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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 17, 2017

Dear Southernites and Friends:

Last Saturday at the SU Alumni Federation East Baton Rouge Parish Chapter Annual Alumni Breakfast, United States Congressman Cedric Richmond walked up to the mic and made two fantastic announcements. First, he donated $1,370 in celebration of the University's 137th Anniversary and acknowledgement of the hard work and success of the Federation. Second, he announced that he would lead the effort for the creation of the Representative Avon Honey Endowed Professorship by raising $60,000 to be matched by the Board of Regents for a $100,000 professorship. As you know, Representative Honey died prematurely and was an incredible supporter of Southern University. Following Hurricane Katrina, Representative Honey opened his home to Congressman Richmond after he, like many others, was forced to leave the City of New Orleans due to the flood and devastation following the hurricane. Thanks, Congressman Richmond! The Southern University Alumni Federation East Baton Rouge Parish Chapter Annual Alumni Breakfast, needless to say, was a huge success! Chapter President Kestee Weir III and the members of the Planning Committee for the Alumni Breakfast deserve a huge congratulations.



Chancellor John Pierre, Preston Castille, Congressman Cedric Richmond, and EBR Chapter President Kestee Weir III



2017 Alumnus of the Year, Ceola Beauchamp, President Weir & Preston Castille

In addition, I had the pleasure of introducing the keynote speaker: Southern University Law Center Chancellor John Pierre. His keynote address was inspiring and informative. He walked the audience through the history of not only our University, but the creation of HBCUs and land grant institutions such as ours. It was not only a great lesson in history, but also an inspiring reminder of why universities such as Southern are so important for the continued advancement of our state and our country. During the program, the Chapter presented the 2017 Alumnus of the Year Award to Ceola Beauchamp. Ms. Beauchamp most certainly deserved this award, as she has been an incredible supporter of the Gold and Blue. The audience was also given a special treat as the Chapter honored Southern University football great, Lenard Tillery, for his incredible success on the gridiron during his career at Southern University.



Charles Stokes, Melvin Robinson, Olga Gaines, and Preston Castille at the EBR Annual Alumni Breakfast



President Kestee Weir, Charles Stokes, Janet St. Cyr Moore, & James Mahomes

Sunday morning, I flew to Sacramento to support Chapter President Angela Goodwin and the SacTown Jags for their Founder's Day "Jazzy Brunch". Chicago Chapter President and Midwest Regional Director, DuWarn Porter, was the keynote speaker at that event. DuWarn, likewise, gave an inspiring speech filled with not only the history of Southern University and HBCUs, but also explained the great value of these institutions. He explained that HBCUs represent only 3% of all colleges and universities in the country. But, they are responsible for producing more than 30% of the African-American graduates with baccalaureate degrees in the nation. Like our other chapters, our Sacramento Chapter has been doing a fantastic job raising scholarships and

recruiting students to attend Southern. The event was well attended and the pride of Southern University was certainly apparent throughout the entire event.

	
Ed Fletcher, Chicago President DuWarn Porter, Sacramento President Angela Goodwin, Gary Thomas and Preston Castille at "Jazzy Brunch"	**President Angela Goodwin and some of the SacTown Jags following the "Jazzy Brunch"**

Congratulations to the Atlanta and the Los Angeles chapters as well as the many other chapters for also having similar events in their respective cities. Thanks for all you do!!

Go Jags and Knights!

Preston

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National President
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