



# LOUISIANA HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL *2025 REPORT*



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**IMAGE SOURCE (Covers):** Grambling State University.

**IMAGE SOURCES (Interior):** Dillard University, Grambling State University, Louisiana Board of Regents, Lumina Foundation, Southern University Ag Center, Southern University and A&M College, Southern University Law Center, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University Shreveport, Xavier University of Louisiana.





## Advisory Council Welcome

As home to six Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the only state with an HBCU system, Louisiana holds a distinctive responsibility to host, support, and lead a strong HBCU Advisory Council. Established through Act 236 of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session (see **Appendix B**), the Council serves as a platform to highlight and advance the missions, programs, and initiatives of Louisiana's public and private HBCUs.

The Council convenes quarterly to develop strategies that strengthen the capacity of HBCUs, expand their access to state and federal programs, and support their efforts to drive student success as part of Louisiana's broader talent development goals. **Dillard University** (Dillard), **Grambling State University** (Grambling), **Southern University and A&M College** (Southern)—including its Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Law Center—**Southern University at New Orleans** (SUNO), **Southern University Shreveport** (SUSLA), and **Xavier University of Louisiana** (Xavier) also come together each year for HBCU Day. This annual event highlights, celebrates, and advocates for HBCUs before the Louisiana State Legislature.

HBCUs continue to stand as resilient institutions that have nurtured many of the brightest minds in Louisiana and across the nation. Throughout the year, each campus proudly honors its remarkable accomplishments and recognizes the many alumni whose contributions have made a lasting impact on their communities, the state, the nation, and the world.

Chaired by the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Council is composed of state legislators, representatives from K-12 and postsecondary education, state agencies, business and industry, professional organizations connected to higher education and workforce development, and economic development entities (see **Appendix A**).



# Advisory Council Charge & Goals

Per Act 10, the Council is charged to take several actions relative to HBCU performance and capacity. The Act states that the Council shall:

## **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:**

- a. Improve the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities, and overall competitiveness of HBCUs;
- b. Provide the highest quality education to the greatest number of students;
- c. Promote centers of academic research and programmatic excellence;
- d. Strengthen the fiscal stability of HBCUs;
- e. Increase HBCUs' contribution to the state's educational and workforce goals;
- f. Elevate public awareness of the contributions and values of HBCUs;
- g. Encourage public-private investments in HBCUs;
- h. Engage the philanthropic, business, government, and education communities in a dialogue regarding current and future HBCU programs and initiatives;
- i. Foster enduring private-sector initiatives and public-private partnerships;
- j. Inform public policy discussions and practices by improving the availability and dissemination of high-quality information concerning HBCUs to elected officials and the public;
- k. Share best practices regarding administrative and programmatic processes; and
- l. Share best practices regarding campus safety.

## **2 Strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to participate in federal and state programs by:**

- a. Working with state and federal departments, agencies, and offices to:
  - i. Identify programs and initiatives in which HBCUs may be either underserved or underused as a resource;
  - ii. Encourage HBCUs to participate in state and federal programs and initiatives;
  - iii. Establish methods to increase the capacity of HBCUs to effectively compete for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements; and
  - iv. 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:**

- a. 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;
- b. Working with Louisiana Works to help identify educational programs to address workforce gaps; and
- c. Requesting the Department of Economic Development and Louisiana Works to provide periodic updates to the council on their activities and initiatives.



## Executive Summary

The Advisory Council was established to uplift and strengthen both public and private HBCUs across Louisiana. In 2025, the Council met in February, April, and October to strategize and continue to work toward achieving priorities and objectives.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, Act 10 was enacted to implement several key enhancements to strengthen the Council's impact:

1. **Expanded Scope:** The Council's responsibilities now include identifying best practices for campus safety to ensure a secure environment for students, faculty, and staff.
2. **Student Support:** The Board of Regents is authorized to cover certain expenses for student members, including travel and lodging, to support their participation in Council meetings held across the state.
3. **Membership Expansion:** Council membership has been extended to include the Chancellor of the Southern University and A&M College System, an at-large member, and the President of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Foundation (or their designees).

These changes provide a stronger foundation for meaningful dialogue and the exchange of administrative and programmatic best practices within Louisiana's HBCU community.

This report presents an overview of the key accomplishments, emerging initiatives, and campus highlights of Louisiana's HBCUs, showcasing their significant progress in 2025. Over the past year, these institutions have achieved meaningful advancements across four major programmatic areas: (1) **Academic Affairs**, (2) **Public Relations and Outreach**, (3) **State and Federal Programs**, and (4) **Workforce and Economic Development**.

The Board of Regents remains dedicated to supporting and coordinating the HBCU Advisory Council and extends its sincere gratitude to institutional leaders and all contributors whose commitment has helped drive this success.





## Programmatic Updates

### Academic Affairs

*Academic Affairs 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.*

#### ► New Academic Programs

Since Fall 2024, three HBCU's have recently added new degree programs (Table 1).

**Table 1.** New Academic Programs at Louisiana HBCUs.

Institution	Academic Program(s)
Grambling State University	Public Health (BS)
Southern University and A&M College	Risk Management and Insurance (BBA) Digital Media Arts (BA) Entrepreneurship (BBA)
Southern University at New Orleans	Data Science (BS)

#### ► Carnegie Classifications

In 2025, the Carnegie Classification system designated Xavier University of Louisiana as both a Research College and University (RCU) and an Opportunity College or University (OCU). These two new Carnegie classifications recognize Xavier as a key leader in higher education research and as a provider of opportunity to its students, highlighting the high earnings they can expect to receive compared to their peers upon graduation. This places Xavier among only 33 institutions with both RCU and OCU designations in the country.



### ► **Growing Media and Entertainment**

Southern University and A&M College will introduce a new Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media Arts within the Department of Mass Communication, which will launch in Fall 2025. This program is designed to equip students with the skills needed for careers in film, television, digital production, and emerging media technologies. Through a curriculum that blends storytelling, design, and digital innovation, students will gain hands-on experience using professional equipment and working in real-world production environments. The new degree expands Southern's creative and technical academic offerings and supports the university's mission to enhance workforce readiness in Louisiana's rapidly growing media and entertainment industries.

### ► **New Opportunities at the Southern Ag Center**

Through a partnership between the College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences (CAHES) and the Nelson Mandela College of Government & Social Sciences, CAHES's Dietetic Internship Program participants now earn a Master of Public Administration degree through the M.P.A. and Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics Program. The first cohort graduated in December 2024. Graduates earned their master's while completing their dietetic internship, qualifying them for the National Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Exam.





## **Public Relations and Outreach**

*The HBCUs' focus on public relations and outreach aims to improve the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities and overall competitiveness of HBCUs in Louisiana. Through the Council's work with Regents, the state's HBCUs annually host HBCU Day at the Louisiana State Capitol, which seeks to highlight the success and talent of Louisiana HBCUs' students, faculty, and alumni.*

### **► Southern Students Win an Emmy**

The creators of "The Hidden Sport"— **Eric White, Loren Sullivan, Ashley Lovelace, Sydney Cuillier,** and **Verbon Muhammad** (pictured above) — stepped into the spotlight on Tuesday, May 20, as they accepted the 2025 HBCU Sports Emmy in New York City.

This student-produced documentary celebrates the legacy of Southern University's renowned **"Human Jukebox" Marching Band** and its profound cultural influence on sports and athletics at HBCUs. The film earned national acclaim for its powerful storytelling and cultural significance, securing one of the highest honors in collegiate sports media.

The project was submitted as part of a \$40,000 national HBCU sports broadcasting grant competition sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company and the Foundation of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The students plan to use the grant to establish scholarships and contribute a portion of the funds to the Human Jukebox and Southern University's Department of Mass Communication.

### **► SUAg at Super Bowl LIX**

Twelve students from Southern University's College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences had a unique opportunity to participate in Super Bowl LIX events. Members of the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) chapter, the Dietetic Internship Program, and the 1890 Center of Excellence served in key roles at the Super Bowl's Taste of the NFL 2025. MANRRS and COE students hosted the event, working with Ticketmaster to manage attendee entry, assist special guests, and support culinary staff. Dietetic interns collaborated with renowned chefs, handling meal preparation, plating, logistics, and food safety. This hands-on experience allowed students to apply classroom knowledge and network with industry leaders. In addition to the students' participation in the Taste of the NFL, the Southern University Ag Center donated 100 lbs. of frozen ground SUN beef and 15 lbs. of short ribs.





## ► HBCU on the Yard

Disney on the Yard reflects The Walt Disney Company's commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for HBCU students while cultivating a strong and supportive network for HBCU alumni.

In March 2025, Drum Major Mickey Mouse and the HBCU Drum Major crew brought their energy and spirit to Dillard University for an official Yard Takeover, celebrating HBCU pride with live music, high-energy performances, and a vibrant campus atmosphere. The event also featured a Career Exploration Session, giving students the chance to learn about career opportunities within The Walt Disney Company. Notably, Ayo Davis—a proud Dillard University alumna—serves as President of Disney Branded Television.

## ► Other Statewide and National Recognition

Grambling State University received the **Keep Louisiana Beautiful "Love the Boot" Outstanding University Award** for sustainability and civic impact. It was also recognized as a CASE Standards Contributor for national leadership in philanthropy and advancement practices, and its President, Martin Lemelle was appointed to a three-year term on the NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity, and Impact, elevating HBCU representation in national policy development.

## State and Federal Programs

*HBCU participation in state and federal programs focuses on the ability of HBCUs to contribute to regional innovation and economic development, advancing programs and initiatives to meet specific challenges, establishing methods to increase the capacity of HBCUs to secure grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements, and building public and private sector involvement in such initiatives.*

## ► Federal and Extramural Support

Grambling secured over \$10 million in external funding, including \$7 million from the National Science Foundation for STEM education and research, more than \$3 million from the U.S. Department of Education, NASA, and other federal agencies, and \$500,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to advance humanities research and digital equity.



## ► **Keep Louisiana Beautiful**

Dillard University was awarded a \$6,000 Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) University Affiliate Grant to advance campus sustainability initiatives. The funding will support student engagement activities focused on litter prevention, waste reduction, and reusable alternatives, including the purchase and distribution of reusable cups to decrease single-use plastics.

## ► **Building BRIDGES**

In 2025, Xavier introduced the BRIDGE (Bridging Resources for Improving Determinants and Green Environment Equality) database—a state and federally funded public health resource aimed at tackling social and environmental determinants of health across Louisiana. Supported by a \$1.5 million grant from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the initiative integrates data on housing, transportation, and environmental conditions to advance health outcomes among vulnerable communities.

## **Workforce and Economic Development**

*HBCUs continuously work to fully participate in the state's Economic and Workforce Development sector. To support these efforts, the Council collaborates to enhance the capacity of HBCUs to fully participate in Louisiana's workforce and economic development activities and identify educational programs to address workforce gaps.*

## ► **Assistant Louisiana Landowners**

The SU Ag Center's Small Business Development Certification Program supports economically challenged landowners and entrepreneurs in building stronger agricultural businesses. Over the past seven years, it has served more than 1,000 farmers and business owners through skills training, certification, and mentorship from industry experts in partnership with B1 Foundation Bank and Will Campbell, promoting economic growth and sustainability.

## ► **Community Collaboration**

Grambling State University and the City of Grambling have strengthened their historic relationship through a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that prioritizes economic and workforce development, public safety, and community engagement. The agreement formalizes collaboration between the university and the city on shared priorities. The partnership aims to enhance public safety, strengthen community ties, expand economic opportunities, and position Grambling as a model for comprehensive university-community collaboration.

## ► **Workforce Development Partnership**

SUNO partnered with Louisiana Works to bring the Workforce Mobile Unit to campus ahead of its annual Career Fair, providing students with resume reviews, interview coaching, digital literacy assessments, and employability workshops. More than 150 students participated, producing stronger resumes, increasing their confidence, and receiving positive employer feedback. The initiative further strengthened SUNO's contribution to workforce development across Louisiana.



## Campus Safety

*Campus safety is an essential priority across higher education and remains a critical focus for Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). In Act 10 of the 2025 Legislative Session, campus safety was added to the scope of the HBCU Advisory Council to ensure it remains an ongoing priority. HBCUs continue to navigate unique and evolving safety challenges. In recent years, these have included targeted bomb threats, cyber and social media threats, and concerns related to campus access control and emergency communication systems. Continued collaboration with federal and state partners and investment in safety infrastructure are vital to ensuring secure, supportive environments for all students, faculty, and staff.*

### ► HBCU Security Briefing

In September 2025, Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge received a potential threat that prompted a temporary lockdown of all campus facilities, including the Law Center and Laboratory School. In coordination with law enforcement, university officials secured the campus, lifted the lockdown the same day, and, as a precaution, suspended classes and activities through the weekend. The incident was part of a nationwide wave of hoax threats targeting HBCUs, which have been investigated by the FBI. Southern University responded by enhancing security measures, expanding law enforcement coordination, and maintaining clear communication with students and staff to ensure safety and confidence on campus.



Following the incident, the U.S. Secret Service provided a security briefing to the HBCU Advisory Council during its October 2025 meeting, offering consolidated best practices to strengthen safety planning and threat prevention across HBCU campuses. Key focus areas included:

- **Risk Assessment:** Identify campus-specific vulnerabilities across physical, cyber, and environmental domains.
- **Physical Security:** Strengthen access control, lighting, and surveillance to deter unauthorized entry.
- **Cybersecurity:** Promote campus-wide cyber awareness, update IT protections, and implement multi-factor authentication.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Maintain updated response plans, conduct regular drills, and coordinate with local emergency agencies.
- **Policy and Training:** Ensure inclusive safety policies, mental health support, and regular staff and student training.

Implementation of these strategies is critical to improving resilience and readiness across Louisiana's HBCUs.

## ► Campus Safety Assessments

Since 2023, the Legislature has provided \$2 million in one-time funding to support comprehensive campus safety assessments across Louisiana's four public postsecondary systems. Conducted in partnership with the Louisiana Board of Regents, these assessments are being led by the LSU National Center for Biomedical Research and Training/Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education (LSU NCBRT/ACE), a nationally recognized leader in emergency preparedness training.

Since December 2023, LSU NCBRT/ACE has completed on-site assessments at all public institutions—including the Southern University System and Grambling State University—to identify vulnerabilities and strengthen campus security statewide.

The Board of Regents remains committed to collaborating with institutions to advance training, improve safety, and secure the resources needed to address vulnerabilities and advance critical enhancements that protect students and campus communities.

## ► Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force

Hazing remains a critical component of the campus safety discussion. During the 2025 Regular Legislative Session, the Louisiana Legislature established the Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force to assess the effectiveness of state anti-hazing laws and postsecondary hazing prevention policies and practices. The Task Force includes representatives from the Legislature, public postsecondary systems, and state agencies, including the Attorney General's Office, to ensure a comprehensive review and guidance for improving campus safety across Louisiana's public postsecondary community, including HBCUs. It is required to submit its findings to the Legislature by January 31, 2026.

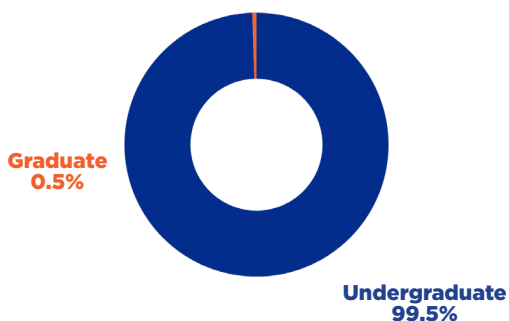
Current considerations include emerging legislative recommendations such as standardizing hazing prevention training, streamlining reporting processes, enforcing penalties for noncompliance, and addressing evidentiary standards in student disciplinary hearings.



- ▶ **FOUNDED**  
1869 as Straight University  
1930 as Dillard University
- ▶ **PRESIDENT**  
Monique Guillory, Ph.D.
- ▶ **LOCATION**  
New Orleans, Louisiana



- ▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
987 students (Fall 2025)



- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2024-2025

Bachelor's Degrees	221
Graduate Degrees	6

## Institutional Highlights

- ▶ In October 2025, Dr. Monique Guillory, Ph.D., was installed as the ninth president and chief executive officer of Dillard University.
- ▶ Dillard University's Physics Department is nationally ranked and the second-leading producer of African American women baccalaureates in physics. Its Laser Ablation and Material Science (LAMS) Center, supported by the Army Research Lab and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, advances research in photonics nanocomposite thin films while fostering workforce development and entrepreneurship. The department also hosts a ten-week summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program and leads DU-WISHES, an IBM-supported initiative that trains and inspires over 100 high school students in STEM each year.
- ▶ In May 2025, Dillard University proudly hosted the Nursing Pinning Ceremony, a momentous occasion celebrating a historic milestone—the inaugural graduating class of Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) students. This special event honored the graduates' dedication and excellence, as well as marked the beginning of their impact as advanced nursing professionals.
- ▶ The University continues to drive initiatives that strengthen institutional growth and stability. To boost enrollment, "Bleu Devil Days" were introduced as a focused strategy to increase the conversion of admitted student deposits into enrolled students.

## Institutional Highlights

- ▶ In July 2025, Grambling announced the launch of the GR2 Foundation, a nonprofit entity created to accelerate sponsored research, expand institutional capacity, and strategically position the university to achieve Carnegie's R2 (high research and doctoral production) classification.
- ▶ This past year, the legislature approved more than \$20 million in appropriations for Grambling, supporting facility modernization, athletics renovations, roadway improvements with the City of Grambling, a new Criminal Justice/Ph.D. in Criminology, and critical utility infrastructure.
- ▶ The U.S. Department of Education awarded \$899,647, in July 2025, to launch the Tiger L.I.F.T. (Living Initiative for Fundamental Thriving) program, expanding basic needs support and holistic services to increase student persistence and completion.
- ▶ President Martin Lemelle initiated *Grambling Gathers*, a weekly public conversation series, fostering dialogue on academics, athletics and advancement, student affairs, enrollment, and town-gown partnerships, and strengthening connections between the university and community stakeholders.
- ▶ The Department of Visual & Performing Arts earned NAST reaccreditation in Theatre, making Grambling one of only five HBCUs nationally to be accredited in this field; the Department of Music achieved NASM reaccreditation through 2033.



▶ **FOUNDED**  
1901

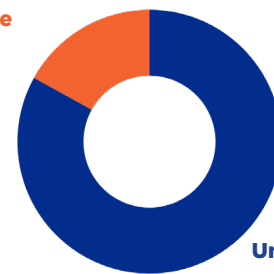
▶ **PRESIDENT**  
Martin Lemelle Jr., D.B.A.

▶ **LOCATION**  
Grambling, Louisiana



▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
5,010 students (Fall 2025)

Graduate  
15.7%



Undergraduate  
84.3%

▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2024-2025

Bachelor's Degrees **596**

Graduate Degrees **203**



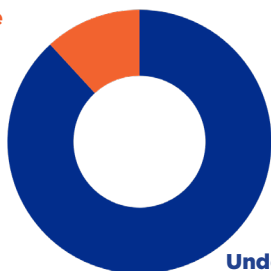


- ▶ **FOUNDED**  
1880
- ▶ **CHANCELLOR**  
John K. Pierre, J.D.
- ▶ **LOCATION**  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



- ▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
8,469 students (Fall 2025)

Graduate  
16.7%



Undergraduate  
83.3%

- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2024-2025

Bachelor's Degrees **725**

Graduate Degrees **313**

Professional **243**

## Institutional Highlights

- ▶ Southern's School of Nursing reached a historic milestone in May 2025, graduating its largest doctoral class with 12 DNP and two Ph.D. recipients. This achievement follows national recognition from [Nurse.org](https://www.nurse.org), which named it the nation's top nursing school in 2025.
- ▶ In August 2025, Southern University A&M launched WSUB "The Bluff," a low-power FM radio station operated by the Department of Mass Communication through a partnership with the Louisiana Community Development Capital Fund. Replacing WTQT, the 24-hour station offers students hands-on experience in radio, podcasting, and audio production. Its programming blends gospel, hip-hop, R&B, and pop while promoting cultural awareness, local talent, and educational content.
- ▶ Skye, an emotional support husky, has joined the Southern University Police Department to help expand mental health support on campus. Accompanying crisis interventionist counselor Donna Burks, Skye provides comfort to students in emotional distress and helps connect them to campus resources. The initiative responds to a broader need for accessible mental health services at HBCUs.
- ▶ Southern University A&M's College of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies launched a new Bachelor of Arts program in digital media arts. The program is a collaborative effort between the Department of Visual and Performing Arts and the Department of Mass Communication. It is designed to provide students with the creative and technical skills needed to thrive in today's dynamic digital media industry.



## Institutional Highlights

- ▶ Southern University A&M ranks among the top 1890 Land-Grant Universities for participation in the USDA 1890 National Scholars Program, with 25 student scholars. The program aims to increase the number of students pursuing studies in food, agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.
- ▶ Through a partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and McDonald's Change of Fashion Program, the Fashion and Business Laboratory (FAB Lab) received \$10,000 in scholarships for students in the Fashion Merchandising and Design Program. Additionally, McDonald's contributed \$25,000 in sponsorship funding to support the FAB Lab.
- ▶ The SU Ag Center, in partnership with Soundminds Counseling, offers free virtual mental health counseling through the Telehealth: Rural Connections for Rural Resilience Program. Providing up to eight sessions for Louisiana adults in underserved rural areas, the program uses the Ag Center's Mobile Technology Unit to deliver internet access to those without it. Nearly 90% of participants say the program is vital to their communities.
- ▶ The "Out the Mud" Urban Horticulture program provides agricultural training, nutrition education, and workforce skills to incarcerated, adjudicated, and homeless youth. Bringing together over 130 participants who are growing 500+ pounds of produce and earning job-enhancing certifications, the program provides a pathway to marketable skills; 30% have secured agriculture-related jobs.



- ▶ **FOUNDED**  
2001
- ▶ **CHANCELLOR**  
Orlando McMeans, Ph.D.
- ▶ **LOCATION**  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana







## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

- ▶ **FOUNDED**  
1947
- ▶ **CHANCELLOR**  
Alvin Washington, J.D.
- ▶ **LOCATION**  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2024-2025

Professional

**231**

## Institutional Highlights

- ▶ The Southern University Law Center, one of only six ABA-accredited HBCU law schools in the nation, has reported a first-time bar passage rate of 75% on the July 2025 administration of the Louisiana Bar Examination, surpassing Tulane Law School.
- ▶ Plans are underway for the construction of the Southern University Law Center Clinic building, aimed at expanding legal services and enhancing client care opportunities. Once completed, the new facility will accommodate more clients and offer upgraded resources for staff and students. This project marks a significant advancement in the Clinic's mission to provide accessible and comprehensive community support.
- ▶ In 2025, SULC expanded its student wellness initiatives with Wednesday Weekly Recess and Wellness on the Docket, offering small-group sessions that address stress, anxiety, and the challenges of law school. Topics include adjustment, relationships, impostor syndrome, and mental health. Presented in partnership with the Southern University Counseling Center, these programs reflect SULC's commitment to students' academic and personal well-being.

## Institutional Highlights

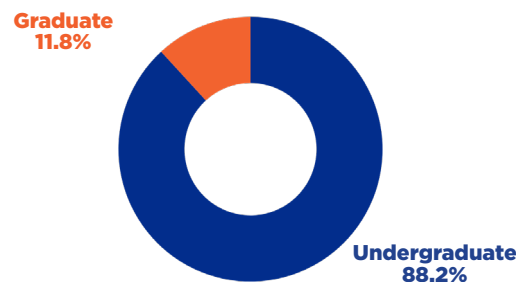
- ▶ On August 1, 2025, Dr. Joseph Bouie, Jr. was appointed the 10th Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), marking his return to the institution that helped shape his academic, professional, and civic paths. A respected scholar, former legislator, administrator, and community leader, Dr. Bouie brings a strong record of service, a deep commitment to social equity, and a profound dedication to SUNO's mission and legacy.
- ▶ In September 2025, SUNO broke ground on its new 34,000-square-foot Nursing and Allied Health Building. The state-of-the-art facility will unite the Nursing, Social Work, and Health Information Management programs in a modern space with advanced classrooms, simulation labs, and flexible learning areas, strengthening SUNO's mission to provide high-quality education and workforce development.
- ▶ SUNO enhanced workforce-aligned learning through Google Career Certificates in high-demand fields such as IT Support, Data Analytics, and Project Management, along with NTIA CMC Grant-funded micro-credentials. In 2025, 65 graduates earned 62 digital badges in Project Management, Database Management, and Business Communications, improving their career readiness and professional profiles.
- ▶ In March 2025, SUNO received official approval to launch its online Master of Social Work (MSW) program, expanding access to one of the region's most respected social work degrees.



- ▶ **FOUNDED**  
1956
- ▶ **PRESIDENT**  
Joseph Bouie Jr., Ph.D.
- ▶ **LOCATION**  
New Orleans, Louisiana



- ▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
2,459 students (Fall 2025)



- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2024-2025

Associate's **2**

Bachelor's Degrees **185**

Graduate Degrees **97**





- ▶ **FOUNDED**  
1964
- ▶ **CHANCELLOR**  
Dr. Aubra J. Gantt
- ▶ **LOCATION**  
Shreveport, Louisiana



- ▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
3,136 students (Fall 2025)



Undergraduate  
100%

- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2024-2025



## Institutional Highlights

- ▶ SUSLA recently developed a comprehensive five-year strategic plan, **Reimagine SUSLA 2030**, that outlines a clear and ambitious vision for the future. Focused on growth, academic innovation, and operational excellence, this plan acts as a crucial roadmap, steering collective efforts to create a stronger, more dynamic SUSLA.
- ▶ In September 2025, SUSLA held the groundbreaking ceremony for the long-awaited Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Complex, set to significantly enhance student life, athletic programs, and campus-wide wellness initiatives.
- ▶ The Paramedic Program earned initial five-year accreditation, underscoring its quality and adherence to industry standards. Meanwhile, the Respiratory Therapy Program, an accredited associate's degree program, was re-accredited for another 10 years.
- ▶ SUSLA's Mobile Health Unit provides essential preventive care, screenings, and dental services to underserved communities throughout Northwest Louisiana, while offering Allied Health students valuable hands-on clinical experience. This innovative program helps reduce healthcare disparities by offering free or low-cost services and supports the regional healthcare workforce.



# Institutional Highlights

- ▶ Xavier launched its yearlong Centennial Celebration in January 2025. In May, the university raised over \$2 million at its Centennial Gala, presented by Ochsner Health, celebrating 100 years of excellence and community impact. The event paid tribute to the enduring legacy of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and President Emeritus Dr. Norman C. Francis.
- ▶ Xavier was recognized by The Princeton Review in the 2026 edition of The Best 391 Colleges as among the top 10 schools nationwide for students who are highly engaged in community service. Students collectively contribute between 16,000 and 20,000 service hours each academic year. In 2024–2025, the student body completed 21,361 service hours, supporting initiatives including community gardening and food insecurity projects.
- ▶ Keziah-Yvonne Smith and Aarinii Parms-Green were named 2025 Truman Scholars by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, becoming the first Xavier students to earn this prestigious honor. They are also the only HBCU recipients this year. The Truman Scholarship, the nation’s premier award for aspiring public service leaders, provides funding for graduate studies, leadership development, career guidance, and federal internship and fellowship opportunities.
- ▶ Xavier’s Master of Science in Genetic Counseling Program, offered as a clinical partnership with Ochsner Health, achieved a 100% fill rate during its inaugural Genetic Counseling Match Day. This marks a significant milestone for Louisiana’s first and only genetic counseling program and one of just two such programs at an HBCU. The program welcomed its inaugural cohort in Fall 2025.

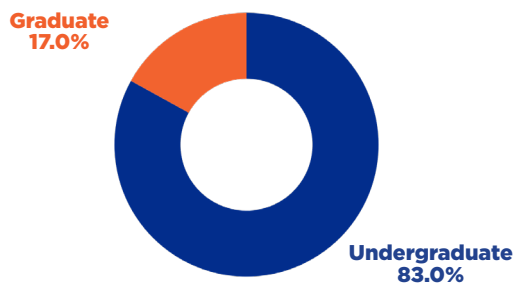


**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

- ▶ **FOUNDED**  
1925
- ▶ **PRESIDENT**  
C. Reynold Verret, Ph.D.
- ▶ **LOCATION**  
New Orleans, Louisiana



- ▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
3,101 students (Fall 2025)



- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2024–2025

Bachelor's Degrees	501
Graduate	73
Doctorate	110





## Conclusion

In 2025, the members of the Louisiana HBCU Advisory Council worked with dedication and heart to uplift the proud histories and vibrant futures of Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Throughout the year, Council members focused on creating meaningful opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and the communities that surround and support these institutions. Their collective efforts celebrated the lasting legacy of HBCUs while advancing their role as powerful centers of learning, innovation, and leadership.

Working closely with the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Council strengthened the bonds among campuses and partners across the state. Through open communication and shared goals, the Council helped expand opportunities for workforce training, promote campus safety, and enhance access to research and funding opportunities. These collaborations continue to open doors for students and communities, ensuring that Louisiana's HBCUs remain at the forefront of educational excellence and social impact.

As the Council looks to the future, it remains committed to building on the successes of 2025—amplifying the voices of Louisiana's HBCU communities and ensuring that their contributions are recognized and celebrated. Together, the Council and its partners will continue to create pathways that connect education, opportunity, and empowerment for generations to come.

# Appendix A

## Advisory Council Members

Member	Seat Information
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Chair	Commissioner of Higher Education, Louisiana Board of Regents
Dr. Joseph Bouie	Chancellor, Southern University at New Orleans
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer	Urban League of Louisiana
Rep. Ken Brass	Designee, House Committee on Education
Ms. Jasmine Brown-DeRousselle	Chief External Affairs Officer, GNO, Inc.
Mr. Preston Castille	Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
Sen. Royce Duplessis	Designee, Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus
Dr. Rick Gallot Jr.	President, University of Louisiana System
Dr. Aubra Gantt	Chancellor, Southern University at Shreveport
Dr. Monique Guillory	President, Dillard University
Rep. Jason Hughes	Designee, Speaker of the House
Sen. Katrina Jackson-Andrews	Designee, Senate Committee on Education
Rep. Edmond Jordan	Chair, Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus
Dr. Martin Lemelle	President, Grambling State University
Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib	Chancellor, Delgado Community College
Mr. Michael McClanahan	President, Louisiana State Conference of NAACP
Dr. Orlando McMeans	Chancellor, Southern University Ag Center
Mr. John Pierre	Chancellor, Southern University and A&M College
Sen. Ed Price	Designee, Senate President
Ms. Susana Schowen	Secretary, Louisiana Works
Mr. Dennis J. Shields	President, Southern University System
Dr. Reynold Verret	President, Xavier University of Louisiana



# Appendix B

## Act 236 (2018 Regular Legislative Session)

2018 Regular Session

### ACT No. 236

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 199

BY SENATOR BISHOP

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3138.7 and R.S. 36:651(T)(7), relative to postsecondary education; to  
3 establish the Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities under  
4 the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents; to provide relative to the membership,  
5 powers, duties, and functions of the council; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:3138.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §3138.7. Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

9 A. The Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

10 (HBCUs) is hereby established under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents  
11 for the purpose of focusing on ways to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to  
12 provide the highest quality education, increase opportunities for HBCUs to  
13 participate in and benefit from state programs, and ensure that Louisiana has  
14 the highest proportion of college graduates from HBCUs in the country. In  
15 consultation with the Southern University System and Grambling State  
16 University, the council shall provide guidance and advice to the commissioner  
17 of higher education and the Board of Regents regarding best practices to  
18 strengthen the capacity of Louisiana's HBCUs.

19 B. The council shall be composed of twenty-three members as follows:

20 (1) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.

21 (2) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.

22 (3) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee.

23 (4) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College  
24 System, or his designee.

25 (5) The chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans, or his  
26 designee.

27 (6) The chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, or his designee.

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Coding: Words which are ~~struck through~~ are deletions from existing law;  
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ENROLLED

- 1 (7) The chancellor of the Southern University Law Center, or his
- 2 designee.
- 3 (8) The chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research and
- 4 Extension Center, or his designee.
- 5 (9) The president of Grambling State University, or his designee.
- 6 (10) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
- 7 Education, or his designee.
- 8 (11) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his
- 9 designee.
- 10 (12) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or
- 11 his designee.
- 12 (13) The president of the Louisiana State Conference of the National
- 13 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or his designee.
- 14 (14) The president of the Urban League of Louisiana, or his designee.
- 15 (15) The president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana,
- 16 or his designee.
- 17 (16) The president of the Senate, or his designee.
- 18 (17) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.
- 19 (18) The chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, or his
- 20 designee.
- 21 (19) A member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, appointed by
- 22 the chairman of the caucus. If the chairman of the caucus is a member of the
- 23 House of Representatives, the appointed member shall be a member of the
- 24 Senate. If the chairman of the caucus is a member of the Senate, the appointed
- 25 member shall be a member of the House of Representatives.
- 26 (20) The president of Xavier University of Louisiana, or his designee.
- 27 (21) The president of Dillard University, or his designee.
- 28 (22) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his
- 29 designee.
- 30 (23) The chairman of the House Committee on Education, or his

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ENROLLED

1 designee.

2 C. Members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing  
3 authority and vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original  
4 appointment.

5 D. Members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed  
6 for expenses as provided by the appointing authority.

7 E.(1) The commissioner of higher education shall call the first meeting  
8 of the council no later than September 1, 2018, and a chairman and a vice  
9 chairman shall be elected from among the council's membership at this meeting.

10 (2) The council shall meet upon the call of the chairman, but not less than  
11 twice annually.

12 F. The Board of Regents shall provide staff support to assist the council  
13 in performing its duties and responsibilities.

14 G. The council shall:

15 (1) Advise the commissioner of higher education regarding methods to  
16 enhance the capabilities of HBCUs to serve the needs of their students and the  
17 state and methods whereby the state can better serve HBCUs. The council shall  
18 also help identify methods to:

19 (a) Improve the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities, and overall  
20 competitiveness of HBCUs.

21 (b) Provide the highest quality education to the greatest number of  
22 students.

23 (c) Promote centers of academic research and programmatic excellence.

24 (d) Strengthen the fiscal stability of HBCUs.

25 (e) Increase HBCUs contribution to the state's educational and  
26 workforce goals.

27 (f) Elevate public awareness of the contributions and value of HBCUs.

28 (g) Encourage public-private investments in HBCUs.

29 (h) Engage the philanthropic, business, government, and education  
30 communities in a dialogue regarding current and future HBCU programs and

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# Appendix B

## Act 236 (2018 Regular Legislative Session)

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ENROLLED

1 initiatives.  
2 (i) Foster enduring private-sector initiatives and public-private  
3 partnerships.  
4 (j) Inform public policy discussions and practices by improving the  
5 availability and dissemination of high-quality information concerning HBCUs  
6 to elected officials and the public.  
7 (k) Share best practices regarding administrative and programmatic  
8 processes.  
9 (2) Strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to participate in federal and state  
10 programs by:  
11 (a) Working with state and federal departments, agencies, and offices to:  
12 (i) Identify programs and initiatives in which HBCUs may be either  
13 underserved or underused as a resource.  
14 (ii) Encourage HBCUs to participate in state and federal programs and  
15 initiatives.  
16 (iii) Establish methods to increase the capacity of HBCUs to effectively  
17 compete for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.  
18 (b) Encouraging public-sector and private-sector involvement with  
19 HBCUs on such initiatives.  
20 (3) Strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to fully participate in Louisiana's  
21 workforce and economic development activities by:  
22 (a) Working with the Department of Economic Development to ensure  
23 full participation and inclusion of HBCUs at the inception stage and throughout  
24 implementation of economic development activities.  
25 (b) Working with the Louisiana Workforce Commission to help identify  
26 educational programs to address workforce gaps.  
27 (c) Requesting the Department of Economic Development and the  
28 Louisiana Workforce Commission to provide periodic updates to the council on  
29 their activities and initiatives.  
30 Section 2. R.S. 36:651(T)(7) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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# Appendix B

## Act 236 (2018 Regular Legislative Session)

SB NO. 199

ENROLLED

1 §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of  
2 Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of  
3 Education

4 \* \* \*

5 T. The following agencies are placed within the Department of Education and  
6 shall perform and exercise their powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as  
7 provided by law:

8 \* \* \*

9 (7) The Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

10 (R.S. 17:3138.7).

11 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
12 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
13 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
14 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
15 effective on the day following such approval.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Appendix C

## Act 10 (2025 Regular Legislative Session)

ENROLLED

### ACT No. 10

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 142

BY REPRESENTATIVES MENA, BACALA, BAYHAM, BOYD, BRASS, WILFORD  
CARTER, CHASSION, FISHER, HUGHES, TRAVIS JOHNSON, KNOX,  
MILLER, MOORE, NEWELL, SCHLEGEL, TAYLOR, AND WALTERS

1 AN ACT  
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3138.7(B)(introductory paragraph) and (5) through (24) and  
3 (D) and to enact R.S. 17:3138.7(B)(25) and (26) and (G)(1)(I), relative to the  
4 Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; to provide for the  
5 membership of the council; to provide for payment of certain expenses; to provide  
6 for the duties of the council; and to provide for related matters.  
7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:  
8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3138.7(B)(introductory paragraph) and (5) through (24) and (D)  
9 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3138.7(B)(25) and (26) and (G)(1)(I) are  
10 hereby enacted to read as follows:  
11 §3138.7. Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities  
12 \* \* \*  
13 B. The council shall be composed of ~~twenty-four~~ twenty-six members as  
14 follows:  
15 \* \* \*  
16 (5) The chancellor of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical  
17 College, or his designee.  
18 ~~(6)~~ (7) The chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans, or his designee.  
19 ~~(6)~~ (7) The chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, or his designee.  
20 ~~(7)~~ (8) The chancellor of the Southern University Law Center, or his  
21 designee.  
22 ~~(8)~~ (9) The chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research and  
23 Extension Center, or his designee.

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are additions.



# Appendix C

## Act 10 (2025 Regular Legislative Session)

HB NO. 142

**ENROLLED**

1                   ~~(9)~~ (10) The president of Grambling State University, or his designee.  
2                   ~~(10)~~ (11) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
3 Education, or his designee.  
4                   ~~(11)~~ (12) The secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, or his  
5 designee.  
6                   ~~(12)~~ (13) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or his  
7 designee.  
8                   ~~(13)~~ (14) The president of the Louisiana State Conference of the National  
9 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or his designee.  
10                  ~~(14)~~ (15) The president of the Urban League of Louisiana, or his designee.  
11                  ~~(15)~~ (16) The president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana;  
12 ~~or his designee.~~ The president of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus  
13 Foundation, or his designee.  
14                  ~~(16)~~ (17) The president of the Senate, or his designee.  
15                  ~~(17)~~ (18) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.  
16                  ~~(18)~~ (19) The chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, or his  
17 designee.  
18                  ~~(19)~~ (20) A member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, appointed  
19 by the chairman of the caucus. If the chairman of the caucus is a member of the  
20 House of Representatives, the appointed member shall be a member of the Senate.  
21 If the chairman of the caucus is a member of the Senate, the appointed member shall  
22 be a member of the House of Representatives.  
23                  ~~(20)~~ (21) The president of Xavier University of Louisiana, or his designee.  
24                  ~~(21)~~ (22) The president of Dillard University, or his designee.  
25                  ~~(22)~~ (23) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his  
26 designee.  
27                  ~~(23)~~ (24) The chairman of the House Committee on Education, or his  
28 designee.  
29                  ~~(24)~~ (25) A student serving as student body president of a public or private  
30 HBCU in Louisiana, selected annually by the HBCU student body presidents.

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# Appendix C

## Act 10 (2025 Regular Legislative Session)

HB NO. 142

ENROLLED

1                   (26) An at-large member appointed by the chairman of the council, who shall  
2                   serve for no more than two years.

3   \*       \*       \*

4                   D.(1) Members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for  
5                   expenses as provided by the appointing authority.

6                   (2) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the Board of Regents  
7                   may pay for travel and lodging expenses for attendance at council meetings for the  
8                   student member.

9   \*       \*       \*

10                  G. The council shall:

11                  (1) Advise the commissioner of higher education regarding methods to  
12                  enhance the capabilities of HBCUs to serve the needs of their students and the state  
13                  and methods whereby the state can better serve HBCUs. The council shall also help  
14                  identify methods to:

15   \*       \*       \*

16                  (l) Share best practices regarding campus safety.

17   \*       \*       \*

\_\_\_\_\_  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

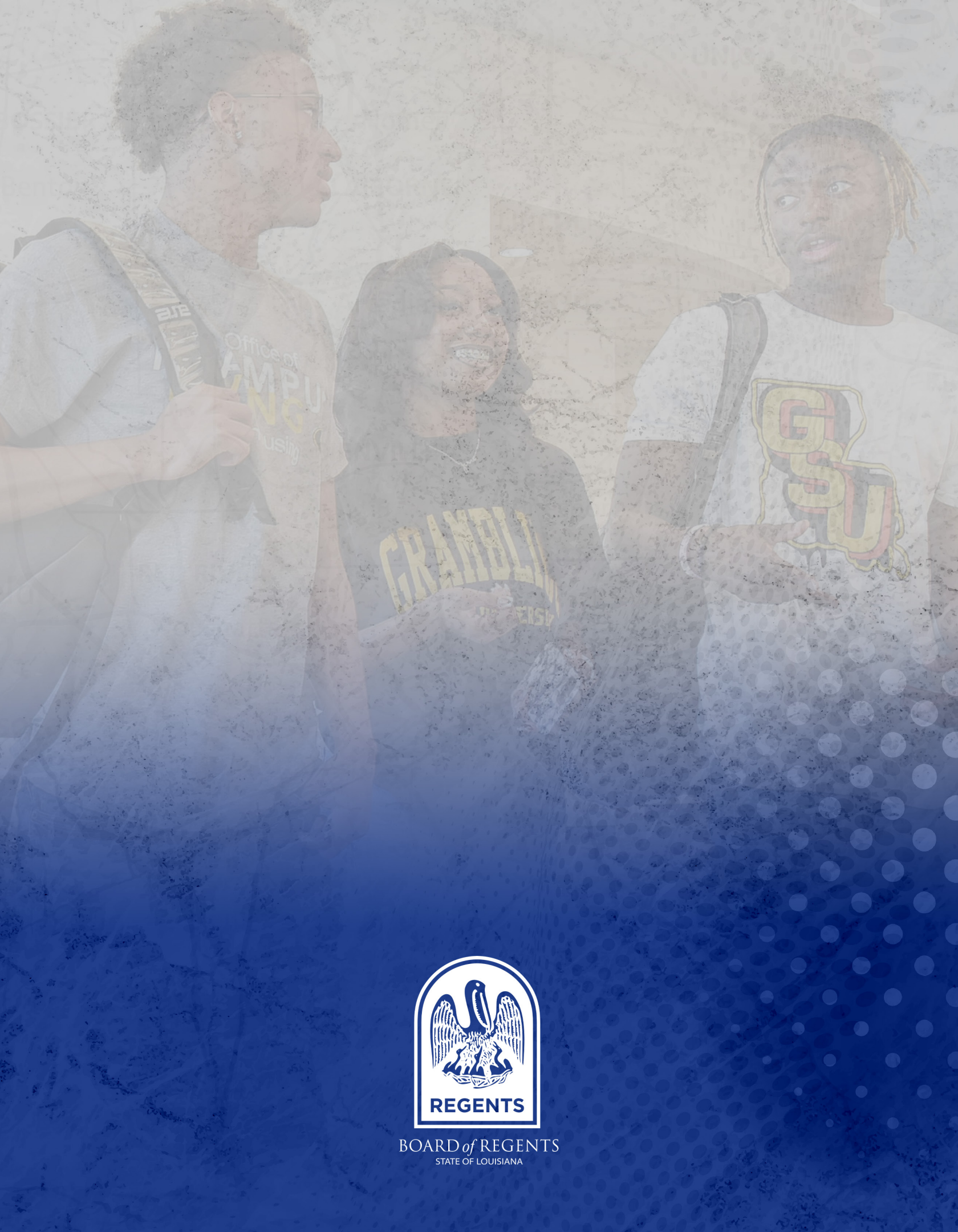
\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

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BOARD of REGENTS  
STATE OF LOUISIANA