



# **LOUISIANA HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL 2024 REPORT**



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**IMAGE SOURCE (Covers):** Xavier University of Louisiana.

**IMAGE SOURCES (Interior):** Dillard University, Grambling State University, Ja’Deric Talbert, 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 HBCU system in the country, the Board of Regents (Regents) is uniquely positioned to host, support, and coordinate a robust 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.

The Council meets quarterly to identify strategies to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs, increase opportunities for these institutions to benefit from state and federal programs, and enable institutions to promote strong student success as part of the state’s talent development agenda. Dillard University (Dillard), Grambling State University (Grambling), Southern University and A&M College (SUBR), 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) join forces annually at HBCU Day at the Capitol to showcase their students, and programs while advocating for their institutions at the Louisiana State Legislature.

HBCUs are dedicated to teaching and learning — educating the nurses, scientists, engineers, and teachers needed in Louisiana’s workforce while also serving as community anchors and critical change agents as well. Throughout the year, each institution continues to celebrate its outstanding achievements as well as its numerous alumni for their contributions to their local communities, the state, the nation, and the world.

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 as a collective to advance attainment and prosperity across Louisiana, and the annual award-winning HBCU Day demonstrates its success. Regents looks forward to its ongoing role in coordinating the HBCU Advisory Council and thanks its members, including HBCU institutional and system leadership, who have contributed to its success.

# Advisory Council Charge & Goals

Per Act 236, 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; and
- k. Share best practices regarding administrative and programmatic processes.

## **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 the Louisiana Workforce Commission to help identify educational programs to address workforce gaps; and
- c. Requesting the Department of Economic Development and the Louisiana Workforce Commission to provide periodic updates to the council on their activities and initiatives.



## Executive Summary

The Louisiana Legislature established the HBCU Advisory Council in 2018 to foster collaboration and achievement among these institutions and the students they serve. The Council, chaired by the Commissioner of Higher Education, is comprised of 25 members including state legislators, representatives of both K-12 and postsecondary education, state agencies, and professional organizations with links to higher education, as well as workforce and economic development entities (See Appendix A).

In 2024, the Council met twice (March and October) to strategize and advance the work outlined in Act 236 (See Appendix B). Over the past year, Louisiana's HBCUs have made significant advancements in four key programmatic areas: (1) Academic Affairs, (2) Public Relations and Outreach, (3) State and Federal Programs, and (4) Workforce and Economic Development. This report provides an update on the major achievements of the Council, emerging initiatives, and campus highlights reflecting progress in 2024.

# 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 2023, seven HBCUs have recently added new degree and/or certificate programs (Table 1).

**Table 1.** New Academic Programs at Louisiana HBCUs Since Fall 2023.

Institution	Academic Program(s)
Dillard University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)</li> </ul>
Grambling State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governmental &amp; Administrative Affairs (BS)</li> </ul>
Southern University and A&M College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher Education, Multiple Levels (MAT)</li> <li>• Computer Engineering (BS)</li> <li>• Risk Management and Insurance (BBA)</li> <li>• Construction Management (BSCM)</li> </ul>
Southern University at New Orleans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cybersecurity (BS)</li> <li>• Data Science (BS)</li> </ul>
Southern University at Shreveport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petroleum Technology Operator (CTS)</li> <li>• Law Enforcement Admin (CTS)</li> <li>• Security Studies (CTS)</li> <li>• Graphic and Web Design (AAS)</li> <li>• Graphic Design (CTS)</li> </ul>
Xavier University of Louisiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genetic Counseling (MS)</li> <li>• Ethics of Technology, Health, and Science (MA)</li> </ul>

**Ethics Program Approvals:** In Fall 2025, Xavier will start two new academic programs: a Master of Science Program in Genetic Counseling and a Master of Arts Program in the Ethics of Technology, Health, and Science.

**Grambling’s First Ph.D. Program:** In Fall 2024, Grambling launched its inaugural Ph.D. program in Criminology and Justice Administration, enrolling its first cohort of nine students. This historic milestone establishes Grambling as a leader in advanced education among HBCUs and addresses critical challenges in public safety and justice through research and education.

**Emerging Fields:** SUNO is now offering Louisiana’s first bachelor’s degree in data science, an innovative program designed to meet the growing workforce need for skilled professionals who can analyze and transform complex data into actionable insights across various industries.

## ► Dual Enrollment Access

The 2024 Dual Enrollment Report revealed that, in the 2023-24 academic year, 10,681 students of color participated in dual enrollment courses, 1,280 more than the previous year and representing 45% of dual enrollment students across all Louisiana public colleges and universities. This marks a one-percentage-point increase from the 2022-23 academic year and an eight-percentage-point increase over the past five years. While several Louisiana institutions participate in dual enrollment, additional increases in African American participation over the past three years are partially attributed to the expansion in dual enrollment programming at three campuses at the Southern University System (SUBR, SUNO, and SUSLA) through partnerships with many high schools with large African American student populations. Although these campuses enrolled only 8% of all dual enrollment students, they accounted for 24% of the African American students taking dual enrollment courses.

During the 2023-24 academic year, most African American students participating in dual enrollment are enrolled in one of these top five areas:



### Health Professions & Related Programs



### Precision Production



### Culinary, Entertainment, & Personal Services



### Business, Management, Marketing & Related Support Services



### Computer & Information Sciences & Support Services

► Xavier University Chemistry



**Dual Enrollment Thriving at SUNO:** In 2024, the university hosted a Dual Enrollment Lunch and Learn, fostering collaboration with high school partners. SUNO proudly partners with 20 high schools to provide dual enrollment opportunities while supporting the academic success of 1,107 currently enrolled students. Dual Enrollment instructors teach both on SUNO’s campus and at partnering high schools.

**SUSLA Dual Enrollment Expansion:** In 2024, the Caddo Parish School Board voted unanimously to approve a partnership with SUSLA to establish the Newton Smith Center for Workforce Solutions. The Center will be the regional hub for short-term training, with stackable certificates and industry-based certification to create a college-going culture for all students.

## **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.*

### **► HBCU Day Public Relations Awards**

Over the past two years, the Louisiana Board of Regents and the HBCU Advisory Council have been recognized for their outstanding efforts in hosting the 2022 and 2023 HBCU Day at the Capitol events. In April 2023, Regents received a Red Stick Award from the Public Relations Association of Louisiana’s Baton Rouge Chapter for its work on the 2022 event, the first in-person gathering since the pandemic.

The 2023 HBCU Day at the Capitol, which featured the unveiling of phase one of the new Louisiana HBCU exhibit at the Capitol Park Museum, has earned four awards. In November 2023, Regents was one of only four organizations to receive the prestigious Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society of America’s New Orleans Chapter. The Regents’ Strategic Communications team later received a 2024 Red Stick Award from PRAL Baton Rouge, a 2024 Torche Award from the Public Relations Association of Louisiana (PRAL), and a 2024 Lantern Award from the Southern Public Relations Federation (SPRF).

Regents and the 2023 HBCU Day event have also been nominated for a 2025 Silver Anvil Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).



## ► Southern’s “Human Jukebox” Dazzles at Super Bowl LIX

Southern University’s renowned “Human Jukebox” marching band headlined the Super Bowl LIX pregame show on February 9 in New Orleans, marking its 10th Super Bowl appearance. The 300-member band, accompanied by the “Fabulous Dancing Dolls,” captivated the Caesars Superdome crowd. A shining example of HBCU excellence, the “Human Jukebox” brought its signature energy and cultural significance to one of the world’s biggest sports stages.

## ► Power of HBCUs Lumina Convening

In December 2024, the Lumina Foundation held its first HBCU Conference—Collectively Advancing the Power of HBCUs—to bring together HBCU leaders, philanthropic partners, education funders, and HBCU employees who are committed to supporting the invaluable role of these institutions in our communities, states, and nation. The convening opened with a welcome from Dillard University President Dr. Monique Guillory and remarks from Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, in addition to a powerful performance from the Dillard University Choir.

Additionally, conference attendees heard from an all-star panel comprised of local HBCU leaders: President Dr. Martin Lamelle Jr. of Grambling State University; Dr. Reynold Verret, President of Xavier University of Louisiana; and Dr. Aubra Gantt, Chancellor of Southern University Shreveport, who provided insights on career pathways, student enrollment, research, and the ongoing work of their institutions.

**Innovative Collaboration in Film & Television:** Dillard has collaborated with Emmy Award-winning composer Elvin Ross, a Louisiana native and CEO/Founder of E. Ross Studios School of Film & Television (SFTV). This academic collaboration combines technology and creativity to drive innovation and enrich culture through a comprehensive suite of Certificate and Master Class courses. The DU/SFTV programs focus on skills development, job placement, career advancement, and community impact.

**The College Tour:** Students from all five campuses in the [Southern University System](#) are featured in Season 11 of the streaming series, “[The College Tour](#).” Southern’s 30-minute episode, currently streaming on Amazon Prime, features ten students highlighting their unique experiences related to academics, student life, healthcare, and more.



► “Human Jukebox” at Super Bowl LIX

# GSU CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



► Grambling's Child Development Center

## **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.*

**Reopening of the Child Development Center:** In October 2024 Grambling State University reopened its Child Development Center with funding from Ascend at the Aspen Institute's Black and Native Family Futures Fund and a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The center supports student parents in achieving their academic goals and expands the goal of offering affordability high-quality child care on college campuses.

**Major Grants Supporting Energy Efforts:** Dillard University was awarded two grants to support sustainability efforts in local communities. The \$20 million Community Climate Change Grant will provide clean energy to the campus through improved heating and air-conditioning systems and solar panels. It will also support community energy efficiency by providing Blue Bikes and electric vehicle charging stations in partnership with the United Way. Additionally, the university was awarded \$400,000 through the HBCU Clean Energy Prize to work in collaborative partnerships with Xavier University of Louisiana, Tulane University, and Delgado Community College.

**Engineering Opportunities:** SUSLA was awarded a three-year grant in the amount of \$899,992 from the U.S. Department of Education Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) to implement institutional projects, special projects, cooperative projects, and design projects to enhance academic opportunities and advance technological education for SUSLA students through engineering technology career pathways. This is the third consecutive MSEIP grant awarded to SUSLA.

## **Workforce and Economic Development**

*HBCUs continuously work to fully participate in the state's economic and workforce development sector, enhancing their capacity to support Louisiana's economic advancement and identifying educational programs to address workforce gaps.*

### **► Grambling's First Call Me MiSTER® Graduate**

In December 2024, Ja'Deric Talbert became the first graduate of Grambling State's Call Me MiSTER® (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) program, an initiative designed to increase the number of diverse educators, particularly in the state's lowest-performing elementary schools. After completing his student teaching at Barkdull Faulk Elementary in Monroe, Talbert accepted a full-time position at the school, where he began teaching fourth-grade math and science in January 2025. Grambling State University has the largest Call Me MiSTER® program in the State of Louisiana with 33 African American males enrolled in the College of Education.

### **► GNO, Inc. Innovation Internship Program**

In its latest quarterly report, Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.) shared that over 104 students to date have participated in its GNO, Inc. Innovation Internship Program (GIIP), which is a groundbreaking initiative designed exclusively for minority students enrolled at a four-year HBCU or Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) in Louisiana or who have permanent residency in the Greater New Orleans Area. The eight-week paid internship program allows students to cultivate marketable skills and build a standout resume. With five distinct tracks to choose from – Startup Track (Entrepreneurship), STEM Track, Engineering Track, Energy Track, and Venture Capital/Private Equity Track – GIIP opens doors to a world of innovation and professional growth. GNO, Inc. has plans to provide over 108 HBCU students with internships at startups and STEM companies in the GNO region during summer 2025.

### **► GNO, Inc. Innovation Internship Program**





► Ja'Deric Talbert

## ► Southern University Claimed First-Ever College Football 25 eSports Championship

Southern University’s growing eSports program aims to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, foster teamwork and communication, integrate STEM concepts into a gaming environment, and prepare students for careers in the rapidly expanding esports industry. During the 51st Bayou Classic in November 2024, Southern University at Baton Rouge (SUBR) claimed the first-ever College Football 25 eSports championship, led by Antoine Richardson. Richardson, an agribusiness major from Vanndale, Arkansas, defeated Grambling in a best-of-three series to secure the title.

**Opportunities through Partnership:** The College of Nursing and Allied Health, in which the School of Nursing is housed, received a \$5 million gift from longtime partner Our Lady of the Lake Health to enhance the SUSON’s programs and opportunities for students and faculty, highlighting the shared vision of the university and Our Lady of the Lake to improve health outcomes, strengthen the workforce, and address critical health disparities across the Greater Baton Rouge Area.

**STEM Education:** Dillard University sponsors “DU Wishes,” a summer program designed to inspire African American girls to pursue careers in STEM and engineering. The program, promoting early exposure to engineering disciplines and fostering interest in STEM-related fields, is supported by a \$362,452 grant.

## ► HBCU Utilities Summit

In October 2024, the HBCU Advisory Council held its meeting at Dillard University to attend the inaugural “HBCU Utility Workforce Summit”, hosted by Louisiana Public Service Commissioner Davante Lewis, designed to forge strong ties between HBCUs and utility companies and expand the utilities workforce pipeline. Utility company representatives, trade unions, school administrators, and students of Louisiana’s HBCUs participated in the two-day summit event to ensure educators and their students are aware of career opportunities in Louisiana’s utility industry.

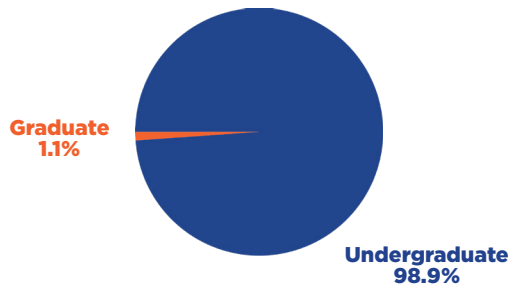


**DILLARD**  
UNIVERSITY

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



- ▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
1,077 students (Fall 2024)



- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2023-2024

Bachelor's Degrees

**193**

## Institutional Highlights

**College of Nursing Graduates First Cohort from Online MSN Degree Program.** Within the initial cohort of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program, comprised of five graduates, two earned MSNs in Nursing Education and three earned MSNs in Nurse Administration. The MSN program represents the inaugural master's degree offered in the institution's 155-year history and provides students with opportunities to study Nurse Education, Nurse Administration, or Nurse Entrepreneurship.

**Theatre Arts Program Celebrates 90th Consecutive Season of Performances.** The program, the first HBCU theatre program in the country, was established in September 1935 by Sheppard Randolph Edmonds, recognized as the dean of Black Academic Theatre.

**Dillard's Mississippi Delta Research Project Awarded \$756,000 Grant.** The funded project, in partnership with LSU A&M, will mentor and educate Dillard students in research on environmental and ecological systems and natural resources.

**Dillard Receives \$550,000 Grant for Scientific Growth at HBCUs.** A \$550,000 grant through the Enhancing Biomedical Engineering, Imaging and Technology Acceleration initiative will enhance bioengineering and imaging research capacity, technology innovation, education, and research training, and provide opportunities for scientific growth at HBCUs.



## Institutional Highlights

**Opening of the Digital Library and Learning Commons.** Grambling unveiled its new Digital Library and Learning Commons, providing students and faculty access to cutting-edge research tools, collaborative workspaces, and extensive digital resources. The facility modernizes the academic experience and prepares students for success in a tech-driven educational landscape.

**Groundbreaking of the Student Success Center.** In May 2024, the university began construction of a 60,000-square-foot Student Success Center, designed to centralize key student services, including Admissions, Financial Aid, and Career Development. Equipped with advanced technology and collaborative spaces, the center will enhance student retention, engagement, and success.

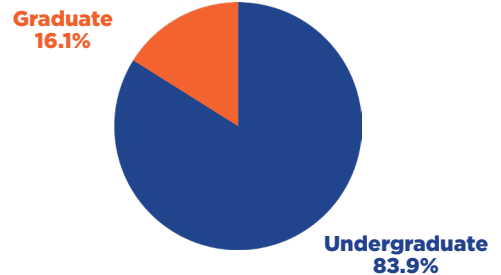
**Record Research Funding Secured.** Grambling faculty secured \$9.8 million in research funding. These funds support innovative projects in health disparities, environmental science, and technology, furthering Grambling’s reputation as a hub for impactful research.

**GAP Scholarship Fund Surpasses \$1 Million Milestone.** The GAP Scholarship Fund surpassed \$1 million in total funds raised and since its inception has awarded over \$991,000 to 1,379 students. By bridging financial gaps, it ensures students can overcome economic challenges and achieve academic success, reflecting Grambling’s commitment to access and excellence in education.

- ▶ **FOUNDED**  
1901
- ▶ **PRESIDENT**  
Martin Lemelle Jr., D.B.A.
- ▶ **LOCATION**  
Grambling, Louisiana



- ▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
5,147 students (Fall 2024)



- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2023-2024

Bachelor’s Degrees	<b>609</b>
Graduate Degrees	<b>173</b>
Professional	<b>154</b>



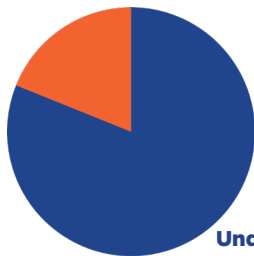
## Institutional Highlights

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



- ▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
8,279 students (Fall 2024)

Graduate  
18.9%



Undergraduate  
81.1%

- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2023-2024

Bachelor's Degrees **756**

Graduate Degrees **310**

Professional **356**

**SUSON Voted Best in the Nation.** In January 2025 the Southern University School of Nursing (SUSON) was voted the Best Nursing School in the United States by nurse.org.

**SUSON Enrolls Largest Cohort of Male Nursing Students in Program History.** In 2024, SUSON reached a milestone with the admission of 33 Black male nursing students, the largest class in the school's history. The cohort of nursing students received a \$339,000 grant from the American Nursing Foundation, which seeks to increase the numbers of ethnic minority nurse researchers and expand the diversity of topics and perspectives.

**Southern Yields First Cohort of MPA Graduates.** A joint venture between the College of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Nelson Mandela School of Government and Social Sciences graduated its first cohort in December 2024. The graduates earned a Master of Public Administration while completing a dietetic internship, qualifying them for the National Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Exam. Southern is one of only five HBCUs offering a dietetic internship, supporting efforts to increase Black dietitians, who currently make up just three percent of the field.

**SUBR Joins Intelligence Community Centers for Academic Excellence Program.** The Intelligence Community Centers for Academic Excellence (IC CAE) program funds institutions for five years to develop curricula, research, and events that prepare the next generation of intelligence professionals.





## Institutional Highlights

**Southern Ag Awarded \$2 Million Grant from USDA Forest Service.** The grant will create an “Urban and Community Tree Nursery (UCTN) to Provide Planting Stocks for Urban Greening in Disadvantaged Communities in Louisiana.” The award, funded by the USDA Forest Service and administered through the 1890 Foundation, will be used as a vehicle to carry out urban and community forestry skills training for Southern University Urban Forestry students and community participants, as well as serve as an Urban and Community Forestry activity site for field days and educational field trips for college and K-12 schools.

**USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture Provides Grant for On-Farm Food Safety Training.** The USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently awarded \$70,000 to the 1890 Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness, and Quality of Life (COE) at the Ag Center through its Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP) for the On-Farm Food Safety Training for Farm Workers and Underserved Farmers Covering FSMA, PSR, and GAPs Requirements project. This project will provide enhanced food safety training for farm workers and farmers through partnerships with local and out-of-state agencies.

**Southern Ag Goes International with Agreement with Saint Kitts and Nevis.** In 2023, the Ag Center entered an agreement with the Ministry of Education of Saint Kitts and Nevis to provide sustainable and environmental agriculture consultant services, including certification courses in vendor food safety, to the Minister of Agriculture.



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





## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

## Institutional Highlights

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



- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2023-2024

Professional

**247**

### **Louisiana Intellectual Property Summit.**

In October 2024, the Tech and Entrepreneurship Clinic hosted Louisiana’s Intellectual Property Summit, celebrating innovation alongside over a hundred IP practitioners from Louisiana and beyond. This Summit is designed to create a platform that amplifies Louisiana’s potential as a thriving hub for innovation and ensures that all segments of society can benefit from this growth.

**Creating Second Chances.** With grants from the Louisiana Workforce Commission, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, and the American Rescue Plan, SULC’s Office of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships has filed over 800 expungement motions and provided free legal aid to justice-impacted individuals statewide. Thirteen student fellows and two law clerks assist with eligibility determinations, motion drafting, and filing fee costs.

**Heirs’ Property Certificate Program.** A \$299,607 grant will help to develop the Heirs’ Property Certificate Program, to provide educational resources to the community to equip participants with the basic knowledge to maintain ownership of land that has been passed down through generations.

**HBCU Scholars.** Since 2017, thirteen (13) SULC students have been honored as HBCU Scholars by the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity. This initiative has empowered more than 500 HBCU scholars across the nation.



## Institutional Highlights

**State-of-the-Art Nursing Building Coming to the Lakefront.** Plans are moving forward to break ground on a new state-of-the-art Nursing building to accommodate more pre-nursing and nursing students. The new building will include clinical and simulation labs, as well as a lecture hall, library, and student study rooms.

**SUNO Secures Largest Donations in School History.** In the last two years, SUNO has secured \$3.5 million in private investments: \$2 million from Ochsner Health and \$1.5 million from LCMC Health for the School of Nursing, along with \$500,000 from an anonymous donor for the Center for Grief and Trauma and School of Social Work.

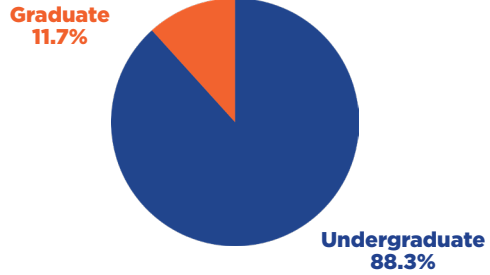
**School of Social Work’s Center for Grief and Trauma Helping New Orleans Citizens.** SUNO operates The Center for Grief and Trauma within the School of Social Work, offering free counseling and support to children and adults. Recently highlighted in Gambit Weekly, the center has been recognized as a vital city-wide resource, particularly following the 2025 New Year’s Day terror attack.

**SUNO’s Evening & Weekend College Program.** SUNO is working to re-establish an Evening & Weekend College program to better serve its non-traditional learners, who currently make up over 50% of the student body. This initiative provides flexible learning opportunities for adult learners, working professionals, and non-traditional students.

- ▶ **FOUNDED**  
1956
- ▶ **PRESIDENT**  
James H. Ammons Jr., Ph.D.
- ▶ **LOCATION**  
New Orleans, Louisiana



- ▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
2,468 students (Fall 2024)



- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2023-2024

Associate's	2
Bachelor's Degrees	187
Graduate Degrees	103
Professional	57



## Institutional Highlights

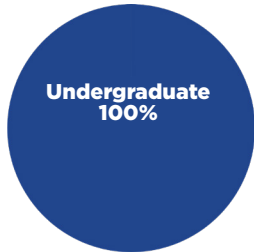
▶ **FOUNDED**  
1964

▶ **CHANCELLOR**  
Dr. Aubra J. Gantt

▶ **LOCATION**  
Shreveport, Louisiana



▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
2,951 students (Fall 2024)



▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2023-2024

Less than Associate's **66**

Associate's **218**

Professional **86**

**Aerospace Technology Program Passes FAA Compliance Inspection.** The Aerospace Technology program passed its compliance inspection with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). SUSLA's aircraft technician program is the only program of its kind in the region, with a curriculum designed to serve as a launchpad for aspiring aviation professionals.

**Dental Hygiene Class of 2024 Earns Perfect Score.** The Dental Hygiene Class of 2024 achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE) along with 100% job placement of graduates. SUSLA's associate's degree program in dental hygiene is the only such program in North Louisiana.

**SUSLA's Polysomnography Graduates Continue to Excel.** The Polysomnography (sleep study) Class of 2024 achieved a 100% pass rate on Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT) exam as well as 100% job placement of graduates. SUSLA's Polysomnography associate's degree program is one of only two in Louisiana.

**SUSLA Awarded HBCU Clean Energy Prize.** SUSLA is one of 10 HBCUs nationwide to be awarded the U.S. Department of Energy's HBCU Clean Energy Prize competition to expand energy learning opportunities for younger generations, build robust programming that provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and establishes partnerships that lead to career opportunities in clean energy.



## Institutional Highlights

**Xavier Launches Year-Long Centennial Celebration.** 2025 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of Xavier. All year, the institution is honoring its 100 years of excellence with events as it recognizes its history as America’s only Historically Black and Catholic University.

**Xavier University Ochsner College of Medicine to Become First HBCU Med School in Gulf South.**

In April 2024, Xavier, a top institution for preparing Black students for medical school, partnered with Ochsner Health, the Gulf South’s leading academic medical center, to launch the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine. This groundbreaking collaboration aims to advance medical education and tackle health disparities in diverse communities.

**Xavier-Ochsner PA Program Receives Full Accreditation.** Xavier, in partnership with Ochsner Health, received national accreditation for its Physician Assistant (PA) Program from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). XULA is one of four Louisiana colleges—and one of only seven HBCUs nationwide—to offer this program.

**XULA Serves as Partner in Statewide FUEL Grant.**

Xavier University is one of the 27 education partners in the statewide Future Use of Energy in Louisiana (FUEL) grant. The FUEL Grant is the largest and most competitive grant ever awarded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), providing up to \$160 million over the next 10 years.



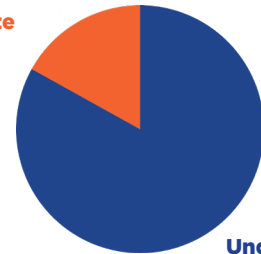
**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

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



- ▶ **TOTAL ENROLLMENT**  
3,218 students (Fall 2024)

Graduate  
16.6%



Undergraduate  
83.4%

- ▶ **COMPLETERS**  
2023-2024

Bachelor’s Degrees	<b>455</b>
Graduate	<b>92</b>
Doctorate	<b>106</b>

# Conclusion

Throughout 2024, members of the Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities worked diligently to promote their institutions' rich histories and the collective power of the state's HBCUs as they continue to create new pathways to opportunity and educational excellence.

Through the Council's work with Regents, collaboration continues, providing opportunities to advance education and workforce training, improve cybersecurity, promote safe and equitable communities, and enhance federal research competitiveness. As required by Act 236, the HBCU Advisory Council will continue its work to advance opportunities for students and faculty at HBCUs throughout 2025 and beyond.

As noted in the latest Louisiana Board of Regents Master Plan Report, the state's educational attainment level reached an all-time high of 51% in 2024, as Louisiana continues to recognize degrees and high-value credentials that lead to stronger workforce participation. In academic year 2023-24, graduates of Louisiana's HBCUs earned credentials in critical fields of Health, Technology/Computer Information, STEM, and more.

In the upcoming year, this Council looks forward to expanding talent development, advancing partnerships and continuing to launch outstanding graduates in critical disciplines for our state into our workforce and communities.



# Appendix A

## Advisory Council Members

Member	Seat Information
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Chair	Commissioner of Higher Education, Louisiana Board of Regents
Dr. James Ammons	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
Mr. Richard 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 Jr.	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 Workforce Commission
Mr. Dennis J. Shields	President, Southern University System
Dr. Reynold Verret	President, Xavier University of Louisiana
Ms. Stephanie L. Willis	American Civil Liberties Union 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; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.



# Appendix B

## Act 236 (2018 Regular Legislative Session)

SB NO. 199

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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# Appendix B

## Act 236 (2018 Regular Legislative Session)

SB NO. 199

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)

SB NO. 199

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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