SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI FEDERATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2017

Southern University's Alumni Federation and Student Government Association to Host an Advanced Screening of Latest Film by Award-Winning Documentarian Stanley Nelson and Firelight Media

"Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities," on Oct. 5

BATON ROUGE, LA – On Thursday, October 5, 2017, at 2:30 p.m., Southern University's Alumni Federation (SUAF) and Student Government Association joins Firelight Media in hosting an exclusive advanced screening of, **"Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities**," the latest film written, directed and produced by award-winning documentarian Stanley Nelson (The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution). The screening will be held in the Cotillion Ballroom of the Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union. Immediately after the film screening there will be a director's panel discussion where those in attendance will be able to interact with Nelson, an Emmy and Peabody Award winner and son of two HBCU graduates. "Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities," a 90-minute documentary produced by Firelight Films, examines the impact Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have had on American history, culture, and national identity that is 150 years in the making.

"It is impossible to capture the entire breadth of HBCU history in under two-hours. My hope is that the film reaffirms the indisputable relevance of HBCUs. With on-going campus racism and an increasingly hostile national climate for communities of color, the need for institutions that prioritize a quality educational, cultural, and social climate for black people is as important as ever," said Nelson



Beginning with the earliest attempts to educate Black students through today, this film is packed with stories of rich history on venerated grounds across the nation – documenting unapologetic revolution and victory. The film features the story of the student protest for educational equity that led to the slaying of Southern University students Denver Smith and Leonard Brown on November 16, 1972. Tell Them We Are Rising," will air nationally on the acclaimed PBS series, "Independent Lens," on **Monday, February 19, 2018, 9 p.m. ET**.

Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities is the centerpiece of a yearlong multi-platform effort called HBCU Rising, celebrating the legacy of HBCUs and featuring exclusive events, StoryCorps audio stories, video shorts, an HBCU



campus tour and a crowdsourced HBCU Digital Yearbook. National partnerships include: The Black College Fund, Color of Change, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., United Negro College Fund, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Mom's Rising and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement. For more information, visit: HBCURising.com and follow the film at https://twitter.com/HBCUrising, https://www.facebook.com/HBCURising (or use @HBCURising, #HBCURising).

"This collaboration between Nelson, the Southern University Alumni Federation and Student Government Association, to screen "Tell Them We Are Rising," is appropriate because the Alumni Federation has always been an oganization that serves as the voice for alumni striving to preserve the history, goals and objectives of the University through recruitment, financial support, public relations, community outreach, dedication and commitment to the highest standards. Concordantly SGA is the primary student representative organization that gives students an opportunity to both learn and serve their fellow students; several of the university's most recognized alumni have served in this fine organization," said Derrick Warren, SUAF executive director.

To RSVP for this event, please visit SUALUMNI.ORG. This event is open to the public but space is limited. Please join us.

"Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities," is directed, written and produced by Stanley Nelson, co-directed and co-produced by Marco Williams, written by Marcia Smith and produced by Cyndee Readdean and Stacey L. Holman, with executive producers Sally Jo Fifer, ITVS and Lois Vossen, *Independent Lens*. Funding for the film is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, ITVS, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Lumina Foundation, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, and the Ford Foundation.

The film is the centerpiece of a yearlong multi-platform effort called HBCU Rising – www.hbcurising.com, featuring high-profile events, StoryCorps audio stories, video shorts, an HBCU campus tour and an all-generation, all-school HBCU Digital Yearbook. National partnerships include: The Black College Fund, Color of Change, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Thurgood Marshall College Fund, National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Akila Worksongs, Schomburg Center for the Research in Black Culture, United Negro College Fund, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Blackout for Human Rights, Mom's Rising and The Campaign for Black Male Achievement.

Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities will broadcast on the PBS series **Independent Lens** on February 19, 2018. Blu-ray and DVD is available for pre-order at ShopPBS.org. Use promo code RISING to save 15% off your entire order. For more info on the film, visit hbcurising.com.

About Southern University Alumni Federation
Established in 1941, the Southern University Alumni Federation has served as the voice for alumni for 75 years. The Federation's mission is to support the goals and objectives of the Southern University System. Consisting of more than 75,000 graduates, the Southern University Alumni is actively engaged throughout the United States and the globe. Led by a history of dynamic, dedicated and capable leaders – the Federation strives to keep graduates connected to opportunities, recognize alumni accomplishments, bring awareness to issues that affect the University and above all continue the fight to preserve the University and its mission.

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Visit SUALUMNI.ORG and become a member of the Southern University Alumni Federation, TODAY!

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