



HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL

Capitol Park Museum
660 N. 4th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Members Present	Affiliation
Kim Hunter Reed	Board of Regents
Mr. John Pierre	Southern University A&M
Dr. Orlando McMeans	Southern University System
Mr. Alvin Washington	Southern University Law Center
Dr. Richard “Rick” Gallot	University of Louisiana System
Dr. Theo Callier	Grambling State University
Dr. Aubra Gantt	Southern University Shreveport
Sen. Ed Price	Designee, Senate President
Rep. Terry Landry, Jr.	Designee, Speaker of the House
Sen. Gerald Boudreaux	Louisiana Black Caucus Foundation
Sen. Royce Duplessis	Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus
Rep. Edmond Jordan	Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus
Mr. Aaron Manzy	Student Member, Southern University Law Center
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer	Urban League of Louisiana
Dr. Joseph Bouie	Southern University at New Orleans
Mr. Ronald Carrere	Xavier University of Louisiana
Mr. Nick Harris (proxy)	Dillard University
Ms. Jasmine Brown DeRouselle	Designee, Louisiana Economic Development
Ms. LaKeisha Ricks	NAACP
Members Absent	Affiliation
Mr. Jason Hughes	Louisiana Black Caucus Foundation
Rep. Ken Brass	House Education Committee
Sen. Katrina Jackson Andrews	Designee, Senate Education Committee

Mr. Preston Castille	Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
Dr. Larissa Littleton Steib	Delgado Community College
Sec. Susie Schowen	Louisiana Works
Vacant	Southern University Ag Center

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Ms. Brianna Golden Phillips called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. The roll was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2026, meeting.

On motion of Sen. Ed Price, seconded by Mr. John Pierre, the Council approved the minutes of the February 26, 2026, meeting.

WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Reed wished the Council a happy HBCU Day and noted that the day provided an opportunity to celebrate and highlight the important work and contributions of Louisiana's HBCUs.

Dr. Reed reflected on the leadership and legacy of Dr. Norman C. Francis, describing him as a transformative leader in higher education whose impact extended throughout Louisiana and the nation. She recognized Dr. Francis as the longest-serving president of a U.S. university and highlighted his leadership at Xavier University of Louisiana, including contributions to the institution's longstanding success in preparing African American students for careers in medicine. Dr. Reed also reflected on Dr. Francis's broader service to the nation and his commitment to advancing educational opportunities for students.

Mr. Ronald Carrere also reflected on Dr. Francis's legacy, highlighting his leadership at Xavier University of Louisiana and Liberty Bank, which he described as the largest African American-owned bank in the country. He noted the connection between Dr. Francis's leadership in higher education and banking, particularly the role of financial resources in helping students access and complete their education. Mr. Carrere also remarked on Dr. Francis's humility and deep faith.

OVERVIEW OF HBCU DAY

Ms. Golden Phillips provided an overview of HBCU Day activities, including the Council meeting, Complete College America workshops, lunch and a film honoring Dr. Francis, the HBCU Day reception, and recognition of HBCU representatives in the House and Senate chambers.

2026 Regular Legislative Session Update

Dr. Reed invited each of the legislators present to share information regarding the Regular Legislative Session.

Senator Royce Duplessis thanked the Council for its leadership and emphasized the importance of continued investment in higher education and Louisiana's HBCUs. He highlighted the need to address funding disparities, capital needs, and facility maintenance while ensuring HBCUs are positioned to prepare the workforce needed to support the state's economic development. He expressed his commitment to advocating for HBCUs throughout the legislative session.

Representative Terry Landry emphasized the significant impact of HBCUs, noting the number of elected officials who are HBCU graduates. He expressed appreciation for the education, culture, and investment provided by HBCUs and reaffirmed his commitment to supporting their efforts and continued investment throughout the legislative session.

Representative Edmond Jordan expressed support for the Council and emphasized the need to highlight the relevance and impact of Louisiana's HBCUs. He noted the academic achievements of institutions such as Southern University and encouraged continued community engagement and visibility. He also emphasized the importance of providing HBCUs with the resources needed to address these priorities.

Dr. Reed asked President Orlando McMeans to discuss the issue of student food insecurity, following a recent conversation with the House Appropriations Chair. She noted that the Chair had highlighted a student's experience seeking assistance between financial aid disbursements and emphasized the importance of addressing food insecurity among students. President McMeans highlighted Southern University's farmers market as a resource for addressing food insecurity and providing students with access to fresh produce. He noted that the initiative also supports local farmers by creating opportunities to sell their products. He discussed plans to expand these efforts and emphasized the need for recurring base funding to support faculty and grow priority programs including nursing, engineering, and agriculture.

Legislative Updates

Ms. Golden Phillips provided an overview of the Board of Regents' legislative priorities and bills of interest, including but not limited to:

- **SB 305 – Career Alignment:** Establishes a statewide dashboard connecting degree programs to workforce outcomes and addresses work-based learning data.
- **HB 636 – Hazing Prevention:** Strengthens hazing prevention, reporting, and campus education requirements.
- **HB 738 – Student Disciplinary Procedures:** Revises student disciplinary procedures and evidentiary standards.
- **SB 347 – Digital Misuse/Power-Based Violence:** Expands protections related to digital misconduct and emerging technologies.

- **HB 513 – Name, Image, and Likeness:** Establishes a regulatory framework for NIL activities involving high school and postsecondary student-athletes.
- **HB 749 – College Savings Security:** Addresses administration of START, START K12, and ABE savings programs.
- **HB 649 – Dual Enrollment:** Establishes a statewide dual enrollment application process.
- **HB 325 – TOPS Tech:** Expands TOPS Tech eligibility for students earning early college or workforce-aligned credit.

Ms. Golden Phillips also provided an overview of study resolutions concerning higher education funding, TOPS return on investment, NIL and athletic department revenue sharing, and potential NIL trust accounts for high school athletes. Additional bills of interest included legislation concerning firearms on college campuses, low-earning academic programs, TOPS repayment, campus suicide prevention, NIL financial literacy, and a proposed constitutional amendment concerning the Board of Regents.

Chancellor Alvin Washington asked about the potential impact of federal changes to Medicaid and SNAP funding on Louisiana’s budget, including possible effects on higher education and health-related services. He noted that Louisiana’s congressional delegation was working to address the issue at the federal level. Dr. Reed reported that the Board of Regents had raised concerns with House and Senate leadership regarding potential federal funding changes and their impact on the state budget. She noted that the issue would continue to be monitored and that the Board would provide updates as additional information becomes available.

Ms. Jasmine Brown DeRouselle highlighted HB 651, which would establish an instructor-share rebate program to encourage industry professionals to teach at LCTC institutions. She also discussed proposed Louisiana Works reforms and the potential creation of a Louisiana Talent Accelerator to strengthen workforce development partnerships. She emphasized the importance of ensuring HBCUs have a role in and access to these workforce development opportunities.

COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA OVERVIEW

Dr. Reed invited Dr. Nia Haydel and Dr. Jamia Stokes of Complete College America (CCA) to present. Dr. Haydel provided an overview of CCA’s work and its partnership with Louisiana, noting that Louisiana is a member of the CCA Alliance. Through this membership, Louisiana institutions can participate in CCA projects, access national resources and research, and connect with institutions in other states to share strategies and practices related to student success and completion.

Dr. Haydel highlighted CCA’s data-driven approach to improving student outcomes and institutional performance. She noted that several Louisiana institutions are participating in CCA initiatives focused on using student-level data to better understand barriers to completion and inform institutional decision-making. She emphasized the importance of building institutional capacity to use data effectively, establishing shared accountability for student success, and engaging faculty, staff, and campus leadership in developing solutions.

Dr. Haydel specifically highlighted CCA’s work in Louisiana, noting that eight Louisiana institutions are currently participating in a CCA project supported by the Gates Foundation, with four Louisiana institutions represented in the current group. She explained that the project provides

support in data capacity, student success strategies, professional development, and direct technical assistance. CCA also offers statewide opportunities for institutions beyond the participating project institutions, including workshops and other resources.

Dr. Haydel discussed CCA's focus on institutional transformation and on-time completion, emphasizing the need for institutions to identify and address barriers such as financial challenges, food insecurity, mental health, course availability, and other circumstances affecting student persistence. She noted that CCA has identified 18 evidence-based strategies to support student success and encouraged Louisiana institutions to use available data and resources to identify areas for improvement, implement targeted strategies, and refine their approaches based on results.

Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer emphasized the importance of asset mapping to help Louisiana institutions identify existing resources, personnel, and initiatives that can be aligned with institutional strategic plans. She highlighted work with Southern University and A&M College and Southern University at New Orleans and reported that CCA is working to connect its opportunities with Meauxmentum and other student success efforts. She emphasized that aligning these efforts can reduce duplication, strengthen implementation, and help institutions advance both their strategic priorities and statewide student success goals.

Dr. Haydel concluded by highlighting Louisiana's strong level of engagement with the Complete College America Alliance. She noted that CCA uses a five-level scale to measure engagement and that Louisiana is among a small number of states demonstrating the highest levels of participation, commitment, and active engagement. Dr. Haydel thanked Commissioner Reed and the Council for their continued support.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Reed thanked the Council for its participation and continued engagement and wished members a happy HBCU Day. She reflected on the significance of the day as an opportunity to celebrate and highlight the important work and contributions of Louisiana's HBCUs and recognized CCA for its partnership and support of the day's activities.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Dr. Teamer, seconded by Chancellor Washington, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.