

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Office of The President-Chancellor

Seasons Greetings Jaguar Nation,

As we bring 2017 to a close, I am pleased to extend happy holidays to the Southern University family of students, faculty, staff, alumni, stakeholders, corporate partners, friends, and supporters.

Highlighting the historically black college experience and the outstanding attributes, achievements, and contributions of our beloved Southern University System during this time of reflection and celebration is a great honor. We look back with gratitude on some of the many significant and historic achievements from throughout the Southern University System this year. A snapshot includes the following:

- Southern University A&M College Celebrated 137 years of providing academic excellence during Founders' Day
- Department of Computer Science among the first recipients of a $100,000 Apple HBCU Faculty Grant for a Robotics and Sensors Summer Camp
- SU System signed MOU transfer agreement with California Community Colleges
- SUSLA and LSUS signed MOU for College Connect Program
- MOU signed with State University at Bahia and Federal University, Brazil
- SUBR revamped Legacy Award to offer students a 100 percent out-of-state fee waiver if at least one parent graduated from Southern University
- SUBR Nursing claimed a HBCU Award for "Best Nursing Program," and Cheryl Taylor, chairperson, Graduate Nursing Programs, and director, Office of Nursing Research won the "Female Faculty Member of the Year"
- SUBR Graduate Nursing Program was honored as "2017 Nursing School of the Year, Graduate Degree Programs," by the Louisiana Nurses Foundation
- SU professor, Stephen McGuire was a contributor to the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics
- SU is 1 of 101 providers in the U.S. meeting new, rigorous CAEP national accreditation standards to better prepare tomorrow's teachers
- SUNO broke ground on two new classroom buildings -- arts, humanities and social sciences building, and the natural sciences building
- SU Law Center celebrated 70 years of access and opportunity
- SUSLA awarded $1.3 million to implement the Veterans Upward Bound Program
- SU fall enrollment saw jumps in key areas. SUBR online enrollment increased 70 percent from last fall; new first-time students had an increase of 20 percent; cross-enrolled saw an increase of 609 percent; and transfer students jumped five percent. SUNO saw a 4.3 percent enrollment increase from fall 2016.
- Urban Forestry senior Yosha K. Lain selected as the 2017 White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities All-Star Student Ambassador
- SU launched "SU Smiles" campaign to improve customer service on campus
- SUSLA cut ribbon on a $7.5 million, 36,000-square-foot learning facility named in honor of the late State Senator Alphonse Jackson, the first new classroom building on the SUSLA campus since the 1970s
- SUSLA celebrated 50 years of responding to the workforce needs of the community
- SUSLA received $500,000 federal grant to benefit aerospace training
- Southern University selected a Medical Marijuana Cultivator for the SU Land-Grant campus to pioneer medical marijuana research in Louisiana.
- NCAA awarded a $900,000 academic grant to SUBR Athletics; as the department also achieved significant milestones providing for post-season competition for 10 out of its 15 teams. This was an improvement from last year when only 3 of the 15 teams were eligible
- SUNO Library received a $14 million makeover
- SU System improved its attainment of resources to support Capital Improvements by 220 percent over the last two years, to include lines of credit this year of over $23 million.
- Governor John Bel Edwards announced a $10 million SU Hazard Mitigation grant to fix campus erosion issues
- Nearly $9 million in main campus ADA compliance and upgrade projects were completed
- Raising Cane's announced $1 million partnership with SU to support athletics, scholarships and the marching band.
- SUSLA and the City of Shreveport Housing Authority held groundbreaking for Milam Street Kitchen Incubator and Community Kitchen through a $1 million grant
- SU innovation Center, a collaboration between the SU System Foundation and SUBR held grand opening
- The Lockheed Martin Corporation awarded the Southern University College of Sciences and Engineering $50,000 to support the STEM Student Scholarship Program and the Engineering Summer Institute
- Ford Motor Company Fund awarded $20,000 to SU for academic scholarships
- SU System Foundation's Million Dollar March raised more than $4 million
- A $1.1 million major gift from alumni Antonio "Tony" Clayton and wife Paula Clayton was received to support athletics
- A $500,000 Capital One Community Impact Grant was received to support student-centered initiatives across the SU System
- AT&T contributed $20,000 to the SU System Foundation to support the STEM Scholars program by providing scholarships for students majoring in biology, chemistry, mathematics, agricultural sciences, urban forestry, or engineering.
- Negotiated with Department of Ed to participate in the HBCU Financing program to refund debt associated with refinancing the Millennium Housing project that provides for a saving of $4.75 million

A tremendous "thank you" to our Board Chair and Board members who help support and provide oversight and vision for the Southern University System. Much appreciation and congratulations are in order for Southern University's dedicated and accomplished faculty, staff, and students who are the foundation of what makes SU great. To our corporate partners, donors, supporters, and most importantly alumni: Thank you for your ardent support of Southern University, our students, athletics programs, and our mission to educate the next generation of global citizens has benefitted greatly from your generosity.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable season.

Sincerely,



Ray L. Belton, Ph.D.
President-Chancellor
Southern University System