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SUNO

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY *at* NEW ORLEANS

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

AUGUST 2024

SUNO ATHLETICS: A POST-SEASON REVIEW

SUNO Knights Athletics: A Year of Outstanding Achievements and Leadership

The Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) Knights Department of Athletics saw a remarkable year under the dedicated leadership of the Director of Athletics and Men's Basketball Head Coach James A. Matthews, III. From record-breaking performances on the court to commendable community service initiatives, the Knights have exemplified excellence and character across all sports.

Jamal "Tall" Gibson's Return

One of the most notable highlights of the year is the return of Jamal "Tall" Gibson, who entered the transfer portal, but later chose to remain at SUNO due to the unwavering commitment and mentorship of Coach Matthews. As a freshman, Gibson's performance was spectacular, averaging 21.0 points per game, 15.8 rebounds per game, and 2.5 blocks per game over 30 games. His outstanding contributions led to the setting of new SUNO single-season records for total points (630), rebounds (474), and double-doubles (29). Gibson's accolades for the season include:

GCAC Player of the Year

GCAC Freshman of the Year

GCAC Defensive Player of the Year

All-GCAC Defensive Team

All-GCAC First Team selection

NAIA All-American Third Team selection

Louisiana Sports Writer Association Louisiana Small College Player of the Year

Louisiana Sports Writer Association All-Louisiana Third Team selection



Baseball's Competitive Spirit

Under the skilled guidance of Head Coach Olen Parker, Jr., SUNO's baseball team continued to establish a strong presence within the conference. The Knights finished fourth in the regular season and showcased their competitive edge during the conference tournament. The team's hard work and talent were recognized, with four players receiving All-Conference honors: Chase Lovick, First Team; Kyler Sheppard, Second Team; D'Erica Shenault, Second Team, Kyler Sheppard, Second Team and Damian Lantigua being named to the All-Tournament Team.

Championing Character and Integrity

The Knights commitment to character and integrity is evident. Student-athletes Devin Daniels, Men's Basketball player and Jordan Harris, Women's Basketball player were nominated for the prestigious NAIA Champion of Character Award. Volleyball Head Coach Zipporah Washington, who returned to her alma mater to lead the program, exemplified these values and was nominated as the conference's NAIA Coach of Character. There were three institutions from the NAIA conference that made the list, and two of them reached GOLD status. SUNO is one of them!



Academic Excellence and Community Service

An impressive 40 percent of SUNO student-athletes were named to the GCAC 2024 Honor Roll, which recognizes students maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher during their playing season. The Knights dedication to community service has also been a cornerstone of their program. Each team actively participates in various service projects throughout the year, demonstrating their commitment to positively impacting the field. Congratulations to our Student-athletes!

**Ethan Beebe - Collin Beninato - Miles Bowens - James Bowersox - Joshua Carter - Ayden Farrow - Coy Guillory - Keshon Hall
Traeshon Hall - Marcus Jackson - Jaden Johnson - Jose Olveda - D'Eric Shenault - Brock Brown - Bryce Brown
Devin Daniels - Wayne Green - Celoui Louissaint - Christian Melvin - Chaun Moore - Jakhari Rogers - Devin Short
Damonte Streate - Caleb Williams - Jashyree Bell - Savannah Hadley - Jordan Harris - McKenna Harris - Inina Lane - Kasyah Sydnor**

Building Strong Partnerships

In addition to fostering athletic and academic success, AD Matthews has been instrumental in building relationships that enhance funding through donations and sponsorships. He has developed a robust sponsorship package and added advertising opportunities to increase brand awareness for Knights Athletics and its partners. These initiatives have been crucial in supporting the growth and sustainability of SUNO's athletic programs. We would like to THANK the supporters of Knight Nation!

**Canal Street Family Dentistry - Lil Dizzy's Cafe - Fredrell Jenkins (alumnus athlete) - Trajan Langdon (former NBA player)
Congressman Cedric Richmond - Greg Monroe (former NBA player) - Mal Mundy - Loyola University - New Orleans Saints
HUDL - Urban Edge Network/HBCU+ - Athlyt - Hope Credit Union - Best Buy - Dick's Sporting Goods - Academy Sports
Fenton Athletics - Paramount Nissan (TX) - Troy White**

Looking Ahead

The SUNO Knights Department of Athletics has set a high standard for performance, integrity, and community involvement. The Knights are poised for even more outstanding accomplishments in the coming years with continued leadership from AD Matthews and the dedication of coaches like Olen Parker, Jr., Destinie Smith, and Zipporah Washington. As they build on this year's successes, the SUNO Knights continue to embody the spirit of excellence both on and off the field.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

[Dana Bailey Completes the 2024 Lamar Governor's Fellows Summer Program](#)

This summer, Dana Bailey, the Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) Student Government Association (SGA) President and Public Administration major, was selected to participate in the Lamar Governors Fellows program. This program was started in 2014, whereby scholars are chosen from across Louisiana to intern within an area of state government. Since its inception, Dana has been the only scholar from SUNO to participate in this unique opportunity.

This program invites scholars to visit the capital of Louisiana and intern at different agencies under the secretary of various state Executive Officers. Housing is provided on the Louisiana State University (LSU) campus for out-of-town students, and fellows are required to take a class at LSU. At the end of the program, each intern must present a policy proposal based on their work experience to the Governor.

Dana was assigned to the LA Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) under the leadership of Secretary David Matlock. DCFS is working to keep children safe, help individuals and families become self-sufficient, and provide safe refuge during disasters. DCFS has many locations throughout the nine regions of Louisiana. The nine areas in Louisiana include Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Covington, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, Orleans, Shreveport, and Thibodaux. With multiple offices in all nine regions, the main office is in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The agency receives resources from federal and local government.

Dana was most proud to complete a policy proposal for Governor Landry. The objective of the policy she proposed was to enhance the healthy food options available to recipients of the SNAP program, formerly known as food stamps.

Dana also participated in a committee to hire new staff at DCFS. She stated that the internship allowed her to see herself differently. "Very often, at HBCUs," Dana said, "students become accustomed to being around those who look exactly like them and often they forget about the diversity in the real world. The Lamar Governor Fellows program allowed her to test her ability in terms of adaptability, professionalism, diversity, resilience, and so much more. Dana believes she was challenged to work outside of her comfort zone. She is confident this experience will benefit her as she plans to do more in government, which is a predominately Caucasian male space.

[New Orleans-Area Business School Deans Meet to Explore Participation in The Indiana Project: Cultivating Future Wall Street Leaders](#)

Pamela Kennett-Hensel, PhD, Dean and Professor of Marketing, University of New Orleans (UNO), reached out to the Deans and Chair of the Business Programs at the three HBCUs in New Orleans to discuss potential joint participation by students from those schools in the Indiana Project. Dr. Kennett-Hensel explained that the opportunity came about due to a meeting that she and the University of New Orleans President, Dr. Kathy Johnson, had with Mr. David Girton, Founder and CEO of the Indiana Project.

The Indiana Project is a program designed to prepare minority students for careers in investment and finance. The program is focused on preparing them for the Securities Industry Essentials (SIE) exam and providing mentorship to help them transition into the "real world." Mr. Girton wants to expand this project by selecting higher education institutions in the New Orleans area. Dr. Kennett-Hensel proposed a partnership with UNO, SUNO, Dillard, and Xavier to Mr. Girton, who was quite excited about that possibility. The four campus representatives include Kennett-Hensel, PhD; Igwe E. Udeh, PhD, Dean and Professor of Business, Southern University at New Orleans; Shael Wolfson, PhD, Professor of Economics, Xavier University of Louisiana; and Dorian Williams, PhD, Dean and Professor, Dillard University met virtually with Mr. Girton on July 17, 2024. Dr. Dub Lane, a professor of finance at UNO, and Mr. Steven L. Jones, the dean for professional development at Wabash College, were also at the meeting. Wabash College already has a thriving Indiana Project and is eager to share its lessons with other institutions. The meeting ended with a request for each campus representative to consult with their students and faculty to gauge the level of interest and commitment to the program, which is very intense but with a lot of upside for those who earn their Security Industry Essentials (SIE) license, where the starting annual compensation is over \$90,000. A follow-up group meeting will occur in late August or early September 2024 after Fall registration has ended.

[SBDMI Workshops/Seminars/Training/Meetings Report](#)

The Small Business Development Minority Institute organized another claims adjuster certification program in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Insurance. The Louisiana Claims Adjuster's Seminar was hosted by Mr. Patrick Bell, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Diversity & Opportunity, Louisiana Department of Insurance, on July 2, 2024, with 50 attendees.

The Claims Adjuster's Workshop was held on July 19 – 20, 2024, facilitated via Zoom by Mr. Dwon Matthews.



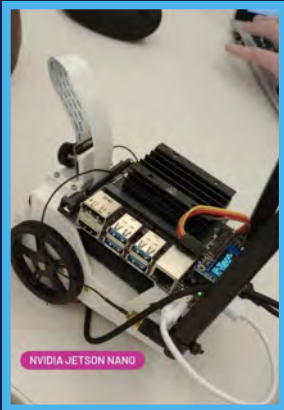
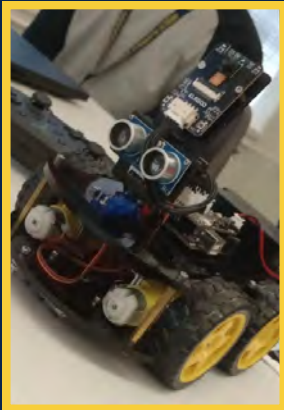
The SBDMI staff collaborated with Mrs. Irma Dixon, the Facilitator of The Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Peer-to-Peer Roundtable, to recruit potential business owners to enroll in this business networking and mentorship program funded by LED. Ten (10) business owners were registered in the Peer-to-Peer Roundtable due to the outreach effort by Mrs. Terrie Guerin and the SBDMI office.

The SBDMI welcomed a new real estate firm to the Small Business Incubator Building on July 1, 2024. One of the current Incubator residents, Proficient Media, LLC, has expanded its footprint by creating a state-of-the-art production podcast studio, which was put into use on July 1, 2024. The Incubator Building now has 15 tenants, and Mrs. Terrie Guerin has signed up a new tenant scheduled to move in August. During the SBA Connecting the Dots Seminar on July 18, 2024, Mr. Micheal Ricks, District Director of the New Orleans area Small Business Administration (SBA), presented an 8(a) Advocate Award Plaque to Mrs. Cynthia Beaulieu and Mrs. Terrie Guerin on behalf of the SUNO-SBDMI for the Institute's advocacy and enthusiastic support for minority small and emerging businesses. In her remarks, Ms. Gayle Brogan, the SBA Business Opportunity Specialist, expressed her staff's gratitude for SUNO's commitment to growing entrepreneurship and wealth within its community through the effort of the SBDMI staff.

Mrs. Cynthia Beaulieu and Ms. Irma Dixon represented the SUNO SBDMI at the 2024 Connecting the Dots, Creating Business Opportunities/Small Business Expo, which took place at the Jedco Facility in Westwego, Louisiana on July 19, 2024. The SBDMI set up a booth at the expo to share information about the facility and the assortment of services available at the Institute to small and emerging businesses. They also used the opportunity to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership with other vendors, public agencies, nonprofits, and the business community. The SBDMI staff continues to work with the NID Housing Counseling Agency to provide solutions to affordable housing and inter-generational wealth creation for African Americans. NID has had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SUNO since 2021. The SBDMI is facilitating the upcoming NID-HBCU Initiative Orientation session hosted by Ms. Tanchelle Washington, Certified Housing Counselor; Branch Manager, NID Housing Counseling Agency, Louisiana, on July 25, 2024. The SBDMI staff sent out flyers to SUNO students and community members to attend the sessions, and Cynthia Beaulieu will also serve as a guest speaker.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

CYBERSECURITY



On June 24-28, 2024, Cybersecurity students Brandi Hardy and Genevieve Lopez, participated in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Machine Learning (ML) Robots (BOTS) Mentor Opportunity in Atlanta, GA. This was a weeklong, all expenses paid event to understand software programming that can perform tasks over a network automatically, often imitating human behavior.

In partnership with SUNO, BayouSTEM spearheaded the NASA-funded program that is centered around teaching students how to use artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). One of the goals is for Ms. Lopez and Ms. Hardy to select a middle or high school they can train and mentor educators currently teaching STEM related courses.

Both students expressed appreciation for having the opportunity to attend such a prestigious event!

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS PROGRAM



On July 26, 2024, Mr. Jairus Ballard presented at the River Parishes Community College recruitment event regarding the SUNO Health Information Management Systems (HIMS) Program. Mr. Jairus Ballard also attended CAHIIM’s webinar, A Day in Life as a Program Director, which talked about the ups and downs of being a director, ways of improvement, and student engagement. This event took place on July 31, 2024.

MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM



Registration for the faculty-led study-abroad trip to Egypt opened on July 8. The trip will be from October 19-31, 2024. On July 9, 2024, Dr. Eid attended the Louisiana Association of Museums (LAM) board meeting, where he served as the board treasurer. Dr. Haitham Eid attended the Global New Orleans board meeting on July 15, 2024. The M.A. Museum Studies Program is finalizing a proposal to start a doctor in museology program. Dr. Haitham Eid attended the exclusive viewing and private patron reception on July 18, 2024, to mark the opening of Captive State: Louisiana and the Making of Mass Incarceration at the Historic New Orleans Collections. On July 19, 2024, Dr. Haitham Eid attended the Launch of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service Pilot Fellowship Program via Microsoft Teams.



Dr. Sara Hollis serves on the Board of Directors for the Peace Corps Group Friends of Nigeria. She is assisting in organizing the Annual FON Conference, where Dr. Ndubuisi Ezeluomba, an adjunct faculty member in the M.A. Museum Studies Program, was the featured speaker. Dr. Hollis introduced Dr. Ezeluomba during his session.

Dr. Sara Hollis’ article on digitizing African art collections is featured in the summer issue of the FON Newsletter.

This summer, Dr. Sara Hollis, assisted by MA Museum Studies graduates Beryl Johns and Julia Walsh, is digitizing her extensive personal art collection. She has generously donated seven pieces from her collection to SUNOMA. Additionally, she digitizes her own created and exhibited artwork spanning her lifetime.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES



Dr. Illya Tietzel submitted a letter of intent on July 9, 2024, entitled Excellence in Research: Exploitation of Alternatively Activated Macrophages as a Strategy of Microbial Manipulation to the National Science Foundation. It is in response to the funding opportunity entitled NSF 23-598 HBCU: Excellence in Research Program (EiR)

Dr. Illya Tietzel participated in the in-person NSF Information Awareness and Proposal Development Workshop on June 20 -21, 2024, to be held at the Natural Science Building 103, Southern University of New Orleans (SUNO).

Dr. Illya Tietzel participated in ongoing "Building a Competitive Workforce: Career and Technical Education (CTE) OER with Embedded Digital Skills- OER Course Development Faculty Team" activities of the Louisiana Board of Regents and LOUIS. He will develop content for the Microbiology for Nursing/Allied Health (lecture and lab) Cohort with other colleagues.



SUNO has received a sub-award of the NSF Engines' Future Use of Energy in Louisiana (FUEL) grant (\$148,038 for two years) from Louisiana State University (lead institution). Dr. Murty S. Kambhampati (PI), Dr. Joe Omojola (Co-PI), and Dr. Yi Zhen (Co-PI) serve on this grant in different committees and project-related activities.

Dr. Murty S. Kambhampati presented the second-year MSEIP-RISE grant outcomes at the US Department of Education, Washington, DC (June 23-25, 2024).

Two MSEIP-Summer Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE)' STEM Interns, Ms. Braven Dolliole (Mathematics) and Ms. Anastasia Newton (Biology) are working with Drs. Omojola and Kambhampati in the Department of Natural Sciences at SUNO to collect survey data. These students were recommended to Dr. Christian Clement for the Summer 2024 Health Disparities grant.

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES



The 44th Annual Natchitoches-Northwestern State University (NSU) Folk Festival Professor Cynthia Ramirez was honored as an Inductee to the Louisiana Folk-Life Center's Hall of Master Folk Artists for her many years of displaying altars and educating Louisianans internationally about the Day of the Dead.

The Induction Ceremony was held on Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. on the Main Stage inside the Prather Coliseum on the NSU campus. Professor Ramirez displayed a Day of the Dead Altar and demonstrated Mexican sugar skull techniques.

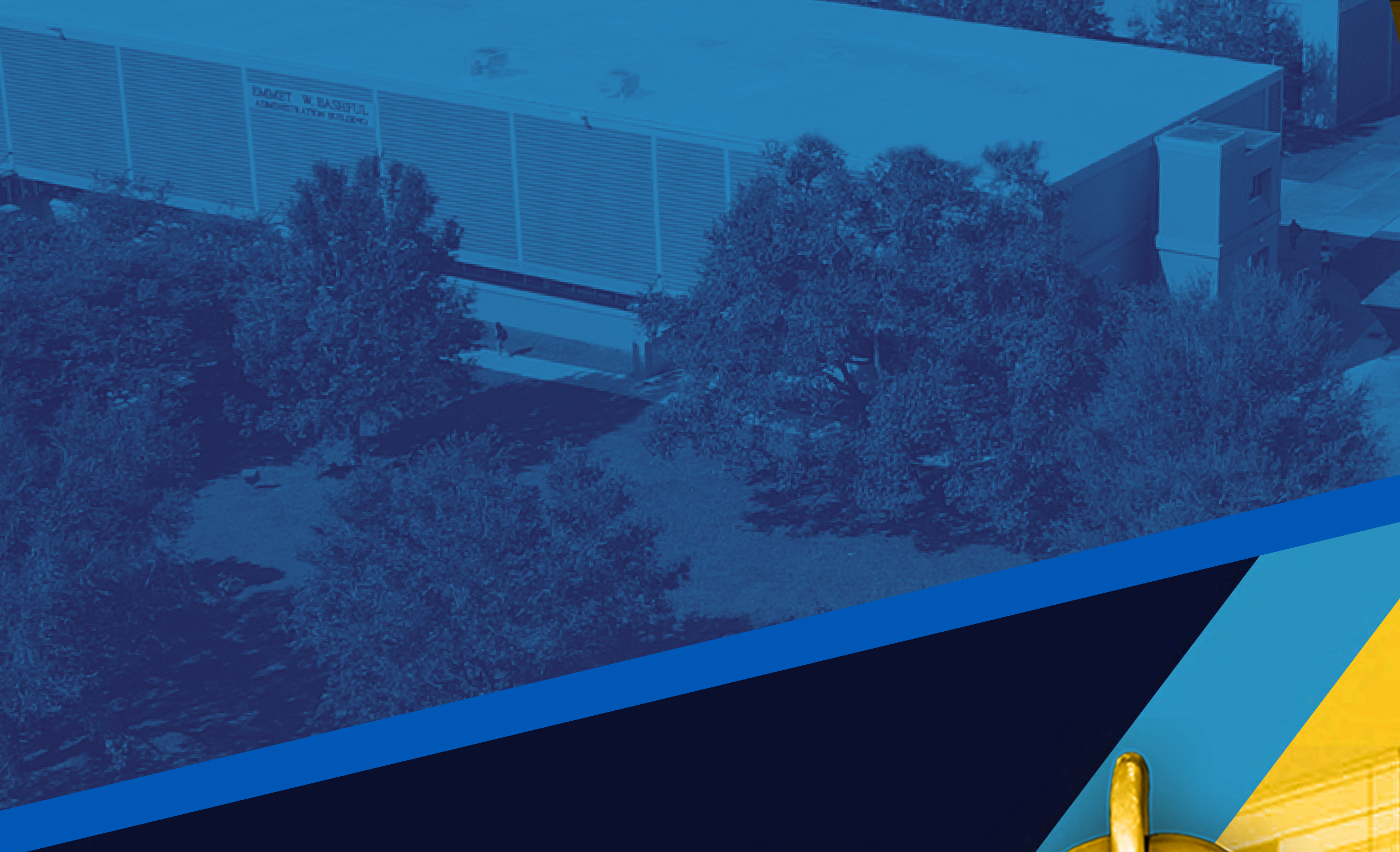
DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE



THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, hosted a community listening session in the Leonard S. Washington Memorial Library on the campus of Southern University at New Orleans on Monday, June 24, 2024. Dr. Raymond Delaney, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, was instrumental in providing leadership to host such a meaning collaboration with stakeholders with the assistance of Sheila Ruffin, Attorney Advisor, from the U.S. Department of Justice.

As directed by Executive Order 14096, "Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All," the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is required to publish an Environmental Justice Strategic Plan (the "Plan") outlining its vision, goals, priority actions, and metrics to address and advance environmental justice. The Plan must be posted online and submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality, a division of the Executive Office of the President, by October 2024.

The faculty, staff and community responses were great. We look forward to hosting many more meaning discussions that build relationships with communities and promote fairness and meaningful engagement in environmental decision-making processes.



**WE LOOK
FOWARD TO
NEXT MONTH'S
UPDATES!**

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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