



P.O. Box 9746 | Baton Rouge, LA 70813
Office 225.771.4200 | Fax 225.771.5630 | Email: sualumni@sualumni.org

July 4, 2019

Greetings SU Alumni Nation,

Summer is officially here and the SU Alumni Federation is as busy as ever!

Last weekend, in New Orleans, 100+ registered alums participated in the 2019 Leadership Summit! We spent 2 days focused on "Alumni in Action: Fulfilling the Promise". We met on the beautiful Southern University at New Orleans campus and it was great to be back at SUNO. Thank you Chancellor Mims-Devezin and the entire SUNO team for hosting us!

Day one of the Leadership Summit included a legislative update from members of the Louisiana Black Caucus, a great roundtable discussion with our SU System leaders and an informative update from SUNO Chancellor Mims-Devezin regarding all of the great things happening on our New Orleans campus! The Federation's business meeting was also held on day one and there were great updates provided by our Executive Board. Special thanks to our Executive Board for preparing and presenting great updates on all of the projects managed by the Federation in our first year as officers!

Day two was dedicated to our development where we invested in ourselves with the goal of equipping, empowering and engaging! We started the day with a full hearty breakfast and an amazing speech from our 17th National President, Mr. Dennis Brown! Dennis shared tools on galvanizing alumni engagement. If you've ever heard Mr. Brown speak, you know it was enlightening and insightful with a touch of humor! We were honored and blessed to have Dennis as our membership breakfast speaker...thank you for pouring into us, Dennis! Our development topics focused on chapter fundamentals, governance and compliance, fundraising best practices and we had a great discussion with our campus leaders regarding recruiting strategies and what is needed system wide. We also received an impactful update from the Athletics departments on all 3 campuses, the SU Marching "Human Jukebox" Marching Band and from our Bayou Classic team, NOCCI. We thank everyone for participating with our Jocks & Jukes luncheon and providing updates and letting us know where help is needed from the Alumni!

Some other highlights of the Leadership Summit were the Presidents' Reception, where we honored and showed appreciation to six (6) of our outgoing presidents. We are #SUProud and appreciate with much enthusiasm: Mr. Vincent Brown (Washington D.C. chapter), Ms. Tamiko Garrison (Tri-Parish chapter), Ms. Alexa Hookfin (Tangipahoa Parish chapter), Mrs. Pamela LeBrane (Houston chapter), Ms. Jackie Tate (Washington Parish chapter) and Mr. Kestee Weir (East Baton Rouge Parish chapter). We cannot thank you enough for all of the heavy lifting as chapter presidents and for your leadership! We show love to Ms. Jackie Tate and say "thank you" for 13 years of dedicated service to the Washington Parish chapter as president...thank you Jackie!!

A "big check" was presented to the SU System on behalf of the Federation by our National First Vice President, Tracey Taylor-Jarrell, and our Third Vice President, Georgette Carter. The check represented the academic scholarships and financial support provided by the Alumni Federation and 22 of our chapters in the amount of \$168,448.00. We are proud and thankful for all of the creative and dedicated fundraising by our local chapters and equally for all of the effort around recruiting students to attend Southern! Thank you!

This year's Summit ended differently than our previous Summits in that we invited all Southernites to gather by the the pool in their white at The Jung hotel! It was a great ending and provided the opportunity for fellowship and networking. Much appreciation and blue and gold stars go to the Leadership Summit chair and committee: Laronica Conway (chair), Brian Adams, Dr. Ivory Berry, Alexa Hookfin, Hillery Johnson, Melva Lee, Erica Moses, Gloria Moultrie, Jackie Tate and Derrick Warren. Thank you, thank you!

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The weekend was capped off by the installation ceremony of the Terrebonne-Assumption-Lafourche Chapter officers (Houma)! The program was well attended and had special guests, Dr. Ray Belton and wife as well as two of the SU Board of Supervisors members, Mr. Raymond Fondel and Ms. Arlanda Williams in attendance. It was an awesome program and we offer congratulations and our full support to the TAL Chapter officers! We are here and excited about the re-establishing of this chapter!

As you prepare for the 4th of July weekend, please be safe in your travels as you enjoy time with family and friends! We lift up in prayer the families of Carolyn Williams Dinkins, the 24th Miss Southern and Mr. James Campbell, co-lead of the Hardwood Club (booster for the SUBR basketball team). They will both be sorely missed...rest in heaven!

Wherever you go this weekend, take Southern University with you! Thanks for all you do for Southern and the SU Alumni Federation

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'LaQuitta Thomas'.

Southern University Alumni Federation
National President
Email: laquitta_thomas@sualumni.org
Cell: 972.567.2235
#WeAreSouthern

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