their practice while helping to meet the increasing demand for qualified psychiatric mental health providers.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR'S ARTWORK INSPIRES NEW SCOTLANDVILLE LIBRARY MURAL

Southern University art professor Randell Henry continues to leave a lasting impression on the Baton Rouge community as his artwork has been transformed into a striking mural at the Scotlandville Branch Library.

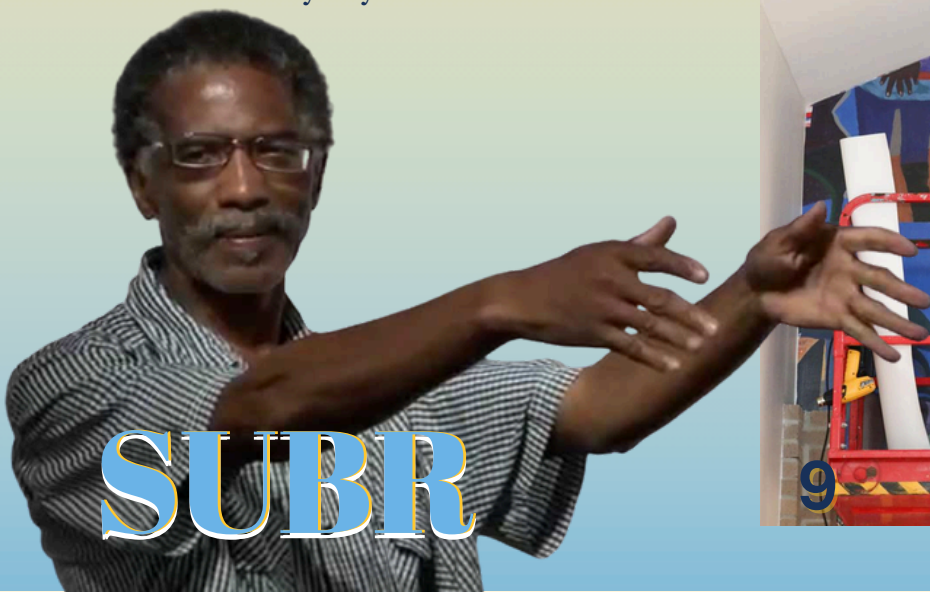
Installed above the entrance to the library's Black Heritage Room, the mural is based on Professor Henry's original painting, *Royal March Into the City*, and serves as a vibrant centerpiece in the library's ongoing renovation. The installation celebrates the rich history, culture, and resilience of the Scotlandville community while reinforcing the importance of public art in educational spaces.

A New Orleans native and accomplished artist, Professor Henry shared that he has long admired libraries as places of learning and inspiration and is honored to have his work featured in a space dedicated to preserving history and fostering community engagement.

The Scotlandville Branch Library is currently operating from a temporary location while renovations continue. The renovated facility is expected to reopen in spring 2027, offering patrons an enhanced space that combines education, history, and artistic expression.

Dr. Cynthia Downing Bryant, Dean of the College of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, commended Professor Henry on the recognition, stating: *"Congratulations on your wonderful good works, Professor Henry. You have, once again, brought creative prominence to our college, our campus, and the greater Baton Rouge community."*

Professor Henry's latest accomplishment reflects Southern University's enduring commitment to academic excellence, artistic innovation, and meaningful community engagement, while showcasing the exceptional talent of its faculty beyond the classroom.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY EXPANDS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH GOOGLE MICROCREDENTIALS PARTNERSHIP

As part of the Louisiana Board of Regents' participation in the National Association of Higher Education Systems (NASH)-Google Microcredentials Community of Practice, Southern University and A&M College is expanding access to Coursera's industry-recognized learning platform, providing faculty and staff with new opportunities to enhance their professional skills and explore emerging technologies.

The initiative is designed to increase access to Google Career Certificates, Google Advanced Certificates, and Google Essentials courses, including AI Essentials, Agile Essentials, and Prompting Essentials. Delivered through Coursera, these flexible, self-paced programs equip participants with practical, workforce-aligned skills in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data analytics, project management, information technology, digital marketing, and business intelligence.

Beyond online coursework, the partnership provides participating institutions with implementation support, professional development resources, and opportunities to collaborate with peer institutions nationwide as they explore innovative approaches to workforce development and lifelong learning.

Dr. Luria Young, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, emphasized the significance of the initiative for Southern University's faculty and staff.

"Southern University is committed to creating meaningful opportunities for continuous learning and professional growth. Through this partnership, our faculty and staff have access to high-quality, industry-recognized learning experiences that strengthen professional competencies, encourage innovation, and support our ongoing pursuit of academic excellence. I encourage our campus community to take full advantage of this valuable resource as we continue preparing for the future of higher education and the evolving workforce."

Faculty and staff are encouraged to explore the available Coursera offerings and enroll in courses that align with their professional interests and career goals. The initiative reflects Southern University's continued commitment to innovation, employee development, and preparing its workforce with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven environment.

Source: <https://nash.edu/nash-google-microcredentials-partnership/>

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS

coursera

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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY EXPANDS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH GOOGLE MICROCREDENTIALS PARTNERSHIP



Southern UniversityDr. Cynthia Downing Bryant, Dean of the College of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, on her selection to serve as a mentor for the inaugural MSI Humanities Leadership Academy, a national leadership initiative established by the Rutgers Center for Minority Serving Institutions (CMSI) with support from the Mellon Foundation.

The year-long program is designed to prepare humanities department chairs at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) for senior academic leadership by

Dr. Cynthia Downing Bryant

pairing them with accomplished higher education leaders, including current and former provosts and deans. Through one-on-one mentoring, leadership shadowing, and guided professional development, participants will gain valuable insight into executive decision-making and institutional leadership.

As one of a select group of nationally recognized academic leaders invited to serve as a mentor, Dr. Bryant will provide individualized guidance and support to an emerging leader while helping to cultivate the next generation of higher education administrators committed to advancing the humanities at Minority Serving Institutions.

The academy will officially launch with an inaugural leadership forum August 4–7, 2026, in Princeton, New Jersey, where mentors and fellows will begin building relationships that will continue throughout the year. Dr. Luria Young, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, praised Dr. Bryant's selection, stating:

"Dr. Bryant's invitation to serve as a mentor in the inaugural MSI Humanities Leadership Academy is a testament to her exemplary leadership, scholarship, and unwavering commitment to academic excellence. Her selection reflects not only the respect she has earned among her peers nationwide, but also Southern University's enduring tradition of preparing and inspiring transformational leaders in higher education. We are proud to see her expertise recognized on a national stage."

Dr. Bryant's appointment further elevates Southern University's national profile as a leader in academic innovation and faculty excellence while reinforcing the University's commitment to developing leaders who will shape the future of higher education.

WBRZ INVESTS \$25,000 IN SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY'S DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS AND MASS COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS



Southern University has received a \$25,000 investment from WBRZ to support the University's Department of Digital Media Arts and Department of Mass Communication, strengthening hands-on learning opportunities for students preparing to enter the rapidly evolving media and communications industry.

The contribution reflects a growing partnership between Southern University and WBRZ and will help enhance instructional resources by providing students with access to industry-standard equipment and technology that mirrors today's professional broadcast and digital media environments.

Dr. Cynthia Downing Bryant, Dean of the College of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, expressed her appreciation for WBRZ's investment in student success.

"We are deeply grateful to WBRZ and the Manship family for their generous investment in our students and academic programs. This partnership strengthens our ability to provide innovative, hands-on learning experiences that prepare graduates to lead and excel in the rapidly evolving digital media landscape. Together, we are creating opportunities that will have a lasting impact on our students, our University, and the communities they will ultimately serve."



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WBRZ INVESTS \$25,000 IN SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY'S DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS AND MASS COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS



Dr. Yolanda Campbell



Darrell Roberson



Harry Anderson

WBRZ General Manager Andrew Shenkan noted that the contribution reflects the station's commitment to investing in the next generation of media professionals and supporting educational programs that prepare students for careers in an ever-changing industry.

"This investment allows us to continue building a learning environment where students can gain practical experience using the same equipment and technology they will encounter in today's media industry," said Darrell Roberson, Co-Director of the Digital Media Arts Program. *"Our goal is to ensure that graduates leave Southern University prepared to transition seamlessly from the classroom to successful careers in digital media and communications."*

The gift comes as Southern University continues to expand its academic offerings in digital media. Launched through a collaborative effort between the Departments of Visual and Performing Arts and Mass Communication, the Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media Arts provides students with interdisciplinary training in digital screen arts production, recording arts, visual arts and motion graphics, digital performance fusion, and digital sports production.

The investment reinforces Southern University's commitment to providing students with transformative educational experiences, fostering strategic partnerships, and equipping graduates with the knowledge, creativity, and technical expertise needed to thrive in today's media and communications professions.

MORE THAN 40 SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AWARDED CEDRIC RICHMOND SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 40 Southern University and A&M College students have been selected as recipients of the Cedric Richmond Scholarship, earning financial support that will help them continue their academic pursuits and achieve their educational goals.

The Southern University System led all higher education systems in Louisiana in the total number of scholarship recipients, underscoring the University's continued commitment to student success and expanding access to higher education. The University of Louisiana System ranked second in total recipients. The Cedric Richmond Scholarship Program recognizes students who have demonstrated academic achievement, leadership potential, and a commitment to higher education. By helping reduce financial barriers, the program empowers students to remain focused on their studies, persist toward degree completion, and prepare for meaningful careers that will positively impact their communities.

Recipients represent a broad range of academic disciplines across Southern University, reflecting the institution's diverse academic offerings and its tradition of developing leaders in education, business, engineering, healthcare, agriculture, the sciences, the arts, and public service.

The 2026 Cedric Richmond Scholarship recipients from Southern University are:

Alaishia Joseph, Amari Baham, Amia French, Auna Cook, Bandar Alshaiban, Carl Nixon Jr., Carmyn Calhoun, Christopher Thibodeaux, Curtis Williams Jr., Georrein Dupre, Jada Kelly, Jaden York, Jakari Brown, Jordan Banks, Justin Thomas Jr., Kaelee Jackson, Kaileena Jackson, Keira Miracle-Tilford, Kellen Anthony, Kennedi Evans, LaDarius Daniels, Lauren Otis, Marleigh Wright, Mason Fontenot, Maya Kirk, Najah Freeman, Reagan Rodgers, Ricky Critney, Saige Kenner, Samajh Robinson, Soija Cameron, Sydnee Jackson, Teja Morrisse, Tiana Block, Tre'vonna Williams, Vernell Jones, Xilyn Berzas, Zachary Brooks, Zaya Peyton, Zoe Hill, and Reginald Ellis II.



Southern University congratulates each scholarship recipient on this well-deserved recognition. Their achievements exemplify the excellence, determination, and promise that define the Jaguar spirit. The University also recognizes the transformative impact of scholarship support in helping students persist, graduate, and become the next generation of leaders who will serve Louisiana and communities around the world.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BREAKS GROUND ON NEW STUDENT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



Southern University celebrated a transformative milestone on June 25, 2026, with the groundbreaking of a new on-campus student housing development that will significantly expand the University's residential capacity and enhance the overall student experience.

University leadership, students, alumni, elected officials, community partners, and supporters gathered on the Baton Rouge campus to

commemorate the start of construction on the multi-phase project. The development reflects Southern University's ongoing commitment to supporting enrollment growth while providing safe, modern, and student-centered living environments that foster academic achievement, engagement, and retention.

Phase I of the project will add 500 new student beds in a four-story residence hall designed primarily for first- and second-year students. The facility will feature modern amenities, including study rooms, common spaces on every floor, and dining facilities. Construction is expected to be completed in time to welcome students for the Fall 2027 semester. Upon completion of the full project, Southern University will add 850 new beds to its housing inventory, with future phases serving upper-class and graduate students.

The new housing development is being made possible through a partnership among Southern University and A&M College, the Southern University System Foundation, and the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority. The project represents a major investment in the University's future and underscores its strategic focus on creating an exceptional residential campus experience.

"This project reflects our commitment to creating a vibrant residential campus experience while providing safe, modern, and student-centered living environments that support academic achievement, student engagement, and retention," said Chancellor John K. Pierre during the groundbreaking ceremony.

The groundbreaking marks another significant step in Southern University's continued campus renaissance. As demand for on-campus housing continues to grow, the new residential community will strengthen the University's ability to attract and retain students while providing spaces that encourage learning, collaboration, and lifelong connections.

The new student housing development represents more than new buildings... it is an investment in the success of current and future Jaguars and another example of Southern University's commitment to building a campus that supports excellence in every aspect of the student experience.



CADE LIBRARY *Hosts* NATIONAL WORKSHOP

Refining Research. Building Capacity. Advancing Knowledge.

John B. Cade Library at Southern University and A&M College recently hosted *Refining Your Research Synthesis Skills*, an intensive professional development institute led by researchers from the Institute for Meta-Synthesis (IMS). The four-and-a-half-day workshop, held **June 8–12, 2026**, convened 12 participants, including two graduate students and faculty members from institutions across the United States. SUBR faculty members participating included **MD Hossain**, biology; and Cade Librarians **Marilyn Anderson** and **Maya Banks**. Sessions ran Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (ET) and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

STRENGTHENING SKILLS. GENERATING INSIGHTS. ADVANCING IMPACT.

The institute focused on strengthening participants' skills and knowledge in qualitative meta-synthesis—an approach to integrating findings from multiple qualitative studies to generate new insights and advance theory and practice in STEM education and related fields.

Over the course of the week, attendees engaged in an in-depth exploration of all IMS modules, with IMS team leaders providing individualized coaching on participants' active research projects. The workshop design provided an average of nine to twelve hours of live instruction, with each session incorporating structured application time for participants to apply meta-synthesis processes and practices directly to their own work.

“As someone who regularly works with literature reviews and systematic reviews, I was not familiar with qualitative meta-synthesis,” said **Dr. Maya Banks**. “I left the institute equipped with the tools I need to move forward with a qualitative meta-synthesis and already have an idea for a manuscript that I hope to submit for publication in the near future.”

— **Dr. Maya Banks**, Head of Public Services & Associate Professor

According to the Institute for Meta-Synthesis, the program's goal is to equip researchers and practitioners at all career stages with the methodological skills to confidently design and conduct qualitative meta-synthesis studies within their disciplines.

Participants left the institute with a deeper understanding of qualitative meta-synthesis, a certificate of completion, and a copy of the newly published book *An Introduction to Qualitative Meta-Synthesis* by Maria Ong, Nuria Jaumot-Pascual, Lisette E. Torres, Christina B. Silva, and Audrey Martinez-Gudapakkam. The authors facilitated the intensive workshop at Southern University, with support from **Dr. Erin Scott**, grants and scholarly support specialist at Cade Library, who is acknowledged in the volume as a partner and advisor.



Dr. Erin Scott presents during the train-the-trainer component of the workshop.



Workshop participants celebrate a week of learning and collaboration.



ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Refining Your Research Synthesis Skills is designed to build researchers' capacity to conduct qualitative meta-synthesis studies and apply findings to advance theory, practice, and policy in STEM education and related disciplines.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

12 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

- ✓ 2 Graduate Students
- ✓ Faculty from Institutions Across the U.S.
- ✓ Cade Library Faculty and Staff



BUILDING CAPACITY. ADVANCING RESEARCH. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

Cade Library is proud to support innovative professional development that empowers researchers and strengthens our institutional impact.



Dr. Scott also presented during the final day of the train-the-trainer component of the institute, offering practical advice and strategies for teaching qualitative meta-synthesis to others in institutional and professional development contexts. Her session highlighted opportunities for librarians and educational developers to embed meta-synthesis methods into research support services, graduate training, and faculty development initiatives.



The **Institute for Meta-Synthesis** is funded by the National Science Foundation's Building Capacity in STEM Education Research (BCSER) program through an Institute for Research Methods grant. IMS is housed at **TERC**, a STEM-focused education research and development center located in Cambridge, Massachusetts.





JUNETEENTH 2026 RECAP

*Celebrating Freedom Through
Culture and Community*



Southern University and A&M College hosted its second annual Juneteenth Celebration on Thursday, June 18, 2026, under the theme “Celebrating Freedom Through Culture and Community.” The event brought together students, faculty, staff, alumni, families, summer camps, youth groups, community organizations, vendors, authors, artists, and campus partners for a full day of education, reflection, cultural expression, and community engagement.

Despite concerns about inclement weather, the celebration continued successfully with a contingency plan in place. Vendors, children’s activities, and select programming were moved to covered or indoor spaces to ensure safety and comfort. Fortunately, the anticipated weather held off, allowing participants to enjoy the day’s activities with minimal disruption.

Programming included the Opening Celebration, panel discussions, the Genealogy and GU 272 Workshop, the Southern University Museum of Art 25th Anniversary Celebration, a self-publishing session, the Literary Zone for Kids and Youth, Authors’ Row, the Freedom Market, Culture Fest, food trucks, wellness resources, nonprofit and community partner engagement, youth activities, and the Freedom March.

The celebration reflected strong intergenerational participation and highlighted Southern University’s commitment to honoring history, supporting literacy and education, uplifting local artists and entrepreneurs, and strengthening community connections. Cultural highlights included a live art and jazz collaboration featuring saxophonist Eric Whitfield and visual artist Brandon V. Lewis, as well as literary programming centered on Juneteenth history and public memory.

In only its second year, the Juneteenth Celebration continues to grow as a meaningful campus and community tradition. Southern University and A&M College looks forward to building on this momentum in future years and further establishing the university as a leading destination for Juneteenth education, reflection, and celebration.

JOURNEY TO THE BLUFF WELCOMES THE NEXT GENERATION OF JAGUARS

Southern University officially welcomed its newest students through Journey to the Bluff, the University's comprehensive New Student Orientation program designed to prepare incoming Jaguars for a successful transition to college life.

Serving as the first official step in the Southern University experience, Journey to the Bluff introduces new students and their families to the academic, social, and cultural opportunities that define the Jaguar tradition. Through engaging

presentations, campus tours, resource sessions, and interactive activities, participants gain valuable insight into the University's academic expectations, student support services, campus life, and leadership opportunities.



Held throughout the spring, summer, and fall, the mandatory orientation program provides incoming freshmen and transfer students with the tools needed to begin their academic journey with confidence. Students also complete a self-paced pre-orientation course prior to attending, ensuring they arrive prepared to make informed decisions about their academic success and campus engagement.

Recognizing that student success is strengthened through family support, Southern University also offers Parent University, a dedicated orientation experience designed to equip parents and families with information about campus resources, student services, financial aid, academic expectations, and ways to support their students throughout their collegiate journey.

The 2026 orientation schedule included sessions held on campus and virtually, providing flexibility while ensuring every new student received a comprehensive introduction to the University. Participants also had opportunities to connect with faculty, staff, current students, and campus leaders, building relationships that will support their transition into the Southern University community.

Journey to the Bluff reflects Southern University's unwavering commitment to student success from day one. By connecting new students with the resources, relationships, and experiences that foster academic achievement and personal growth, the University continues to lay the foundation for future Jaguar leaders. As Southern University welcomes the newest members of the Jaguar Nation, Journey to the Bluff serves as more than an orientation... it is the beginning of a transformational educational experience rooted in excellence, tradition, leadership, and service.



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