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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December 23, 2016

Dear Southernites and Friends:

On behalf of your SU Alumni Federation staff, national officers, and chapter presidents from around the country, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year! 2016 was a fantastic year for the Alumni Federation as we continued to ***Make Our Great University Greater***. We fought for Southern in the Louisiana Legislature; continued to aggressively recruit students across America; raised funds for scholarships; increased our membership and the number of local chapters; made some significant governance improvements and amendments to our bylaws; and launched the Federation's student organization, the 41 Club.

We hired a dynamic team of leaders with our new Executive Director, Derrick Warren, and new Assistant Executive Director, Khadijah Thompson, to assist Ms. Glinda Rutledge and run our organization. A few months ago, we renovated the Alumni House and it looks fantastic. Our crowning achievement for 2016, however, is our work to land the three-year agreement between Southern and the Mentorship Academy to create a downtown campus for the University. I can't wait to see Southern University students taking classes in downtown Baton Rouge in a couple of weeks.

When we return in January, the Federation will have another facelift with a newly-designed website that should be even more dynamic than the design we created a couple of years ago. We intend to make it easier for you to join the Federation, renew your membership and encourage your friends and colleagues to join our national organization. In addition, we will be working harder than ever in 2017 to launch the development of the Center for Alumni and Economic Development. This will be our most ambitious project of all, but we remain optimistic that we can accomplish this goal. We will need your help, and ask that you consider how you can help us in 2017.

In the meantime, if you are still looking for a last minute gift for a loved one, please consider giving them a gift of membership in the Alumni Federation. Don't forget, we offer jewels. That is, Ruby, Sapphire and Diamond Level Enhanced Life Memberships. This would be a great time to enhance your or a loved ones' Life Membership.

‘Tis the Season, Southernites, to Join the Alumni Federation!!

Again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Preston

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