SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI FEDERATION
POST OFFICE BOX 9746
BATON ROUGE, LA 70813-9746

E LinkedIn: http://linkedin.com/in/preston-castille-50527613
E-Mail: Preston.Castille@TaylorPorter.com
Twitter: @PrestonCastille
Direct Dial: 225-381-0217
Mobile: 225-317-3363

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 9, 2017

Dear Southernites and Friends:

Thanks again to Jaguar Foundation of Atlanta (JFA) President Kenneth Davis, Atlanta Chapter President Patricia Johnson, and the entire JFA Board of Directors for a great weekend of activities. I enjoyed the JFA President's Breakfast Saturday morning at historic Paschal's Restaurant and the Atlanta Achievement Awards Saturday evening at the ritzy Commerce Club. The President's Breakfast gave me and the Atlanta Jags a great opportunity to sit privately with President-Chancellor Belton and discuss the state of the Southern University System.

The Atlanta Achievement Awards celebrated the achievement of five Southern University scholars who were selected to receive full academic scholarships funded by the JFA to attend SU. Special thanks to Dr. Belton who spent the day with the chapter, and then served as guest speaker for the awards ceremony. The event was also a fabulous opportunity to expose Atlanta community and business leaders to the Southern University brand. The turnout was wonderful and featured some of the most prominent figures in the Atlanta area. There is no doubt that the Jaguar Nation is strong in the state of Georgia.

On Sunday, the Federation's Southern University Young Alumni Network (SUYAN) held a "State of SUYAN" conference call. As you know, SUYAN is a committee of the Federation, created in 2014, to help the Federation develop a stronger connection between our young alumni and our "more seasoned" alumni. Three years ago, I appointed Deion Dorsett to chair this Federation committee, and this initiative has far exceeded our expectations. More than a thousand young alumni all across the country have become more deeply engaged in Federation activities and chapters since 2014.

We are seeing young alumni such as Kijuan Poland and Miranda Nixon leading programs in the Atlanta Chapter. We are also seeing young alumni joining the leadership of chapters such as the D.C. Chapter, where the following SUYAN members were elected: Aaron Ventress - 1st VP, Erin Braxton - 2nd VP, Antoria Simms - 3rd VP, and Ivory Berry - Treasurer. We are also seeing student leaders like SUBR SGA President Armand Duncan, who interned at Lockheed Martin this summer, being supported and mentored by young alumni in the D.C. area.

This pattern is being replicated nationwide and is breathing new life into the Alumni Federation. A strong Federation means a stronger Southern. We need the Alumni to remain engaged and continue supporting our alma mater. This organization is poised to do just that for many decades to come. Thanks again to our National SUYAN Chairman, Deion Dorsett, for his inspiring leadership. It's exciting to see the Federation and its chapters recruiting new students to Southern, nurturing young alumni, and relying on the experience and wisdom of our long-serving alumni. Let's keep up the great work!

Sincerely serving Southern,

Preston

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