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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 29, 2017

Dear Southernites and Friends:

"Today is SU Give Day." About four years ago, former National Alumni President and current SU System Foundation Board Member, James Brown, presented the Million Dollar March to the Foundation. He believed that Southern University could create an annual campaign to raise a million dollars for our alma mater. I don't think James imagined just how successful this initiative would become. The SU System Foundation has raised millions via the Million Dollar March. In fact, the Foundation has reported annual giving in excess of $9M over the last couple of years. The rate of SU giving by alumni and organizations has increased 35% over the last four years. These dollars go to support student scholarships, all system campuses, university colleges and departments, student recruitment, and so much more. Kudos to the leadership of the Foundation, including its officers: Domoine Rutledge, Chairman; Joseph Delpit, Vice Chairman, Henry Baptiste, Treasurer; Alfred Harrell III, CEO and Board Secretary; and Dr. Ray Belton, System President. The entire Board of Directors of the Foundation is an all-star cast and should be commended for their leadership over the years.

Last week, the Foundation hosted the ribbon cutting for the new SU Innovation Center. This project has converted the old shuttered campus bookstore and post office to a beautiful facility to incubate small businesses. Similarly, the Foundation was able to secure the adjacent property that was sorely referred to as "the junk yard" for many years, and incorporated that property into the SU Innovation Center development. It is a wonderful facility. Many of you have admired the new Jaguar Park on campus-another Foundation project. These new athletic facilities have greatly enhanced the beauty of our campus and strengthened our athletic program. The Foundation is also leading the development of the Valdry Center for Philanthropy and IMAGINE 20,000 project. So many other capital projects have been funded through the System Foundation, but the most valuable investment by the Foundation has been in the students of our campus who receive scholarships because of your generous contributions. The bottom line is "Today is SU Give Day", and you should give. I am an MDM captain and ask that you march with me and many others in support of Southern University.

Next week is homecoming, and I'm looking forward to welcoming so many alumni and friends back to The Bluff. We have an exciting week of activities planned. Homecoming at Southern University is like no other place. One of the highlights this year will be the reunion of the Class of 1967. The class will be celebrating its 50th year anniversary. Having alums cherishing their time on the yard 50 years later truly embodies the true spirit of homecoming.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fort Valley game tomorrow and throughout the week at the many homecoming activities.

Go Jags and Give Today!!



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