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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 21, 2017

Dear Southernites and Friends:

Welcome to our new and returning students! I continue to be impressed by the loyalty and support of our alumni. As the fall semester is kicking off throughout the Southern University System, alums are volunteering in so many ways to help our students. Many of you have heard of the work of Eldred Jackson and Patricia Deamer. Eldred lives on the east coast, in the Washington, D.C. area, and Pat lives on the west coast, in Northern California. They are the co-founders of the TOP JAGS program. Their objective has been to help recruit some of the most academically qualified students in the country. They have recruited more than 100 top-performing first-time freshmen (our "Top Jags") to the SUBR campus this semester.

These Top Jags, based on their ACT scores and GPAs, will likely be some of the most academically successful students in the freshmen class. Eldred and Pat not only volunteer countless hours recruiting these students, but they also explore every resource possible to find scholarships for them. When you consider annual tuition and fees are slightly more than $7,500 per student, the enrollment of these students alone represents nearly $750,000 in additional revenue for the University. Should these students persist and graduate, they represent about $3 million over the course of four years.

I've enjoyed hearing about their hard work and success on the weekly Federation Student Recruitment and Student Retention conference calls over the last three years. Special thanks to 3rd Vice President Carlton Jones, who chairs our Student Recruitment Committee, and Dr. Robert Ford and Houston Chapter President Pamela LeBrane, who chair our Student Retention Committee. They lead our Friday conference calls with alumni and university leaders. These calls have been a great forum to facilitate successful recruitment and retention efforts such as the TOP JAGS program. Special thanks to the university administrators who patiently answer questions and welcome the collaboration of our alumni.

Similarly, on Wednesday, the Home Chapter's Freshmen Move-In Day was a big hit again this year. Committee Co-Chairs Michelle Jones and Cooper North did a fantastic job coordinating the event. In addition to the many Home Chapter volunteers, special thanks to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity members who joined forces with the Home Chapter to help our new students move into their dorms. The food, water and helping hand extended to our new students and their

families showcased the sort of ***Southern Hospitality*** that makes the Jaguar family extra special. The chapter topped off its welcome activities yesterday with a Southern University worship service at Living Faith Christian Center.

Many thanks to all of our alums all across the country who volunteer to help recruit and retain students on behalf of the Southern University System. I'm looking forward to another great school year.

Sincerely serving Southern,

Preston

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