



CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

APRIL 2025

PATHWAY TO KNIGHTHOOD



ENROLLMENT



RETENTION



GRADUATION



PERSISTENCE



GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL
STUDIES/PLACEMENT



A MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR AMMONS

Welcome to the April 2025 Chancellor's Report,

This report reflects Southern University at New Orleans' (SUNO) unwavering commitment to advancing our institution through transformative student experiences, cutting-edge infrastructure, and academic excellence. Each initiative is rooted in our mission to empower students, support innovative teaching, and foster a dynamic campus community that drives progress.

In this issue, readers will learn about our latest efforts to enhance the student journey—from bridging the gap between our students and the workforce to creating a more inviting and accessible environment designed to challenge and inspire. Our strides in research, community engagement, and technology integration are redefining what it means to be a leading urban university.

As we move forward, SUNO remains dedicated to building a future where every community member thrives. Thank you for joining us as we celebrate our achievements and set our sights on the exciting challenges ahead, as we craft a brighter, bolder future for Southern University at New Orleans.

Additionally, strategic investments in campus life are already showing results. Writing labs, modernized dormitories, and enhanced recreational facilities create a more vibrant campus atmosphere. SUNO's commitment to faculty development and research innovation ensures that students and staff have the tools to excel. Through collaboration and forward-thinking initiatives, SUNO is paving the way for transformative growth for generations to come.

Welcome to the future of SUNO.

With kind regards,
James H. Ammons, Jr., Ph.D.
Chancellor, Southern University at New Orleans



In the Know AT SUNO

SPRING 2025 BUSINESS SUMMIT

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) recently hosted its Spring 2025 Business Summit, bringing together industry leaders, employers, alumni, faculty, and students for a dynamic series of events to foster professional growth and career readiness. The event featured an Opening Reception and a Career Fair designed to connect students with potential employers and provide insights into various industries.

A NIGHT OF NETWORKING: THE OPENING RECEPTION

The summit started with a special opening reception, welcoming distinguished professionals and community partners crucial to shaping the future workforce. Chancellor Ammons opened the evening with inspiring remarks about SUNO's dedication to student success and the importance of industry collaboration.

Attendees had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, establish new partnerships, and discuss emerging business and workforce development trends.



CAREER FAIR

Career Fair Connects Students with Employers

The summit's highlight was the Spring 2025 Career Fair, where students explored career and internship opportunities with various companies and organizations.

Employers set up booths, engaged with students, and provided information on job openings in fields ranging from business and technology to healthcare and public service.



The Career Fair was sponsored by SUNO's Center for Career and Professional Development.



KNIGHTS ROUNDTABLE

Southern University at New Orleans welcomed Louisiana legislators, community leaders, and University stakeholders for a Legislative Breakfast hosted by Chancellor James H. Ammons, Jr. This roundtable served as a platform to discuss the future of SUNO, legislative priorities, and collaborative efforts to strengthen higher education in Louisiana.

The breakfast allowed legislators to engage with SUNO leadership, gaining firsthand insights into the University's initiatives, challenges, and opportunities. Chancellor Ammons emphasized the institution's commitment to academic excellence, workforce development, and expanding access to higher education through innovative programs like SUNO Connect.

Attendees included SU System President Dennis Shields, Senator Joseph Bouie, Southern University System Board Member Atty. Edwin Shorty, Atty. Cedric Upshaw and Mr. Brandon Armant on behalf of Representative Delisha Boyd.



HONORING CALEB WILSON

SUNO came together in a heartfelt candlelight vigil to honor the memory of Caleb Wilson and extend unwavering support to our sister institution. Students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered to pay tribute to Wilson's life and legacy, sharing words of remembrance and unity.

The vigil, marked by the soft glow of candlelight, served as a moment of reflection, solidarity, and healing. SUNO fully supports our sister institution, reinforcing our shared values of resilience and community.

During the ceremony, SUNO leaders, student representatives, and friends of Wilson expressed their condolences and reaffirmed their commitment to fostering a supportive environment. Media members were also present, helping to share the message of unity and remembrance with the broader community. This gathering was a testament to the strength found in unity, as SUNO continues to stand beside those affected, offering comfort and encouragement in times of loss.



SUNO ATHLETICS

SUNO's basketball teams set a new benchmark in the HBCU Athletic Conference (HBCUAC) this season. The women's team achieved six impressive conference wins, including key victories over defending champion Rust College, Wiley University, and the University of the Virgin Islands, ranking among the top in offensive production and rebounds.

The men's team re-established themselves as a formidable force with a 9-8 conference record and their first double-digit win total since 2013-14. A thrilling 82-78 victory over rival Xavier capped their season, marking a historic win on Philander Smith's home court.

Beyond basketball, SUNO Baseball rebounded remarkably in its second year under Head Coach Olen Parker, with a 5-1 record in conference play and a No. 2 ranking in the West Division. The SUNO Knights Athletics Internship program also elevated media engagement, serving as the official media team for major events and significantly boosting online views.

These achievements underscore SUNO's commitment to excellence and prominence in collegiate athletics. With record-setting performances and groundbreaking wins, the Knights continue to inspire both on and off the field, embodying the spirit of resilience and progress in the HBCUAC.

CONFERENCE HONORS:

Jordan Harris: *Regular Season All-HBCUAC Second Team; Preseason All-HBCUAC First Team*

Tyon Thompson: *Preseason All-HBCUAC First Team*

Donte Briggs: *All-HBCUAC Freshman of the Year*

Jamal Gibson: *All-HBCUAC Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, All-HBCUAC Defensive Team, All-HBCUAC First Team; Preseason All-HBCUAC Player of the Year; 2x National Defensive Player of the Year*

Joey Olveda: *Preseason All-HBCUAC Second Team Starting Pitcher*

Kyler Shepherd: *Preseason All-HBCUAC Second Team Outfielder*

KNIGHTS FRIDAY OUT CITY TOUR

The Knights Friday Out City Tour kicked off at St. Katherine Drexel Preparatory Academy, marking the beginning of a vibrant series of weekly events. This initiative brings together representatives from SUNO departments, colleges, and student organizations to showcase our campus community's diverse opportunities and dynamic spirit. Designed to engage with local neighborhoods and spark meaningful connections, Knights Friday Out will occur every Friday throughout March and April, creating a regular forum for interaction, networking, and community celebration.



MILLIE M. CHARLES SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The Millie M. Charles School of Social Work moves forward with an online Master of Social Work program.

Dean Rebecca Chaisson is happy to report that the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) approved its application for a fully online MSW program option this fall. Dr. Chaisson, along with the faculty and staff, are excited about the opportunity to expand the delivery system to students who require a fully online option for successful entry into the social work profession.

The program will start entirely online in the fall of 2025, and approximately 40 students will be expected to join the first cohort in the program. Faculty and staff are immersed in preparing for the first cohort, working closely with Dr. Bree Cook, Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, and Ms. Melinda Perry, Director of E-Learning.

Dr. Holly McKenney

Dr. Holly McKenney recently conducted a continuing education workshop on Self-care for Social Work Month. Approximately 55 participants, including students, internship/field supervisors, faculty, and alumni, attended the event. Self-care is currently an ethical standard requirement from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). It was a timely event, especially given the recent local, regional, and national organizational climate changes. Dr. McKenney invited a local holistic healer, Shanda Damango, a certified expert in several body movement methods, who has degrees from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Claremont Graduate University. Dr. McKenney and Shanda collaborated to deliver an outstanding complement of techniques borrowed from mental health practice, body movement healing, and mindfulness work. Shanda Damango shouted out the School of Social Work at SUNO on her social media page shortly after the event.

Dr. Jill Murray

Dr. Jill Murray served as a mentor and guide for Nickolus Harris for the McNair Scholars Program. Dr. Murray and Nickolus will present a paper at the statewide National Association of Social Workers conference in Baton Rouge. Dr. Murray has worked with several students whose papers have been accepted by various statewide and national conferences.

Dr. Patrice Sentino

Dr. Patrice Sentino facilitated a knowledge-building event about new amendments being voted on for the March 29th election. Empowered Voting: The Millie M. Charles School of Social Work held a community discussion on ballot measures. Dr. Sentino moderated the discussion and presentation to about 50 participants present for the event, which was designed to explain the language and intent of the four amendments. Senator Royce Duplessis from District 5, Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman from District 98, and Jon Moller, Executive Director of Invest in Louisiana, a non-partisan think tank, provided information about the upcoming voting opportunities. The panelists spoke about specifics about each amendment and later took questions from the audience. It was an important critical event for the community. Dr. Sentino and the panelists encouraged all participants to actively assist other voters in understanding the ballots this month and promote voter turnout. The presentations were timely, and many participants walked away with a better understanding of the amendment and some of the processes for placing unclear language on the ballots. One audience member asked about the law that requires precise and understandable language for the public. The panelists spoke about the challenges faced with sending out information to constituents with language that better explain changes at the ballot box. Currently, the law in this area is not fully implemented.

SUNO

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