Southern University Law Center (SULC) Donates HP Printers to SUNO Small Business Development & Management Institute (SBDMI) Residents and P-to-P Cohort

On the 2nd of November 2020, the SUNO College of Business & Public Administration (CBA) and the SUNO Small Business Development & Management Institute (SBDMI) partnered with the Southern University Law Center (SULC) Technology and Entrepreneurship Clinic to provide free high quality Hewlett-Packard (HP) printers to the tenants of the SUNO Small Business Incubator Building and the Fall 2020 Cohort of the Louisiana Economic Development (LED)-grant-funded Peer-to-Peer Mentoring program. This gift is another iteration of the aggressive effort being made by SULC to assist the CBA and SBDMI in increasing and sustaining entrepreneurial opportunities especially among underrepresented communities in the Metro New Orleans economy.

Atty. Marina Biragova, Director of the Southern University Law Center (SULC) Technology and Entrepreneurship Clinic presented the printers on behalf of SULC. Ms. Biragova stated in her remarks that SULC is ready to work with the current and budding entrepreneurs in their business venture with legal, technology, business planning, and human resource issues within the limits of the Center’s capability. On behalf of the SUNO administration, Dr. Igwe E. Udeh, Dean of the CBA, thanked Ms. Biragova and the SULC for their support and provision. Mrs. Cynthia Beaulieu, the SBDMI Director, echoed the same sentiment. Mrs. Mary Adams Thomas, President of Mary & Company Real Estate Services, A Licensed Louisiana Real Estate Firm as well as Alpha Management and Consulting Services, spoke on behalf of the SUNO Business Incubator residents. She thanked SULC for its support and expressed delight about the partnership between the law school and the business school which she thought to be of great benefit to the residents. Ms. Irma Dixon, the facilitator of the Peer-to-Peer Mentoring program also thanked SULC for the gifts as well as the ongoing engagement of Ms. Biragova and the Technology and Entrepreneurship Clinic in helping the participants with issues related to forming corporations, limited liability corporations, partnerships, trademark, and patent laws.

Additional College of Business Administration (CBA) Students and Staff Earn IBM Certification and AWS Badges

Mr. Dominique Simmons, a CIS major, earned the IBM Enterprise Design Thinking Badge in October 2020, while another CIS Major, Johnathan Parnell earned the AWS Cloud Certification Badge in November 2020. Mrs. Timotea Bailey, the Director, CBA Office of Student Services and Recruitment Manager, SUNO-DXC Technology Partnership; Mr. Eric Williams, Recruitment Coordinator, SUNO-DXC Technology Partnership; and Mrs. Constance Woods, Student Success Specialist, SUNO-DXC Technology Partnership earned the IBM Design Thinking badge. These certifications prepare a candidate to acquire and demonstrate coveted IT skills that organizations need to build effective and innovative teams for cloud-computing initiatives using AWS. The training helps the candidate to validate their cloud computing skills in order to help employer to get more out of cloud-based resources. Getting our students, staff, and faculty to be certified has been a long and arduous journey that began in Fall 2019 and has been managed by the SUNO-DXC Technology Partnership Team.
Mrs. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director, Small Business Development & Management Institute, reported the following activities and achievements during November & December 2020:

- Live Broadcast of WBOK Radio Program; Show broadcast remotely; November & December 2020; “SUNO Small Business Institute Network,” sponsored by the SUNO Small Business Incubator and Louisiana Economic Development (LED). The show offers valuable tools and information designed to help New Orleans’ small business owners take their business to the next level as well as assisting those individuals wishing to start a business. It is broadcast every Thursday from 12:30 to 1:00 pm on WBOK AM Radio with Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director and Host.

- Virtual NAACP Wealth Building Seminar, SBDMI Weekly Every Friday, Co-Host; November & December 2020; Presented on Entrepreneurship as a wealth-building tool for minorities; Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director

- Department of Public Safety & Corrections (DPS&C) Reentry In-Person Six-Week “Road to Re-Entry & Self-Employment Success Program”; November Culminating Program November 7, 2020; CBA, Room 100; 14 Participants; All Program Participants, DPS&C Program Recruitment Staff, Mr. Omar Aziz, Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director, Ms. Ria Brown. (See Pictures)

- Louisiana Notary Prep Training; November & December 2020; CBA Room 100; 12 participants; In-depth weekly training in preparation for Louisiana Notary Law Exam; Mr. Craig Duronslet, Instructor, Mr. Cedric Morgan, Instructor, Ms. Diana Thomas, and Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director.

- Southern System Workforce Grant Initiative; Virtual Meetings; November 12, 2020 Submission; Southern University System is joining forces with local companies and community organizations to provide in-demand education/training to individuals who will gain the skills and competencies required to enter middle- and high-skilled jobs within the IT/Cybersecurity sectors; Representative from each campus and SULC Representative and Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director.

- Virtual CBA Departmental Meeting; December 7, 2020; CBA Faculty & Staff; Ms. Diana Thomas and Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director.

- Department of Public Safety & Corrections (DPS&C) Re-Reentry Virtual Check-In Meeting; November & December 2020; All Program Participants, DPS&C Staff, Ms. Nicole George & Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director.

- Peer-to-Peer Perspective Facilitators Quarterly Meeting; December 7, 2020; All Facilitators Nationwide to share “Best Practices; Ms. Irma Dixon & Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director

- HBCU-CDAC Grant Assistance; November & December 2020; Virtual Meeting; Discussion on the $5½ Million roll-out of the Funded grant awarded to the HBCU-CDAC Wells Fargo Financial Literacy Grant; Executive Board and Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director.

- HBCU-CDAC Clean Entergy Initiative Monthly call; November & December 2020; Up-date of Clean Entergy Grant that SUNO-SBDMI is a part of implementing on SUNO’s Campus; Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director.
Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Peer-to-Peer Roundtable; November & December 2019; 4th & 5th of 10 sessions; Virtual Meetings; 14 participants; Business owners met for peer-to-peer learning, brainstorming, and problem-solving. Business owners safely explored business and personal issues in a supportive, confidential, and trusting environment. The roundtables are problem-solving sessions that address issues important to the business owner. Invited Industry guests to discuss access to new and innovative business and business growth; Ms. Irma Dixon, Facilitator, the Peer-to-Peer Guest Speakers.

Department of Public Safety & Corrections (DPS&C) Re-Reentry Virtual Program Invoice Meeting; October 27, 2020; DPS&C Staff, Ms. Nicole George, Ms. Cynthia Roussell, Ms. Shawn Charles and Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director

Tour of Small Business Incubator for future tenants; November & December 2020; Several tours of Incubator and what we have to offer potential tenants; Ms. Mary Thomas, Mary & Company, & Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director. Incubator now has 11 Tenants in the Incubator.

Meeting to Develop SBDI/Incubator upcoming schedule of Seminars/Workshops; Ongoing; Ms. Diana Thomas & Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director.

Small and Emerging Business Development (SEBD); (Ongoing); 1 Assessment; Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director, Mr. Omar Aziz, Contractor

SEBD One-on-One; (5); Call-in Clients; Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director, Consultant Mr. Omar Aziz & Ms. Diana Thomas

Counseled Incubator Clients; Mr. Omar Aziz and Ms. Cynthia Beaulieu, Director

**CBA/OSS/DXC Collaborations**

After weeks of preparation, the CBA/OSS/DXC SUS Team has launched the IBM skills academic camp training where students from the Southern System will be able to earn technology badges in one of three skill tracks – Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, or Internet of Things. SUNO DXC Partnership Team members Constance Woods, and Eric Williams, Recruitment Coordinator will serve as Instructional Assistants in Data Science. Fifteen SUNO students are participating.

CBA/OSS/DXC solicited participation of CBA students to participate in the HBCU Battle of the Brains Competition. CBA CIS students Desha Wise and Farshana Shaheen joined SUBR team members to participate in the Battle of the Brains Competition. This competition required that teammates collaborate to present a technology/business solution to an issue centered around the National Football League (NFL).

CBA/OSS/DXC Team has fostered a relationship between the SUNO CIS club and the SUBR ACM (Association of Computer Machinery) Club Presidents, Desha Wise and Rashon Irvin in order that they may collaborate on Technology issues and opportunities.

CBA/OSS/DXC Team presented Rock Your LinkedIn Profile with Kimberly Ha of Microsoft for SUNO and SUBR students.
• CBA/OSS/DXC Team sat in on the CIS graduate presentations and provided feedback
• CBA/OSS/DXC Team members have all earned IBM badges in Design Thinking
• CBA/OSS/DXC Team has welcomed new students to the College for Spring 2021 and provided evaluations of transfer credit and 2021 class schedules
• CBA/OSS/DXC has continued to advise continuing students in CBA and provided them with Spring 2021 scheduled
• CBA/OSS/DXC has continuously worked with CBA students to mediate academic and life issues to find solutions which would provide the best possible outcome for the student and preserve their opportunity to continue their academic pursuits
• CBA/OSS/DXC has reached to students who have stopped out and are within 30 hours of graduation to encourage their re-enrollment. Several students have successfully registered for Spring 2021. Scholarships will be offered to these students to give them the best opportunity to complete.
• OSS/DXC Team continues to participate in weekly Team planning meetings and bi-weekly LED meetings.
• CBA/OSS/DXC is collaborating with the Office of Admissions and Recruitment to participate in recruitment activities in an effort to increase CBA enrollment
• CBA/OSS/DXC is working with SUNO Web Administrator to increase it social media presence
• CBA/OSS redesigned its web page to include the DXC Partnership Team members.

EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH (TRIO)  
Amelia Sellers, Director

Congratulations to the following Talent Search Participants:

T’Aaliyah Minor  
Class of 2021 - John F. Kennedy H.S.  
Honor Roll (Magna Cum Laude)

Kiya Rogers  
Class of 2021 - John F. Kennedy H.S.  
Scholar of the Week

Amber T. Muhammad  
Class of 2021 - McDonogh #35 H.S.  
Flag Team Captain
A Tribute to Millie M. Charles

The School of Social held a tribute honoring the founding Dean of the School of Social Work, Millie M. Charles who passed away at the age of 97. Millie founded the School of Social Work; first, the BSW program and later the MSW program. The School of Social Work was well known for empowerment and advocacy in action. Millie is also the founder of the New Orleans Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers (NOABSW). She received numerous awards including the “Loving Cup” which represented her dedicated work to the New Orleans community. She also received an honorary doctorate from Dillard University.

Millie was an advocate, educator, and mentor. She was affectionately known by many as “Mama Millie” as she made many students feel special. She always spoke truth to power and was fearless in her pursuit of social justice. The School of Social Work at SUNO is known worldwide in large part because of the kind of School established by Dean Charles. As a result of the legacy of Dean Charles, a local group of community activists, politicians, social workers, and concerned citizens invite social workers around the world to engage with a newly formed “Millie M. Charles Institute of Advocacy, Empowerment, Transformation in partnership with the School of Social Work at SUNO. She is remembered by many and continues to inspire faculty and students in the School of Social Work.

Continuing Education Event

On 10/20/2020, the SUNO School of Social Work presented a 2 hour continuing education event (CEU) event via Zoom. The topic, “Overcoming Racism in Social Service Organizations" presented by Associate Professor, Dr. Torin Sanders. Dr. Sanders led the group consisting of community based social workers and SUNO faculty and staff members on a lecture and interactive and reflective discussion about issues of racism that social workers encounter in their work with clients. The presentation including some self-reflection, and discussion related to colleagues, and organizations. Participants were challenged to identify areas or potential situations that arise in organizations that impact the services received by clients.

Dr. McKenney recently suggested to “look for spring 2021 to be a robust time of scheduled CEU events via zoom as well as hybrid mixes of online and in person pursuant to COVID-19, University, and city of New Orleans guidelines.” Dr. McKenney further stated that the Spring 2021 CEU schedule will showcase the diversity, talent, interests, and social work areas of expertise of our talented and dedicated faculty.” The continuing education events are under the Community Resource Center (CRC) which is housed in the School of Social Work.
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Walk 2020

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) New Orleans chapter has a long standing working relationship with the School of Social Work from being one of our field education agencies to servicing many of our clients. For the last several years the Students of Social Work (SOS) along with faculty and staff have participated in the Walk and have made it a day for students, faculty, and staff to come together for a great cause. This year’s walk was a virtual walk and NAMI challenged participants to get creative. This year under the leadership of Team Captain and SOS Co-Advisor, Dr. Holly McKenney, the SUNO School of Social Work Team raised a total of $1050 for NAMI New Orleans. Team School of Social Work did a “Walk About SUNO Lake front Campus” to Saturday 10/17/2020. Students, staff, and faculty were invited to come to campus for the outside event or to participate virtually. Many chose the offsite route and submitted photos and video clips as requested by NAMI to their social media sites. Assistant Professor Derrick Freeman walked in his neighborhood and submitted a video and photos. The on campus event featured the carrying of the School of Social Work banner and a walk from the Millie Charles Building to the adjacent soccer field. This event was attended by Dean Rebecca Chaisson, Camille Alexander, BSW Program Director and SOS Co-Advisor Claude Montegut. After the event, Dr. McKenney stated that “Team School of Social Work really did an impressive job with its first venture into virtual online fundraising. Dr. McKenney continued, “our Team surpassed our team goal of $1000 finishing with $1050. Our friends at NAMI are grateful for our Team efforts and look forward to our continued partnership for serving some of the most vulnerable mental health consumers in the Greater New Orleans.” See photo above with Mr. Claude Montegut, Dr. Holly McKenney, and Mrs. Camille Alexander.

School of Social Work Grief and Trauma Center

Dr. Torin Sanders, Director of the upcoming Grief and Trauma Center at the School of Social Work is training student social work interns at the School of Social Work to prepare them for their future work in the center. The center is funded by a Wisner Grant and will open at the beginning of 2021. BSW and MSW student interns are trained in a number of positions. The students are trained in a safe distance setting with personal protection. They attend training several times a week in preparation for their practice in the center.