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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December 2, 2017

Dear Southernites and Friends:

The Bayou Classic weekend was a huge success. While our mighty Jaguars did not win the game, they gave an impressive performance, and we are all very proud of our team. The crowd of Southern and Grambling fans from all over the state and country was remarkable. From the parade, to the Battle of the Bands, Greek Show, the TrueBLUE Gala, Coaches' Luncheon, BizTech Challenge, and so many other wonderful Bayou Classic events, it simply was a spectacular weekend. I want to also thank our many sponsors and, in particular one of our newest sponsors, Procter & Gamble. This new platinum-level sponsor was secured with the help of one of our newest chapter presidents, John Montgomery, of the Cincinnati Chapter. We greatly appreciate John and P&G's support of the Bayou Classic!

Congratulations to Ms. Ann Smith and Mr. Donald Ray Henry on their re-election as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Southern University Board of Supervisors. Congratulations also to Domoine Rutledge for receiving the Horatio C. Thompson Distinguished Service Award for his invaluable service as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Southern University System Foundation. We have truly been blessed with strong volunteer leadership at SU.

Thanks to the many chapter presidents and national officers who joined us for the Alumni Federation Executive Council meeting Friday, and on the football field Saturday during the pregame show recognizing the Federation's contributions to the University's recruitment and retention efforts. The Federation was recognized for the success of the National Academic Signing Day Program, the Top Jags Program (led by Eldred Jackson and Patricia Deamer), and the hard work of our alumni who serve on our Student Recruitment and Retention Committees.

Now that the Bayou Classic festivities are over, we are all back at work with our sleeves rolled up working to continue to make our *Great University Even Greater.* You will find here in *News and Notes* a survey regarding the *Imagine 20,000* planning process. As you know, the Alumni Federation, System Foundation, and the Southern University and A&M Campus have been working with eight task forces that were formed to help develop the Master Plan for the *Imagine 20,000* project. In addition to the work of the eight specific task forces, we very much want the input of all of our stakeholders. As such, it is important that we get your feedback in the survey that is included here in *News and Notes.*

As we continue to imagine a Southern University campus with 20,000 students over the next 10-15 years, it is truly important that we transform our University to insure that it is meeting the needs of as many of our stakeholders as possible.

As this semester is coming to a close, our students are in the midst of final exams and beginning to turn their attention to the Christmas holidays. I look forward to seeing you at one of the many holiday celebrations that are planned this month. Best of luck to all of our students on their final exams and congratulations to those who are graduating this semester. We look forward to you joining the ranks of our many proud alumni across the planet.

Sincerely serving Southern,



Preston J. Castille, Jr., Esq.
National President
HBCU Alumni Coalition President