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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 15, 2017

Dear Southernites and Friends:

A couple of weeks ago, the IMAGINE 20,000 project kicked off with a meeting with the Provost, Dr. Luria Young, the Vice Provost, Dr. Camacia Smith-Ross, the six SUBR college deans, plus Mr. Herman Brister, the Director of Southern University Laboratory School. The meeting was led by the team from Marga, Inc. (the consulting firm retained with the help of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation grant) and Mr. Alfred Harrell, the SU System Foundation CEO and Chair of the Innovation and Development Committee. As you may recall, President-Chancellor Belton, the six college deans, and Mr. Brister will each lead task forces to help develop the SU Master Plan. Since then, the consulting team has begun working with the task forces to gather information to develop the plan. Thanks again to Mrs. Ann Smith, the Chair of the SU Board of Supervisors, for creating the Innovation and Development Committee, which is a Special Committee of the Board of Supervisors. The next meeting of the committee will be held at 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Please join us on the 2nd floor of the J.S. Clark Administration Building to learn more about the progress of this project.

Recall, the goal of the IMAGINE 20,000 project is to increase enrollment to 20,000 students over the next 15 years. To accomplish this goal, President Belton and the University are reimagining what Southern University can be from top to bottom. Improvements to infrastructure, buildings, grounds, academic programs, course offerings, student services, and processes and procedures will be discussed and considered. In the meantime, the Alumni Federation is still working with Danter & Associates on the development of the Center for Alumni and Economic Development for which we are considering adding residential housing. We are continuing to make good progress and hope to have a concept plan back from the consultant next week on the residential housing component of the project. This student housing demand analysis is a critical piece to the development of the project.

As the Federation continues to support the University advance its mission, we are continuing to see our membership numbers, as well as the number of chapters, grow. Amidst the festivities surrounding the UT – San Antonio game this weekend, we are working with alums from Central Texas to establish a Central Texas Alumni Chapter. This is great news on the heels of installing new officers in the White Castle Chapter, and chartering the SUAF Entertainment and Education Chapter, and the SUAF SUSLA Chapter.

Best of luck to the Jaguar football team this weekend, and safe travels to those of you headed to San Antonio. Last week was a tough week against USM, but win or lose, we strongly support our Mighty Jaguars!!!

Finally, we again extend our thoughts and prayers to the many families and friends affected previously by Hurricane Harvey and recently by Hurricane Irma..

Sincerely serving Southern,



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