



# HBCU

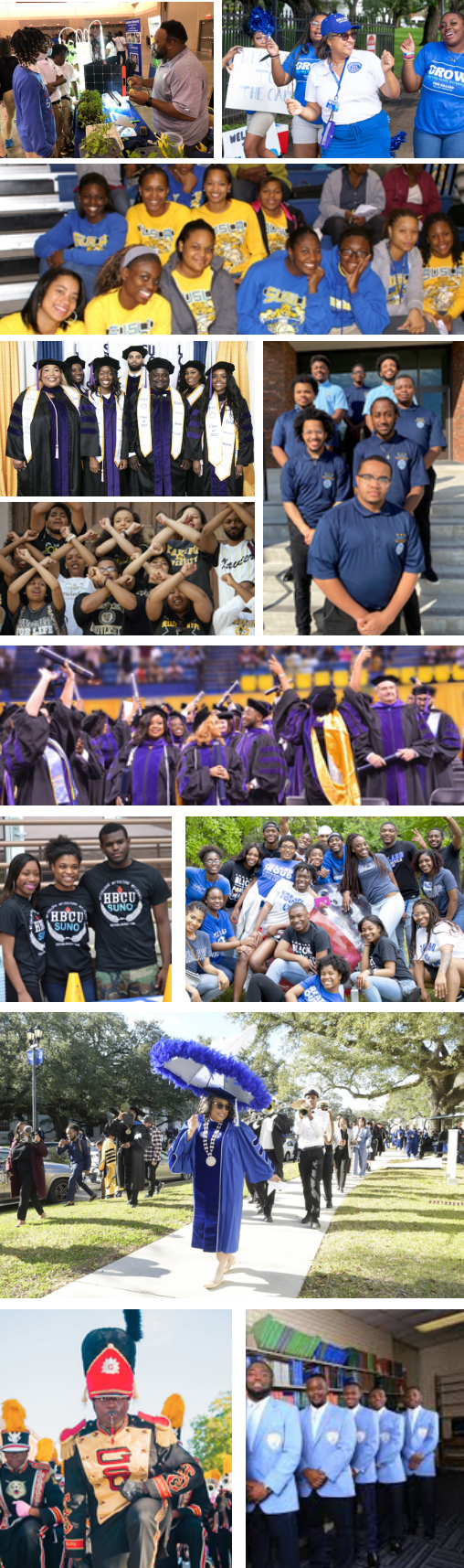
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## ADVISORY COUNCIL

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### ***2022 ANNUAL REPORT***





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# WELCOME

As home to six Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as well as the only HBCU system in the country and law school in the state, Louisiana is uniquely positioned to support and coordinate its HBCU Advisory Council. Act 236 of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session established the Council as a mechanism to focus attention on Louisiana's public and private HBCUs, amplifying their unique missions, programs and initiatives. Housed at the Board of Regents, the Council meets regularly to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs, increase opportunities for these institutions to benefit from state and federal programs, and promote strong student success as part of the state's talent development agenda.

Dillard University, Grambling State University, Southern University and A&M College (including its Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Law Center), Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University Shreveport, and Xavier University of Louisiana join forces annually at a signature event, HBCU Day at the Capitol, to spotlight campus successes and share their music, food, student culture and spirit. The collective messaging around positioning Louisiana's HBCUs as a strategic asset in the state's postsecondary education ecosystem has proven invaluable since the Council's inception.

This report details the activities of the Council and the topics of interest discussed by its membership and stakeholders. Universally, members of the Council attest to its value and have vowed continued participation as a collective to advance attainment and prosperity across Louisiana. Regents looks forward to its ongoing role in coordinating the HBCU Advisory Council and thanks the campus leaders and all participants who have contributed to its success.

**Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D.**  
*Commissioner of Higher Education*

# COUNCIL CHARGE & GOALS

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- 1 Advise the Commissioner of Higher Education regarding methods to enhance the capabilities of HBCUs to serve the needs of their students and the state and methods whereby the state can better serve HBCUs. The Council shall also help identify methods to:
  - Improve the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities, and overall competitiveness of HBCUs.
  - Provide the highest quality education to the greatest number of students.
  - Promote centers of academic research and programmatic excellence.
  - Strengthen the fiscal stability of HBCUs.
  - Increase HBCUs contribution to the state's educational and workforce goals.
  - Elevate public awareness of the contributions and values of HBCUs.
  - Encourage public-private investments in HBCUs.
  - Engage the philanthropic, business, government, and education communities in a dialogue regarding current and future HBCU programs and initiatives.
  - Foster enduring private-sector initiatives and public-private partnerships.
  - Inform public policy discussions and practices by improving the availability and dissemination of high-quality information concerning HBCUs to elected officials and the public.
  - Share best practices regarding administrative and programmatic processes.
- 2 Strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to participate in federal and state programs by:
  - Working with state and federal departments, agencies, and offices to:
  - Identify programs and initiatives in which HBCUs may be either underserved or underused as a resource.
  - Encourage HBCUs to participate in state and federal programs and initiatives.
  - Establish methods to increase the capacity of HBCUs to effectively compete for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.
  - Encourage public-sector and private-sector involvement with HBCUs on such initiatives.
- 3 Strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to fully participate in Louisiana's workforce and economic development activities by:
  - Working with the Department of Economic Development to ensure full participation and inclusion of HBCUs at the inception stage and throughout implementation of economic development activities.
  - Working with the Louisiana Workforce Commission to help identify educational programs to address workforce gaps.
  - Requesting the Department of Economic Development and the Louisiana Workforce Commission to provide periodic updates to the council on their activities and initiatives.

**ACT 236, 2018 REGULAR SESSION**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Legislature established the HBCU Advisory Council in 2018 to foster collaboration and the achievement amongst the institutions and the student population of which they serve. Louisiana's HBCUs, both public and private, collectively serve more than 23,000 students annually.

The Council, chaired by the Commissioner of Higher Education, is comprised of 24 members including representatives of both K-12 and postsecondary education, state agencies, business and industry, professional organizations with links to higher education, training, and workforce, and economic development entities (See Appendix A). In 2022, the Council met three times (February 2022, April 2022, and October 2022) to strategize and continue to work toward priorities and objectives as outlined in Act 236 (See Appendix B).

The Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities has four committees that are designed to identify and address topics of shared importance. The four committees are: (1) Academic Affairs, (2) Public Relations and Outreach, (3) State and Federal Programs, and (4) Workforce and Economic Development. Over the past year, these committees have diligently worked to better the HBCU community through opportunity development.

The following report provides an update on the major achievements of the Council, emerging initiatives, and campus highlights of significant progress in 2022.

# COMMITTEE UPDATES



## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

*The Academic Affairs Committee focuses on (1) promoting centers of academic research and programmatic excellence; (2) increasing HBCUs' contributions to the state's educational and workforce goals; and (3) helping identify educational programs to address workforce gaps.*

### 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- To date, significant progress has been made related to prioritizing strategies to recruit diverse candidates into the educator workforce as well as expanding dual enrollment opportunities for students of color. The following section briefly summarizes the progress to date on these two goals as well as additional policy-related efforts that have further supported the discussions of the Academic Affairs Committee.

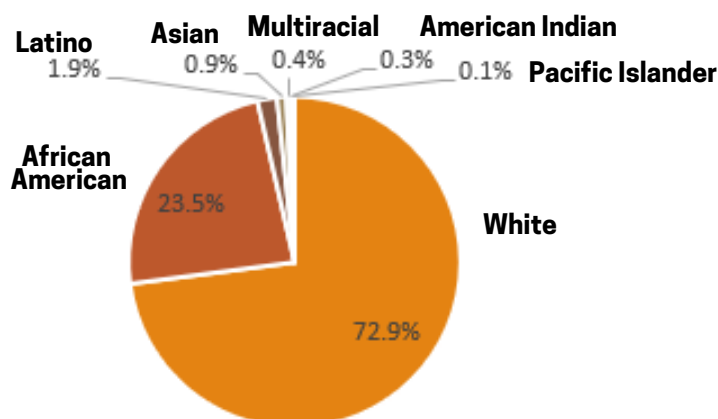
### TEACHER PREPARATION

The Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force (legislatively created by HCR 39 of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session) included as one of its 2021 recommendations implementing strategies to recruit diverse candidates into the educator workforce. In June 2022, the Louisiana Department of Education was selected as one of three states to be a part of the National Collaborative of Great Teachers and Leaders (GTL) to engage in a data-driven, equity-focused approach to strengthen and diversify the educator workforce.

GTL is in the process of developing the first draft of global information system (GIS) maps, which will help Louisiana identify regional and local challenges and opportunities by providing data such as educator mobility and retention, teacher preparation program data, school and school system performance, and teacher diversity. In addition, a landscape analysis has been completed that highlights the resources, policies, and initiatives that already exist to help inform strategies to effectively address educator shortages and lack of educator diversity in Louisiana. All the existing strategies align with national best practices and research on recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce.

Finally, spotlighting one of Louisiana's HBCU efforts, Grambling hosted the national meeting of the Call Me MISTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program in 2022. This national initiative is designed to increase the number of available male teachers from broader, more diverse backgrounds.

### LOUISIANA EDUCATOR DIVERSITY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA



\* The Education Trust. "Is Your State Prioritizing Teacher Diversity & Equity?" Retrieved February 9, 2023, from <https://edtrust.org/educator-diversity/#LA>.

## **EXPAND DUAL ENROLLMENT**

Annually the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Louisiana Department of Education produce a report on dual enrollment participation in Louisiana. The [second annual report](#), released in January 2023, revealed an increase in the percentage of participating students identifying as African American. In 2021-22, students of color represented 42% of dual enrollment students in all Louisiana public colleges and universities, which represents an increase of over 5%, or nearly 1,500, African American students taking dual enrollment compared to prior years. This growth is largely a result of all three Southern University programs partnering with many high schools with large numbers of African American students. It is through these targeted efforts to drive partnerships and collaboration among Louisiana's secondary and postsecondary institutions along with the expansion of dual enrollment offered by Louisiana's HBCUs that gaps in access to and successful participation in dual enrollment will continue to be closed.

## **BOARD OF REGENTS NEW AND REVISED POLICIES**

Since 2021, the Board of Regents has approved several new and revised policies in line with the discussions of the Academic Affairs Committee.

These policies include:

- **Revised Minimum Admission Standards:** A recent revision of minimum admission standards added for the first time an HBCU designation. This designation allows students to be admitted to Louisiana's public HBCUs with a GPA on the Core of at least 2.0, or an associate's degree, or nine hours of early college academic credit with at least a 2.0, or an ACT score of at least 20.
- **Revised 2.18 Gateway Mathematics and English Course Placement Requirements:** Building on research conducted by Regents staff, the placement policy has removed one of the key systemic barriers to gateway courses: remedial education. Now in its place is co-requisite education, which is designed to increase the number of students who can access and successfully complete a gateway mathematics and/or English course. Co-requisite education has a proven track record in improving student success, especially for minority students.
- **Revised 2.22 Dual Enrollment:** In Spring 2020, the Board of Regents approved an interim dual enrollment policy that removed the ACT composite threshold score to be eligible for academic dual enrollment courses. Following the approval of this interim policy, Regents staff conducted an analysis of the impact of removal of the ACT requirement and the addition of multiple measures for minimum standards. The data revealed that students pass dual enrollment courses at high rates regardless of the means by which they demonstrated eligibility. As a result, the Board of Regents approved the interim policy as permanent policy at its January 2023 meeting and incorporated additional expanded pathways as well.
- **New 2.23 Prior Learning Assessment (PLA):** In March 2022, the Board of Regents approved the prior learning assessment policy, which established guidelines to be used by Louisiana's public postsecondary institutions to evaluate and award undergraduate credit earned outside of the traditional learning environment.

In 2023, the Academic Affairs Committee will review the progress on policy-related work to date as well as efforts underway in support of the Pathway to 2030. This review will further inform the goals of the Committee for 2023.





## PUBLIC RELATIONS & OUTREACH

*The Public Relations and Outreach Committee works to improve the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities and overall competitiveness of HBCUs in Louisiana. By informing public policy discussions and practices, this Committee helps to enhance the availability and dissemination of high-quality information concerning HBCUs to the public. The Committee also helps to develop and execute an annual HBCU Day at the Louisiana State Capitol, which seeks to highlight the success and talent of Louisiana HBCUs students, faculty, and alumni.*

### 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS:

On May 24, 2022, HBCU Day at the Capitol resumed as an in-person event for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. Each HBCU institution was fully represented at the Capitol, where all of the HBCU presidents and chancellors were invited to address legislators, stakeholders, and the attendees regarding the importance and achievements of their respective institutions.

A proclamation highlighting each institution's achievements was read on the floors of the House and Senate. Additionally, students, faculty, and alumni from each institution met at the Pentagon Barracks to celebrate Louisiana HBCUs and the successes achieved through their institutional programs and unique approaches to higher education. Each institution had the opportunity to showcase its talents, with band performances throughout the celebration. The event also featured an online campaign that utilized social media platforms to highlight the achievements of the institutions. The event was a great success, with an estimated 300 people in attendance.





# STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS

*The scope of the State & Federal Programs (S&FP) Committee encompasses expanding the capacity of Historically Black Colleges & Universities in Louisiana to participate in federal and state programs and to contribute to innovation and economic development of the region. The specific deliverables in Act 236 addressed by the S&FP Committee are to work with state and federal departments, agencies and offices to identify programs and initiatives in which HBCUs may be either underserved or underused as a resource; encourage HBCUs to participate in state and federal programs and initiatives; establish methods to increase the capacity of HBCUs to effectively compete for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements; and encourage public-and private-sector involvement with HBCUs on such initiatives.*

## 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Following the asset mapping survey conducted in 2021, led by Dr. Michael Stubblefield at SUBR, HBCU campuses continued discussions related to leveraging individual campus tools and expertise to build competitiveness across Louisiana's HBCU ecosystem. During 2022, HBCUs continued to receive support from COVID relief funding, as campuses and students recovered from several years of disruption. In addition, with federal research funding surging, campuses individually and in partnerships pursued extensive federal funding opportunities, in particular seeking the first HBCU-led University Affiliated Research Center through the U.S. Department of Defense/U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory. In early 2022, Southern University and A&M College was designated a Carnegie R2 research institution, reflecting its productivity and excellence in research activity and funding.

Discussions have continued among HBCUs on joint research initiatives addressing important challenges, primarily through engagements of directors of sponsored research and of faculty with common research interests. As these institutions discuss mutually beneficial collaborations these relationships will result in the pursuit of new funding to support priority activities. The State and Federal Programs Committee will reconvene in 2023 to consider additional opportunities for HBCUs to work together to secure and sustain state and federal investments.

## **DIGITAL EQUITY**

Louisiana received \$942,000 from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for the development of a statewide digital equity plan. Of the \$942,000, \$782,000 was allocated to higher education to create the plan which will include the following:

- A statewide vision for digital equity;
- Creation of a digital equity needs assessment, including comprehensive baseline research for identification of the barriers faced by covered populations;
- Descriptions of collaborative methods with key stakeholders to accomplish an implementation strategy;
- An asset inventory of the existing stakeholder equity plans, and a description of how existing stakeholder digital equity plans will be incorporated into the State Digital Equity Plan;
- A coordination and outreach strategy with representatives of each category of covered populations within the State and with the full range of stakeholders within the State; and

- An implementation strategy to address the barriers to participation in the digital world and a gap analysis of existing efforts.

Three HBCUs have been identified to partner with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's (ULL's) Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center (Blanco Center) in the development of this plan and assist with the engagement of constituents: Grambling State University (GSU) representing North Louisiana; Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) representing Southeast Louisiana; and the Southern University Agricultural Center (SU Ag Center) representing Central Louisiana and Metro Baton Rouge. These postsecondary partners have been instrumental in engaging with regional planning commissions while developing community needs assessments. GSU, SUNO, and the SU Ag Center have provided regional leadership; supported eight regional stakeholder engagement meetings; and reached out to their respective networks utilizing a survey to gain stakeholder feedback from approximately 600 individuals unable to attend a stakeholder engagement meeting. The postsecondary partners have also assisted in identifying participants and supporting several focus groups: Black population and minority-owned businesses, Hispanic population, Asian population, disabled population, tribal population, incarcerated/formerly incarcerated, older adults, libraries, health care, agriculture/rural, and labor unions/workforce.

Finally, in December 2022, the NTIA announced that Southern University and A&M College was one of five awardees of a grant provided through the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (CMC) to expand community technology hubs, upgrade classroom technology, and increase digital literacy skills.

### **LUMCON SUMMER PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), a program of the Board of Regents, has a long legacy of and expertise in place-based education programs that cultivate and define the roles of students as creators of solutions to the issues that face Louisiana through hands-on STEM readiness training. In the summer of 2022, students from two of Louisiana's HBCUs, Dillard University and Grambling State University, participated in two of LUMCON's summer programs: the STEM-Preparedness and NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates Site Programs.

The STEM-Preparedness Program is a six-week residential summer program for early postsecondary students geared toward serving populations that are underserved and underrepresented in the marine sciences. Participants gain real work experience and learn skills to advance their academic and career goals in STEM fields within marine and/or environmental science. In Summer 2022, a student from Dillard University experienced the responsibilities and culture of a working marine lab, interacted with the Marine Center staff and community, directly contributed to vital marine/coastal science research programs, and created opportunities to broaden his knowledge of research fields and career opportunities.



NSF's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site Program, "Interdisciplinary Research Experiences in Louisiana's Changing Coastal Environments," is a ten-week residency program where participants are able to join a diverse cohort of interns from around the country. In Summer 2022, a student from Grambling State University participated in this program where she was able to develop and complete an independent research project in conjunction with an assigned mentor, identify specific research question(s), develop and orally present a research proposal, conduct and analyze the results of a research project, and gain experience in science communication by giving a presentation in LUMCON's annual Summer Research Symposium. The student also learned about the wide range of career paths available to individuals with scientific training through a series of workshops, field trips, research seminars and lunches, and career panels. The student went on to present the results of her REU research at the Gulf Estuarine Research Society meeting in Ocean Springs, MS, in October 2022 and with her mentor's lab group is currently completing a manuscript to be submitted for publication.

### **GNO, INC. HBCU INNOVATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

The Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.) has initiated the HBCU Innovation Internship program that provides two paths: the HBCU Startup Internship and STEM Connect Internship. In both programs, students from Louisiana's HBCUs gain resume-building experience, valuable connections, and insight into how to build their careers.

**HBCU Startup Internship:** The HBCU Startup Internship increases startup and entrepreneurship activity by HBCU students and graduates in our region by providing real time, paid internship experience to foster entrepreneurial ideation and development. Interns develop creative capacity and entrepreneurial confidence, receive mentorship, and acquire necessary skills to build scalable startups that solve real problems. In Summer 2022, the 2nd cohort paired 12 selected students from Dillard University, Southern University New Orleans, and Xavier University of Louisiana with 12 startup companies for an extensive internship experience. This cohort included expanded training to include a full week of onboarding and training from Idea Village and OHUB, which culminated with a Mock Demo Day, coupled with a mid-summer Phelps Dunbar sponsored instructional seminar on business registration, access to capital, branding and marketing, and intellectual property.

### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- *24 junior and senior level HBCU students have successfully completed the internship in 2021 and 2022; recruitment is underway for the 2023 Cohort.*
- *Several interns were invited to provide a presentation to the statewide HBCU Advisory Council on October 25, 2022.*
- *Cohort 1 Intern, Victoria Hardy, won first place in the Nexus, Louisiana Biz Tech Challenge for her startup: "Establish Student."*
- *Cohort 2 Intern, Jade Watkins, successfully launched her startup, "Kouture Xpress."*
- *Past startup host companies include: Lucid, Resilia, LifeCity, TORSH, Obatala Sciences, Rocket Insights, CotingaSoft, Junum, LeBlanc+Smith, Skilltype, and the New Orleans BioInnovation Center; two additional local host startup companies have joined for Summer 2023 (Cohort 3): Shibusa Systems and TechPlug.*

HBCU STEM Connect Internship Program: The HBCU STEM Connect Internship program pairs STEM business and industry leaders in the GNO region with HBCU STEM undergraduates to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in related employment areas, where there is traditionally a deficit in underrepresented minority and gender groups' representation. The inaugural cohort consisted of 14 junior- and senior-level students from 3 local HBCUs: Dillard University, Southern University at New Orleans, and Xavier University of Louisiana. These students participated in an immersive internship experience with some of the GNO region's top STEM employers.

### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- *Premier regional STEM industries hosted interns: AOS Interior Environments, Chalmette Refinery, Cornerstone Chemical, Impetus, Ochsner, Universal Data, Inc.*
- *Five students were offered internship extensions with their host companies for the remainder of the summer.*
- *One student was offered a full 2023 summer internship.*
- *100% of 2022 host companies have returned for the 2023 cohort.*
- *Six additional host companies have joined the 2023 cohort: Advano, Ampirical Solutions, LLC, DXC Technology, Engineering Inspection Services, Landis Construction, and Urban Systems.*

Beginning in Summer 2023, GNOrocs is re-branding the HBCU internships (STEM and Startup) under a single umbrella: the HBCU Innovation Internship Program. These eight-week paid internships will allow HBCU students to gain marketable, resume-building experience with some of GNO's most exciting business/industry partners and regional startups.



# WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*The primary focus of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee (EWD) of the HBCU Advisory Council is strengthening the capacity of HBCUs to fully participate in Louisiana's workforce and economic development activities. To accomplish this goal, the EWD Committee works with the Department of Economic Development to ensure full participation and inclusion of HBCUs at inception and throughout implementation of economic development activities. Additionally, the EWD Committee collaborates with the Louisiana Workforce Commission to help identify educational programs to address workforce gaps.*

## 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS:

### **LED PLAYBOOK TRAINING**

HBCUs from around the state participated in the Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Fast Start Playbook Training. As a result, campuses are developing more strategic alliances with their business and industry partners.

### **INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR HBCUS THROUGH CILI**

In its quest to identify advocates in business and industry around work-based learning initiatives, the EWD invited Perry Sholes, Founder of the Corporate Internship Leadership Institute (CILI) Program, to address the Committee. CILI is a Louisiana-based 501c3 that addresses regional and state challenges related to unemployment and underemployment of degree students of color.

CILI's premiere program, the Tenth Institute, is dedicated to sourcing college students of color enrolled in four-year institutions, teaching and engaging them in career skills and competency development programming, along with internship experiences to create a pipeline of diverse high-potential talent, ready for opportunities within companies throughout the New Orleans Region and Louisiana for mid- to high-wage careers in industries that transform and facilitate economic growth.

- CILI completed its initial selection of students into the Tenth Institute Program.
  - 41 student applications
  - 20 students selected for the Tenth Institute
  - CILI hosted its first Leader Immersion session, with 19 of 20 students
  - Eight (8) partner companies committed to host 9 interns (they are continuing to recruit more partner companies)
  - CILI awarded a grant from the Greater New Orleans Foundation

Next steps are to establish a time for CILI to present its Talent Pipeline Strategy to the full HBCU Advisory Council (This will contribute to the WED goal on work-based learning).



## **SECOND-CHANCE PELL (SCP) OPPORTUNITY FOR HBCUS**

In December of 2020, the FASFA Simplification Act amended the Higher Education Act to eliminate provisions that prohibited students from receiving Pell Grants if they were incarcerated in state or federal institutions. This allows all eligible offenders housed at state and federal institutions to leverage Pell Grant dollars and enroll in postsecondary programs, with Department of Corrections (DOC) approval. The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has been given until 2023 to establish regulations and policies to authorize these changes. Over the next two years, the DOC will work with Louisiana colleges and universities to implement Pell-funded programs in all state facilities. This amendment will allow any DOC-approved school to provide postsecondary education opportunities within the prison system. With the SCP Experimental Sites Initiative, only USDOE schools are allowed to provide programming.

To this end, the EWD Committee facilitated an opportunity for the state's HBCUs to work with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPSC) to position themselves to participate in Second-Chance Pell offerings.

It is expected that in 2023 the USDOE will establish and release regulations and policies to cement the changes proposed in the Second-Chance Pell authorization.

## **WORKFORCE ECOSYSTEM 101 STATEWIDE REGIONAL TOUR**

Consistently in conversations with various partners, a clear need was identified for more visibility and situational awareness of each other's work on the ground level. To that end, partners in each of the state's eight economic development regions gathered for a Workforce Ecosystem 101 half-day workshop. The basic purpose of the gathering was to meet key points of contact in the region, share the basic nuts and bolts of the workforce activities each partner has underway (along with policy frameworks and funding sources), and explore methods for sustainable and regular dialogue.

- Over a two-and-a-half-month period, hybrid half-day workshops (virtual and in-person) were held in each region, to bring the following groups to come together with HBCUs:
- Community college staff, including workforce and adult education teams
- Regional and local economic development authorities and chambers of commerce
- Local workforce development boards
- Perkins Regional Coalition coordinators
- Regional vocational rehab (LRS) leaders
- JumpStart leaders and relevant K-12 stakeholders
- Local corrections and prison education partners
- State partners, including workforce leads at LWC, LED, DCFS, and the Board of Regents (and/or their relevant regional staff)
- Other training providers, foundations, and community service organizations as relevant by region

Following the regional tour, stakeholders in each region were challenged to continue ongoing conversations in the region. In each region, partners have taken the responsibility for regularly convening the ecosystem collaborators in the region.

In two regions of the state (the Capitol Region and the Northern Region), the Regional Economic Development Organizations are leading the discussions and the regions are working on establishing educational attainment goals.

### **UPDATE TO WIC AND IBC COUNCIL**

On December 16, 2021, Board of Regents staff provided an update to members of the Workforce Investment Council (WIC) and its Industry-Based Certification (IBC) Council members, which included information on the Master Plan, TOPS and other LOSFA-led initiatives, as well as HBCU Advisory Council and LaSTEM updates.

The Louisiana Board of Regents is scheduled to provide its annual update to the WIC during the first quarter of 2023.

### **LED & LWC RESOURCES**

Training opportunities and resources are currently provided through LED, LED FastStart, and the LWC. Career pathways have been a primary focus of the Workforce and Economic Development Committee.

Since 2017, Louisiana Entertainment has worked to support education and workforce opportunities in the entertainment industry.

Ever since Louisiana adopted its pioneering Motion Picture Production Incentive program in 2002, a stated goal has been to create a self-sustaining industry that includes investment in workforce development and education. The Entertainment Development Fund (EDF) is a driving force behind the state's efforts to achieve this goal.

An eligible applicant is an accredited Louisiana higher education institution, or customized training provider in the areas of arts, media and entertainment, with a proven track record of offering career-oriented programs, as approved by LED. These opportunities have been shared with our HBCUs.

Going forward, LED/LED FastStart will continue to brief the state's HBCUs, through the Advisory Council, on opportunities offered by the agency.



# DILLARD UNIVERSITY

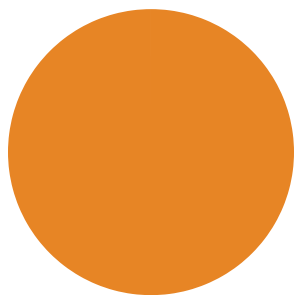


## LOCATION

- 2601 Gentilly Blvd,  
New Orleans, LA 70122

## TOTAL ENROLLMENT

- 1,202 students (per  
Fall 2021 enrollment  
data)\*



Undergraduate  
100%

## COMPLETERS

In AY 21-22:

- 192 - Bachelor's Degrees

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- On January 27, 2023, Dillard University welcomed in its eighth president, Dr. Rochelle Ford. Dr. Ford is the second female president in Dillard University's history. The community celebrated Dr. Ford's new leadership during inauguration weekend. The events included the investiture ceremony, a Community Call to Service and Health Fair, and the unveiling of a new residential facility.
- In January 2023, Dillard University announced plans to relaunch the Dillard University National Center for Black-Jewish Relations, initially founded by Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook, who served from 1974 to 1997 as the fourth Dillard University president. The reinvigorated Center will continue the work of the initial Center, which aimed to forge partnerships between members of the African American and Jewish communities, as well as undertake action projects that build upon the conversations and relationships formed through the Center's programs.
- In December 2022, Dillard University announced plans to offer a master's degree in nursing, a major step for the four-year private liberal arts institution. More graduate-level programs are expected in the future. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges has approved Dillard University's proposal to offer graduate education beginning in fall 2023.

\* National Center for Education Statistics. (2023, February 8). College Navigator- Dillard University. National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?id=158802>





**GRAMBLING**  
STATE UNIVERSITY®



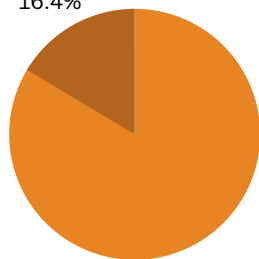
## LOCATION

- 400 Main St.  
Grambling, LA 71245

## TOTAL ENROLLMENT

- 5,270 students (per Fall 2021 enrollment data)\*

Graduate  
16.4%



Undergraduate  
83.6%

## COMPLETERS

In AY 21-22:

- **638** - Bachelor's Degrees
- **138** - Graduate Degrees

\* National Center for Education Statistics, (2023, February 8). College Navigator- Grambling State University. National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/collegenavigator/?id=159009>

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The institution announced that 100% of Grambling State 2022 nursing graduates passed the NCLEX exam on their first attempt.
- In January 2023, it was announced that Grambling State University is one of eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) to join Ascend at the Aspen Institute's Black and Native Family Futures Fund. The grant is being used in part to reopen a childcare center that will provide children the opportunity to learn science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics.
- In February 2023, Multiplatinum recording artist E-40 donated \$100,000 to GSU to benefit the music department and sound recording studio.
- In November 2022, Grambling signed a student exchange agreement with the Management College of National Defense University (MCNDU), a military academy located in Bade District, Taoyuan City, Taiwan, to establish an ROTC Student Exchange Program. The agreement is to have each institution annually send one or two student(s) to either institution for one to two semester(s) of study.
- In June 2022, the AT&T Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant to the Grambling University Foundation to benefit STEM majors.



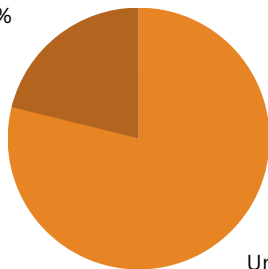
## LOCATION

- 801 Harding Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70807

## TOTAL ENROLLMENT

- 8,317 students (per Fall 2021 enrollment data)\*

Graduate  
21.1%



Undergraduate  
78.9%

\*\* Includes enrollment data from Southern University Law Center.

## COMPLETERS

In AY 21-22:

- 715 - Bachelor's Degrees
- 245 - Graduate Degrees
- 5 - Professional Degrees

\*National Center for Education Statistics. (2023, February 8). College Navigator- Southern University and A&M College. National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?id=160621>

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- In December 2022, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced that Southern University and A&M College was one of five awardees of a grant provided through the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (CMC). These grants, totaling over \$18.5 million, will expand community technology hubs, upgrade classroom technology, and increase digital literacy skills at five minority-serving institutions in California, Missouri, Louisiana, and Alabama.
- The Southern University "Reaching Across the Digital Divide" (SURADD) project aims to decrease the digital divide by forming a K-12 workforce pipeline to engage middle school teacher candidates, clinical educators, and university faculty and students with interactive Virtual Reality (VR) spaces and tools in innovative instruction efforts and workforce training.
- In September 2022, leaders of Southern University and A&M College and Louisiana State University and A&M College signed the LSU-SU A&M Agenda, a five-year agreement between the two institutions to expand their collective positive impact across the region. Southern University President-Chancellor Dennis J. Shields and LSU President William F. Tate IV were joined by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, student leaders and other stakeholders of both institutions. The signing preceded a historic football matchup featuring two of the highest-profile universities in the state.
- In November 2022, Southern University and A&M College announced that it would partner with PENN Entertainment for STEM scholarships. PENN Entertainment, an industry champion in the integrated entertainment industry, has pledged over \$4 million over the next five years to create STEM scholarships for students at HBCUs.



## LOCATION

- B.A. Little Drive, H St.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- On March 2, 2023, the Southern University Ag Center will host a livestock show for the youth of Louisiana, marking the 80th year it has hosted. The Southern University Ag Center is the only 1890 Land-Grant institution that has continued to uphold the tradition of hosting a livestock show.
- In November 2022, The McBride Sisters Collection Wines' SHE CAN Fund and the Matador Spirits and Legacy House Media presented checks totaling \$300,000 to the Southern University Ag Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences.
- In August 2022, The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) named thirteen Southern University students as 1890 National Scholars. The USDA's 1890 National Scholars Program was established in 1992 through a partnership between the 1890 Land-Grant Universities and the USDA to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and related disciplines.
- In May 2022, Southern University and LSU Ag Center executive teams met at the LSU campus to sign a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) named the Louisiana Land-Grant Agricultural System.



### LOCATION

- 2 Roosevelt Steptoe Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

### COMPLETERS

In AY 21-22:

- 194 - Professional Degrees

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The Southern University Law Center (SULC) will officially launch its Esports Innovation Lab with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, March 10 at 9 a.m. at the Smith-Brown Student Union located on the campus of Southern University A&M College.
  - The creation of the lab was forged through collaborations with industry leaders, HyperX, Best Buy, GM, and Esport Supply. Each organization contributed state-of-the-art technology and equipment that will allow students and teams to practice and compete on national and international levels.
  - The goal for the Esports Innovation Lab is to be a hub of creativity that seeks to develop pathways to careers in the entertainment, gaming, and esports arenas. The lab will serve not only Southern University but also surrounding communities within its network.
- In February 2023, the [Princeton Review](#) ranked SULC the third-best law school for minority students and [best law school](#) for most diverse faculty.
- In November 2022, the SULC announced that it was the recipient of a \$250,000 grant from the Ford Foundation's U.S. Disability Rights Program. The grant will support SULC Professor Katherine Macfarlane's work with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights as the Department gathers public input and considers possible updates to the historic Section 504 regulations.
- In August 2022, SULC received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and Project School Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV) to support student trauma recovery related to bomb threats toward HBCUs. The Law Center was the first HBCU to receive this award.





## LOCATION

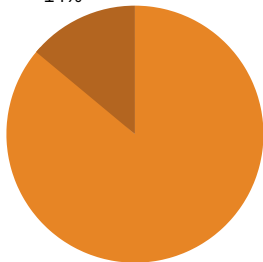
- 6400 Press Dr.  
New Orleans, LA 70126



## TOTAL ENROLLMENT

- 2,106 students (per Fall 2021 enrollment data)\*

Graduate  
14%



Undergraduate  
86%



## COMPLETERS

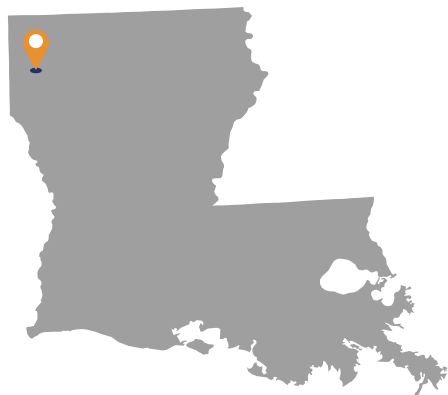
In AY 21-22:

- **260** - Bachelor's Degrees
- **108** - Graduate Degrees

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- In November 2022, SUNO announced a partnership with St. Augustine High School, which will offer a scholarship to two students each year who plan to pursue a career in law enforcement with the New Orleans Police Department. The students selected for this scholarship program will enroll in Criminal Justice and Psychology courses. SUNO has pledged additional scholarships for students who continue their studies in its graduate programs to obtain higher-ranked New Orleans Police Department employment positions.
- In September 2022, SUNO received an award of \$296,000 from the Department of Justice's Address and Prevent Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault on College Campuses program.
- In June 2022, SUNO was approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) to initiate the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program starting in the fall of 2022.

\* National Center for Education Statistics. (2023, February 8). College Navigator- Southern University at New Orleans. National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?id=160630>

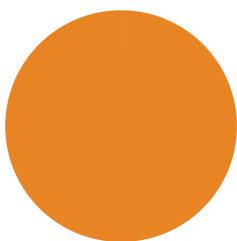


## LOCATION

- 3050 Dr Martin Luther King Dr. Shreveport, LA 71107

## TOTAL ENROLLMENT

- 2,745 students (per Fall 2021 enrollment data)\*



Undergraduate  
100%

## COMPLETERS

In AY 21-22:

- **68** - Certifications or Diplomas
- **173** - Associate's Degrees

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- In June 2022, officials from Southern A&M and SUSLA signed an affiliation agreement between the respective nursing and allied health programs of both institutions. The partnership will allow graduates of SUSLA's registered nurse (RN) program to continue their education online to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) at Southern A&M. The 2+2 program is designed for RNs to continue practicing in the medical field while pursuing their BSN. The program was launched Fall 2022.
- In July 2022, SUSLA announced a new course offering for the Associate of Applied Science Degree for those who are curious about the study of sleep. SUSLA is one of two universities in the state of Louisiana that offers a Polysomnography Technology program (PSGT). This premiere, state-of-the-art program is designed to develop the next generation of Sleep Technologists.
- In September 2022, SUSLA announced an agreement with Grand Canyon University to implement a 100% online Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program and Master of Science in Nursing Bridge Program. This will allow students who are currently enrolled in the SUSLA Associate of Science in Nursing program to take courses online to allow them to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Grand Canyon University. Once students have achieved a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, they can continue their studies towards a Master of Science in Nursing through this agreement.

\* National Center for Education Statistics. (2023, February 8). College Navigator- Southern University at Shreveport. National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?id=160649>



# XAVIER

## UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA



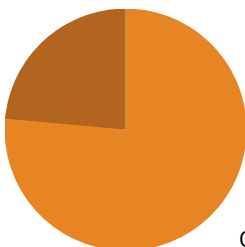
### LOCATION

- 1 Drexel Dr.  
New Orleans, LA 70125

### TOTAL ENROLLMENT

- 3,604 students (per Fall 2021 enrollment data)\*

Undergraduate  
23.6%



Graduate  
76.4%

### COMPLETERS

In AY 21-22:

- 416 - Bachelor's Degrees
- 99 - Master Degrees
- 6 - Doctor of Education
- 144 - Doctor of Pharmacy

## INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- In January 2023, Xavier and Ochsner Health announced an agreement to establish a joint College of Medicine. Together both institutions will create a strong physician pipeline that addresses longstanding inequities within the nation's healthcare system and builds the healthcare workforce of the future. The goal is to help diversify the medical workforce in Louisiana and nationwide.
- In November 2022, Xavier was named the Best Historically Black University in the state of Louisiana out of the six HBCUs in the state by University Headquarters (University HQ), an independent hub of resources and information for those considering higher education.
- In October 2022, Xavier announced it will offer New Orleans' first intercollegiate varsity men's soccer program since 1985.
- In 2022, Xavier was part of a consortium awarded a \$50 million federal grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Spearheaded by Greater New Orleans, Inc. and the Greater New Orleans Development Foundation, the grant supports efforts to transition the state away from nonrenewable energy to renewable energy, which utilizes a cleaner form of hydrogen.
- In January 2022, Xavier was one of six HBCUs selected by Complete College America to participate in \$2.5 million initiative to drive digital learning innovation. With the support of the advisory board, Xavier was selected to collaborate on an extensive research and design project focused on building an integrated framework for digital learning at HBCUs.

\* National Center for Education Statistics. (2023, February 8). College Navigator- Xavier University. National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator. <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?id=160904>

# CONCLUSION

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In 2022, members of the HBCU Advisory Council worked diligently to identify barriers to education within their communities and collaborated on solutions to eliminate these barriers. Through the Council's work with the Board of Regents, academic policies were created and revised to make education more accessible to traditionally marginalized communities. These policy efforts included revisions to minimum admissions standards, Gateway Mathematics and English placement requirements, and Dual Enrollment eligibility requirements. Additionally, a new policy was created to allow institutions to evaluate and recognize undergraduate credit earned outside of the traditional learning environment.

As required by Act 236, the Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities will continue its work to advance opportunities for students and faculty at HBCUs in 2023 and beyond.



# ***APPENDIX***

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# MEMBER ROSTER

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**Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Chair**

Commissioner of Higher Education, Louisiana Board of Regents

**Dr. James Ammons**

Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans

**Dr. Vladimir Appeaning**

Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport

**Senator Joseph Bouie Jr.**

Designee, President of the Senate

**Senator Gerald Boudreaux**

Senate Committee on Education

**Mrs. Ava Cates**

Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission

**Dr. Rochelle Ford**

President of Dillard University

**Mr. Preston Castille**

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

**Mr. Ronnie Dyer**

Student Member, Southern University at New Orleans

**Mr. Rick Gallot, Jr.**

President of Grambling State University

**Senator Jimmy Harris**

Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus

**Dr. James Henderson**

President of the University of Louisiana System

**Representative Jason Hughes**

Designee, Speaker of the House of Representatives

**Representative Patrick Jefferson**

House Committee on Education

**Ms. Makesha Judson**

Louisiana Economic Development

**Dr. Orlando McMeans**

Chancellor of Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center

**Mr. John Pierre**

Chancellor of Southern University Law Center

**Representative Vincent Pierre**

Chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus

**Michael McClanahan**

President of the Louisiana State Conference of  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

**Dennis J. Shields**

President of the Southern University System

**Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib**

LA Community and Technical College System

**Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer**

Urban League of Louisiana

**Ms. Stephanie L. Willis**

American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana

**Dr. Reynold Verret**

President of Xavier University of Louisiana

