



SUND
YESTERDAY
TODAY
forever!



CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

JULY 2026

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
AT NEW ORLEANS

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Southern University System Board of Supervisors,

As we conclude another remarkable academic year at Southern University at New Orleans, I am proud to share the many accomplishments and milestones that continue to demonstrate the strength, resilience, and promise of our institution in this month's Chancellor's Report.

This month, our campus celebrated one of the most significant moments in the life of a university—Commencement. More than 300 graduates crossed the stage to earn bachelor's and master's degrees, joining the proud legacy of SUNO alumni who are transforming communities across Louisiana and beyond. Through departmental pinning ceremonies, graduate hooding exercises, and commencement festivities, we honored not only academic achievement but also the perseverance, determination, and excellence that define our students.

Our commitment to student success extends well beyond graduation. From the nationally recognized NASAP Student Leadership Institute to our Student Leader Transition Ceremony, SUNO continues to cultivate the next generation of leaders prepared to serve with integrity, vision, and purpose. These experiences reinforce our belief that leadership development is essential to the educational journey.

Academic innovation remains at the forefront of our mission. This month, graduate students in our Computer Information Systems program showcased cutting-edge research in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data analytics—fields that are shaping the future of our workforce and economy. Likewise, our Renewable Energy Management Program continues to expand opportunities through strategic partnerships, internships, and workforce development initiatives that prepare students for careers in emerging industries.

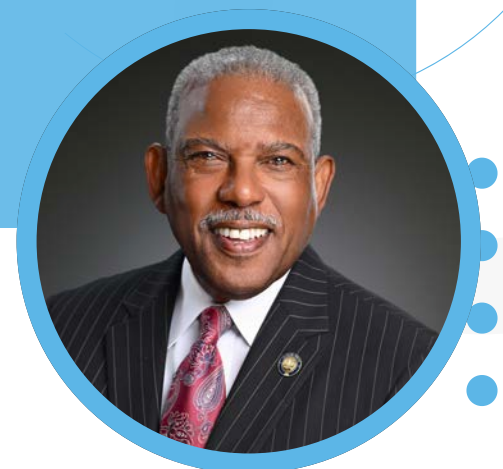
Across our colleges and schools, faculty and staff remain dedicated to creating meaningful learning experiences that connect classroom knowledge with real-world impact. Whether celebrating graduates in our College of Business and Public Administration, recognizing the achievements of our Forensic Science students, or applauding the national leadership accomplishments of our School of Social Work faculty, SUNO continues to exemplify academic excellence and community engagement.

As we look ahead, I am grateful for the unwavering support of the Southern University System Board of Supervisors, our faculty and staff, alumni, community partners, and supporters who continue to invest in the success of our students and university. Together, we are building a stronger SUNO—one that honors its legacy while boldly embracing the opportunities of the future.

With knightly pride,

DR. JOSEPH BOUIE, JR.

Chancellor, *Southern University at New Orleans*



In the Know AT SUNO

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE GUMBO COALITION AWARDS

Southern University at New Orleans was proud to host the National Urban League's 2026 Gumbo Coalition Awards during Essence Fest Weekend. This event brought together prominent members of the New Orleans community and visitors from across the nation, serving as a powerful reminder that legacy is not something you inherit, but something you build together.

We extend our sincere thanks to Marc Morial, the Urban League of Louisiana, and the National Urban League for convening such an influential group of civic leaders, cultural icons, and community advocates to honor the past and charge toward the next 250 years.

- This year's distinguished honorees: Keisha Lance Bottoms, Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins, Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, Essence founder Edward Lewis, Congressman Bill Jefferson, Congressman Troy A. Carter, Cedric Richmond, and Congressman Cleo Fields.

Each of these individuals is truly deserving of this recognition and continues to exemplify a profound commitment to community and service.



COMMENCEMENT WEEK AT SUNO

Commencement Week at Southern University at New Orleans was a vibrant celebration of achievement, tradition, and community. The festivities began with departmental pinning ceremonies across various disciplines, providing meaningful and intimate moments for students to be recognized by their faculty and peers.

The Graduate Hooding Ceremony added an extra layer of pride, as master's degree candidates were formally celebrated for reaching this significant academic milestone. Each event built anticipation for Saturday's Commencement Exercises, where the SUNO community came together to honor the Class of 2026, celebrating their resilience, excellence, and promising futures.

The Spring 2026 commencement at SUNO recognized over 300 graduates who earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Keynote Speaker Chief Justice Bernette Johnson (Retired) delivered an inspiring message about equality, standing up for justice, and investing in oneself. Her address motivated students to continue advocating for themselves, their rights, and their futures.



AASCU MILLENNIUM COHORT APPOINTMENT



Dr. Bree E. Cook, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, has been selected as one of just 31 higher education leaders nationwide to participate in the 2026 Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI) Cohort, a premier leadership development program designed to prepare senior administrators for executive leadership roles in higher education.

Sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Millennium Leadership Initiative identifies and develops talented leaders from colleges and universities across the country who demonstrate exceptional potential to serve as future presidents and chancellors. Dr. Cook joins a distinguished group of academic leaders selected through a competitive national process. Throughout the program, participants will engage in intensive leadership training, mentorship, and professional development opportunities focused on advancing institutional excellence and student success.

SUNO SCHOOL OF NURSING

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) is proud to announce that the SUNO School of Nursing has been nominated for Nursing School of the Year by the Louisiana Nurses Foundation as part of the prestigious 2026 Nightingale Awards.

The nomination recognizes SUNO's continued commitment to excellence in nursing education, workforce development, and preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals to serve communities throughout Louisiana and beyond.

Hosted annually by the Louisiana Nurses Foundation, the Nightingale Awards celebrate excellence in nursing practice, education, leadership, and healthcare innovation across the state. The 2026 Nightingale Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at 7 p.m. at L'Auberge Casino Hotel in Baton Rouge.



OFFICE OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

Student Leader Luncheon and Transition Ceremony

The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement recently hosted the end-of-year Student Leader Luncheon and Transition Ceremony. This event celebrates and recognizes the contributions of outgoing student leaders while welcoming the incoming leaders as they prepare to lead, honor, and serve the students of Southern University at New Orleans.



Newly Elected Student Leaders Attend the NASAP Student Leadership Institute

Recently elected student leaders had the chance to participate in the annual NASAP Student Leadership Institute held in Orangeburg, South Carolina at Claflin University.

This program is an engaging, hands-on, and dynamic learning experience. Spanning six days, it is tailored for newly elected leaders from HBCUs, including those in Student Government Associations, Class Officers, Greek Councils, Student Ambassadors, Programming Boards, and Royal Courts, all dedicated to enhancing their organizations and universities.

Our students had the opportunity to connect with peers from the Southern University System and 46 other HBCUs from across the nation.



Sustaining the Renewable Energy Management Program at SUNO

The SUNO Renewable Energy Management (REM) Program celebrated student success through graduation achievements, internship opportunities, and workforce development initiatives. Students who completed the Renewable Energy Management Minor were awarded Certificates of Recognition during the 17th Annual CBA Graduating Seniors Pinning Ceremony & Awards Banquet in recognition of their successful completion of the program.

The REM Program also held partnership discussions with The Beach at UNO and Southeast Wind Coalition to explore future collaborations, internship opportunities, and educational partnerships that will continue benefiting REM students. Recognition is extended to Dr. Murty Kambhampati, Dr. Joe Omojola, Dr. Charles Briggs, and Dr. Obyung Kwun for their continued support and mentorship of REM students. Recognition is also extended to Natalie Hollingshed, REM Program Coordinator, for continued recruitment, advising, internship coordination, and student support efforts that contribute to the growth and success of the program.

Final Research Project Presentation by MS-Computer Information Systems Students

Seven students from the MS-Computer Information Systems program showcased their Final Research Project in the SUNO College of Business & Public Administration Building. Reflecting current trends, the majority of their research topics focused on Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Data Analytics.

The course not only introduces students to research methods but also offers them the chance to develop individual problem-solving applications. The research methods segment lays a strong foundation for:

- Conducting literature reviews
- Identifying problems
- Developing applications
- Reporting findings

Students create applications based on their specific interests while aligning with the latest technology trends. Each student receives guidance from a faculty member during both the topic selection and the entire research process.



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS PINNING CEREMONY

The College of Business & Public Administration (CBA) celebrated its 2025-2026 graduation class during the 17th Annual Pinning Ceremony & Awards Banquet. Graduates included those earning BS degrees in Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, a BA in Public Administration (posthumously awarded), and MS degrees in Computer Information Systems.

Keynote speaker Mr. Jullin Renthrope, CPA, urged graduates to maximize their education by joining professional organizations, networking, and seeking mentorship. Advisory board members encouraged graduates to be ambassadors for the College and to give back starting with their first paycheck. Dean Igwe Udeh congratulated the graduates and acknowledged their supporters.



FORENSIC SCIENCE PINNING CEREMONY

The Forensic Science program proudly marked the graduation of seniors who earned their B.S. in forensic science. As one of SUNO's most coveted programs, it highlights our dedication to delivering in-demand academic opportunities.

Chancellor Bouie addressed the graduates, offering inspiring words as they begin their next chapter and prepare to make a positive impact in the communities they will serve.



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Dr. Jill E. Murray, an Associate Professor at the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work, has been elected to serve a one-year term as Chair-Elect of the Association for Community Organization and Social Action (ACOSA). Previously, she held the position of Vice-Chair of Programs from 2024 to 2026 and is currently spearheading the ACOSA 45th Anniversary Legacy Campaign, which she will guide until 2026. Additionally, Dr. Murray has completed two terms on the ACOSA Board as a Regional Representative.

ACOSA is a national professional organization that supports community organizers, nonprofit leaders, policy practitioners, educators, and students. The organization publishes the *Journal of Community Practice* and collaborates with the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to enhance macro social work education, research, and community practice.

2026 Legislative Breakfast

2026 Legislative Breakfast held at Southern University at New Orleans was a notable success, attracting a robust turnout from students, faculty, and community stakeholders.

This event was organized in collaboration with the Greater New Orleans Chapters of The Links, Incorporated, and co-sponsored by the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work, showcasing a shared dedication to civic engagement and community dialogue. The impressive attendance and active involvement highlighted the significance of informed civic participation.

Participants had the opportunity to interact with members of the Louisiana State Legislature on vital issues such as:

- Public safety
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Education
- Economic development



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