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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Southernites:

The innovation was powerful. The academic model was forward-thinking. And, the commitment to building a better future for students was clear. With pictures of the first African-American female astronaut on the walls, Mae Jemison High School in Huntsville, Alabama was incredible. I was in the Rocket City helping President Sherley Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Wilman Pidgeon, and the Huntsville Alumni Chapter recruit students at Mae Jemison and Sparkman High Schools. Mae Jemison High School opened last month and it is truly state-of-the-art. It has managed to successfully design in its building what we have been working on for years with Southern Lab and Southern University. It created miniature laboratories in law, engineering, and business much like the SU Mini Lab Program created a few years ago as a collaborative initiative with Southern Lab and the SU Colleges of Business, Engineering, Nursing and the Law Center.

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| **SUAF 2nd VP Pamela Burleigh, Huntsville Chapter President Sherley Lawrence, Prospective SU Student Malick Williams & President Castille at Mae Jemison H.S.** | **Mr. and Mrs. Wilman Pidgeon, Chapter President Lawrence, Sparkman H.S. Counselor Deidra Muhammed, Miranda Nixon, VP Burleigh and President Castille** |

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Mae Jemison High School has a mock courtroom to teach students about the legal profession. It also has a cyber-security lab and a 3-D printing lab. The school has a logistics simulation lab to train logisticians and an aesthetics lab to train students in cosmetology. In other words, Mae Jemison High School is not only preparing its students to pursue higher education, but also training students to enter the workforce immediately after high school. In fact, it has a dual enrollment program that gives students the opportunity to earn up to 60 hours of college credit prior to graduation. Mae Jemison High School appeared to have refined the educational ecosystem that Southern Lab and Southern University have been attempting to create over the last few years.

I was again inspired to further develop this relationship with our very own PreK-12 school and the University. Our Lab School, however, has something Mae Jemison does not have: an entire university at its disposal. Yet, they have managed to simulate a college culture inside the high school building. Having a PreK-12 school on our Baton Rouge campus is an opportunity we must continue to nurture and use as an innovation platform. I look forward to the continued collaboration and engagement on this topic.

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| **2nd VP Burleigh, Chapter President Lawrence, President Castille and Regional Recruiter Miranda Nixon in front of Law Lab at Mae Jemison H.S.** | **Coach Avery Johnson with Huntsville Chapter members and Federation officers at Scholarship and Flood Relief Fundraiser featuring Coach Johnson** |

After recruiting students all day for our alma mater, the Huntsville Chapter held a scholarship and flood relief fundraiser that featured SU basketball great and University of Alabama Coach, Avery Johnson, as the guest speaker. Huntsville Alumnae Lucretia Pope, President Lawrence,

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and the chapter members organized a fantastic event. I was so impressed with Coach Johnson's love for and commitment to Southern. After originally agreeing to speak at this fundraiser, the University of Alabama scheduled a major basketball recruiting event at the University of Alabama for the same day. Rather than cancelling his SU speaking event, Alabama Athletic Director Bill Battle authorized Coach Johnson to take the University jet to Huntsville so that he could help us with the fundraiser, and quickly return to Tuscaloosa. Coach Johnson gave an inspiring speech and helped us raise thousands of dollars for Southern. After recruiting students all day and raising money for Southern on Friday, the Huntsville Chapter hosted the Jaguar Nation with great food and fun tailgating before the football team's big win over Alabama A&M Saturday night. What a great trip!

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| **President Castille, Donald Lawrence, President Lawrence, Parliamentarian Pat Johnson, Southern Region Co-Director Tammy Clark and 2nd VP Pam Burleigh** | **Huntsville Alumnus Mr. Roger Phillips and President Castille tailgating before the Alabama A&M game** |

I'm in Cambridge today assisting a doctoral student with her residency at Harvard. Harvard has a wonderful doctoral program in Education Leadership that it incorporates with a strong collaboration with the Kennedy School, the Law School and the Business School. Yesterday, I bumped into SU Alumnus Daniel Joiner, who is now a second year law student at Harvard Law School. Daniel didn't know that I would be here. While in the law school, I texted him and said, "You on campus?" He quickly responded, "Yes." I said, "I'm on the second floor." And he responded, "I'm on the first in front of the Coop." We met and talked a few minutes. He is such a humble young man.

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He was wearing his Redemptorist High School sweatshirt. I commented on his shirt, and he said he wore a Southern sweatshirt the day before. It's great to be able to go anywhere in the country and within minutes catch up with a Southern alum. As I often say, I love serving as national president of our Alumni Federation.

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| **Executive Director Derrick Warren and his wife, Anita Warren, with Huntsville Jags enjoying the big win against Alabama A&M** | **Second year Harvard law student and SU alumnus, Daniel Joiner, and President Castille at Harvard Law School** |

Today is SU GIVE DAY! Please continue to support the Federation and our initiatives through the Foundation's Million Dollar March campaign. This day of giving is critical to the success of not only the Federation and Foundation, but every program within the Southern University System. Incidentally, Harvard is in the middle of a $2B campaign. We might not raise $2B, but every year since the inception of the MDM campaign, our Foundation has raised millions and has been incredibly successful. Please give today!

Finally, the football team has the weekend off, but the band is performing in New Orleans for the Crankfest. Please go and support the Jukebox!!

Serving Southern, Jags and Knights!

*Preston*

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