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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 11, 2017

Dear Southernites and Friends:

I hope you enjoyed ***The Southern Spotlight***, the Federation's newest electronic publication, introduced to you a couple of days ago. We look forward to showcasing more of the great work and accomplishments of our alumni, chapters, and committees throughout the year using this newsletter to supplement our weekly publication of ***News & Notes***. In my letter in ***The Southern Spotlight***, I mentioned the reinvigoration of the Lake Charles Chapter and the installation of its new officers. I also talked about the fantastic weekend of events sponsored by the Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta. I capped off my letter by sharing the great work SUYAN is doing as a committee of the Federation. If you happened to have missed the letter and want to read about the events, chapters and SUYAN, we have included another copy for your convenience here in this issue of ***News & Notes***. I will not regularly write a message in ***The Southern Spotlight***, but will continue to do so in ***News & Notes.*** Please continue to share your positive alumni news with us, so that we can add it to the "spotlight."

Speaking of alumni committees, the Federation recently hired Danter & Associates to conduct a student housing demand analysis. This study is being conducted as part of the due diligence process for the development of the Center of Alumni and Economic Development. As you know, one of the development options the Alumni Center Committee is considering includes student housing for the SUBR campus. We want to continue to focus on being a provider of services to the University and a catalyst for economic development in the local community. The Alumni Center Committee, led by East Baton Rouge Parish Chapter President, Kestee Weir, and Federation Historian, Thurston Jones, is continuing to advance this project as a major component of the ***IMAGINE 20,000*** project.

I'm excited about the progress we are making with the ***IMAGINE 20,000*** project. The SU System Foundation has selected Marga Consulting to assist us with the development of the master plan for the University, and we expect to see soon the activation of the seven task forces, led by the six college deans and President-Chancellor Belton. These task forces will be composed of faculty, alumni and students, and they will help shape the future of Southern University. We must again thank the Baton Rouge Area Foundation for awarding the $1M grant to help us develop this exciting initiative.

Another component of the ***IMAGINE 20,000*** project, the Southern University Downtown Baton Rouge location, is about to kick off its third semester, after hosting classes there this summer. The Southern University Law Center will begin classes next week, and the School of Graduate Education will begin classes the following week at the new downtown location. Our co-location and partnership with the Mentorship Academy continue to grow and become stronger every semester. Keep up the great work, Jags!

Sincerely serving Southern,

Preston

Preston J. Castille, Jr., Esq.
National President
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