



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE
SPRING COMMENCEMENT

UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY

2026

F.G. CLARK ACTIVITY CENTER
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

MAY 15, 2026
10 A.M.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA



S history

The movement in Louisiana for an equal opportunity institution of higher learning was sponsored in the 1879 Louisiana State Constitutional Convention by delegates P.B.S. Pinchback, T.T. Allain, T.B. Stamps, and Henry Demas. Their efforts resulted in the establishment of this institution for the education of persons of color in New Orleans. Southern University, chartered by Legislative Act 87 in April 1880, had a 12-member Board of Trustees. The act provided for the establishment of a faculty of “arts and letters” competent in “every branch of liberal education.” The charter sought to open doors of state higher education to all “persons competent and deserving.” Southern opened with 12 students and a \$10,000 appropriation. With the passage of the 1890 Morrill Act, the University was reorganized to receive land-grant funds.

In 1912, Legislative Act 118 authorized the closing of Southern University in New Orleans, the sale of its property, and the reestablishment of the University on a new site. In 1914, the “new” Southern University opened in Scotlandville, Louisiana, receiving a portion of a \$50,000 national land-grant appropriation. Southern University in New Orleans and Southern University in Shreveport were authorized by Legislative Acts 28 and 42 in 1956 and 1964 respectively. The Southern University Board of Supervisors, a management board authorized by the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, was created to govern the Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Shreveport campuses. In 1985, the A.A. Lenoir Law School was designated the Southern University Law School. Dedicated in January 2002, Ashford O. Williams Hall is home to the fifth SU System campus, the Agricultural Research and Extension Center, which is located in Baton Rouge.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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CAPS AND GOWNS

Academic caps and gowns represent a tradition which has come down from the universities of the Middle Ages. They were once common forms of clothing and were retained by the clergy when the laity adopted modern dress. Early European universities were founded by the church and students were obliged to wear prescribed gowns and caps at all times.

The usual color for gowns in America is black, although some universities are gradually adopting colors representative of their institutions. Hoods are lined with the college colors and are trimmed with the color appropriate to the degree.

Caps are usually black. The tassel for the bachelor's degree may be the color distinctive of the degree. The tassel for the Doctor of Philosophy is made of gold thread.

COLOR OF TASSELS

Agriculture.....	<i>Maize</i>
Arts.....	<i>White</i>
Business	<i>Drab</i>
Education	<i>Light Blue</i>
Engineering.....	<i>Orange</i>
Fine Arts.....	<i>Brown</i>
Family & Consumer Sciences.....	<i>Maroon</i>
Music	<i>Pink</i>
Nursing.....	<i>Apricot</i>
Public Policy & Urban Affairs.....	<i>White</i>
Sciences	<i>White</i>
Speech-Language Pathology.....	<i>Maize</i>
Speech-Language & Audiology.....	<i>Maize</i>
Social Work	<i>Citron</i>
Therapeutic Recreation & Leisure Studies.....	<i>Sage Green</i>
Therapeutic Recreation.....	<i>Sage Green</i>



Southern University Board of Supervisors

Honorable Tony Clayton, *Chair*

Honorable Reggie Abraham, *Vice Chair*

Orlando F. McMeans, *Interim President of the Southern University System and
Secretary to the Board of Supervisors*

Members of the Board

Honorable Paul Matthews, Congressional District 1	Honorable Ann A. Smith, Congressional District 5
Honorable Chris Masengill, Congressional District 1	Honorable Myron K. Lawson, Congressional District 5
Honorable Edwin M. Shorty Jr., Congressional District 2	Honorable Rani G. Whitfield, Congressional District 6
Honorable Maple L. Gaines, Congressional District 2	Honorable Donald Ray Henry, At Large
Honorable Quincy Cawthorne, Congressional District 3	Honorable Domoine D. Rutledge, At Large
Honorable Samuel C. Tolbert Jr., Congressional District 3	Honorable Aaron Manzy, Athens, GA <i>(student representative)</i>
Honorable Zazell V. Dudley, Congressional District 4	
Honorable Henry Whitehorn, Congressional District 4	

Marshals

<i>University Marshal</i>	Donovan L. Segura, Ph.D.
<i>Chief Assistant University Marshal</i>	Lauri Patterson, J.D.
<i>Chief Student Marshal</i>	Calli Schell, Kirkland, IL

Assistant University Marshals

Jackie Bryant	Yasser Ismail, Ph.D.	Anthony Stewart, Ph.D.
Christopher Chappell, Ph.D.	Carmen Ginn Johnese, Ph.D.	Tracey Taylor-Jarrell, Ph.D.
Lanell Kent Craig, Ph.D.	Melissa Johnson, Ph.D.	Catrice Tolbert, Ph.D.
Fareed Dawan, Ph.D.	Emily Jackson-Osagie, Ph.D.	Yaw Twumasi, Ph.D.
James Durriseau, Ph.D.	Bonny McDonald, Ph.D.	Brian Warren, Ph.D.
Marlin Ford, Ph.D.	Lauri Patterson, J.D.	Charmaine Williams, Ph.D.
Craig Heinzen, Ph.D.	Jennifer Robertson	
Richard Hobson	Penny Sterling	

<i>Chief Academic Officer</i>	Luria Young, Ph.D. <i>Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs</i>
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<i>Library</i>	Dawn Ventress Kight, Ph.D. <i>Dean</i>
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<i>Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes Honors College</i>	Deadra James Mackie, Ph.D. <i>Interim Dean</i>
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<i>International and Continuing Education</i>	Barbara W. Carpenter, Ph.D. <i>Dean</i>
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<i>Officer of Ceremonies</i>	Johlana Turner <i>Registrar</i>
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<i>Announcer</i>	Professor Douglas Streater
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ORDER OF CEREMONY

Spring 2026

John K. Pierre

Chancellor, Southern University and A&M College

Presiding

<i>Processional</i>	<i>"Pomp and Circumstance"</i> by Sir Edward Elgar
<i>Invocation</i>	Apostle Curtis L. Shepherd <i>Pastor, Philadelphia Christian Ministries</i> Baton Rouge, Louisiana
<i>Anthems</i>	<i>"The Star Spangled Banner"</i> Written by Francis Scott Key, performed by Justin Garner <i>"Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing"</i> Written by James Weldon Johnson, performed by The Southern University Gospel Choir under the direction of Elder Ernest Bowman
<i>Introduction of Speaker</i>	John K. Pierre
<i>Commencement Address</i>	Paula A. Shepherd <i>Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer</i> Banner Plans and Network
<i>Musical Selection</i>	<i>Thank You</i> (featuring Christina Holmes) Written by Richard Smallwood Performed by the Southern University Gospel Choir
<i>Presentation of Commissions</i>	CPT Kellen Bramlett <i>Assistant Professor of Military Science</i> Army ROTC Unit, Southern University and A&M College Commander Helen Dent, United States Navy <i>Executive Officer and Associate Professor of Naval Science</i> NROTC Unit, Southern University and A&M College
<i>Awarding of Posthumous Degrees</i>	John K. Pierre
<i>Certification of Degree Candidates</i>	Luria Young, Ph.D.



<i>Conferring of Degrees</i>	John K. Pierre Albertha H. Lawson, Ph.D. <i>Dean, Graduate School</i> Renita Marshall, DVM <i>Interim Dean, College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences</i> Donald Andrews, Ph.D. <i>Dean, College of Business</i> Cynthia Bryant, Ph.D. <i>Dean, College of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies</i> Sandra C. Brown, Ph.D. <i>Dean, College of Nursing and Allied Health</i> Lealon Martin, Ph.D. <i>Dean, College of Sciences and Engineering</i> Damien D. Ejigiri, Ph.D. <i>Dean, Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences</i>
<i>Remarks & Acknowledgements</i>	Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D. <i>Interim President, Southern University System</i> John K. Pierre
<i>Induction into Alumni Federation</i>	Darrin Dixon <i>Director, Southern University Alumni Affairs and Executive Director, Southern University Alumni Federation</i>
<i>The Alma Mater</i>	“O Southern, Dear Southern” By R.E. Brown Jr. Led by Professor Laurence Hebert
<i>Benediction</i>	Apostle Curtis L. Shepherd
<i>Recessional</i>	“Pomp and Circumstance” by Sir Edward Elgar

*The following list of graduates represents the most accurate information available at publication.
The appearance of a name on this program and/or participation in the ceremony is
presumptive of graduation, but not conclusive.*

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Renita W. Marshall, D.V.M., *Interim Dean*

Zion A. Robinson, *Student Marshal*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Agricultural Sciences

Samuel J. Andrews, Ruston	Morgyn Edwards, Houston, TX
Jared D. Anthony, Baton Rouge	Mia English, Greensburg
Justin A. Ardoin, Opelousas	Damian F. Gardiner, Sunset
Bryson J. Armstrong, Baton Rouge	Bradley Hall, Frisco, TX
Janiya W. Bailey, Shreveport	Jikaya J. Hart, Ponchatoula
Reese A. Baker, Houston, TX	Symira S. Horton-Conecin, Minneapolis, MN
Sanii D. Banks, Forney, TX	Christopher DeLariance Hughes, Baton Rouge
Destiny A. Baskett, Atlanta, GA	Desiree Layette James, Baton Rouge
Jade Blount, Arlington, TX	Arynn Elizabeth Jenkins, Montgomery, AL
Braxton Booker, Baton Rouge	Breanna Lottie-Andrea Johnson, Alvin, TX
Mykhai D. Boone, Cedar Hill, TX	Rhiyan Monae Jones, Missouri City, TX
Ansel Fitzgerald Bradford, Baton Rouge	Chasity Mariana Joseph, Baton Rouge
Sterling J. Brown, Alexandria	Kylan Christopher Menard, Breaux Bridge
Ikira Shanice Butler, Plaquemine	Kirkevin Dewayne Palmer, Baton Rouge
Nicholas B. Carroll, Richmond, TX	Nyla M. Reiss, Mobile, AL
Elisheba Miriyam Clay, Baton Rouge	Mallory K. Tate, Zachary
Destinae M. Davis, Lebeau	Caitlin Adrianna Woodard, Baton Rouge
Corey Rhemone Dolliole, Sugarland, TX	

Family and Consumer Sciences

London H. Brown, Baton Rouge	Jonathan D. Johnson, Natchitoches
Sañaa Doss, Baton Rouge	D'Nai A. King, Baton Rouge
Faith Amber Ellison, Chula Vista, CA	Melik Jamal Little, Jacksonville, FL
Jadan S. Fobb, New Orleans	Sandy E. Pitts, Holden
Jasmine Aree Franklin, Baton Rouge	Zion A. Robinson, Cockeysville, MD
Christin E. Hall, Gonzales	Saniya Jewell Stevenson, Kingwood, TX
Genisus Joann Hammond, New Orleans	Shanaya Danielle Thomas, Rayne
Kavyon Jacobe Harris, Fresno, TX	Anaya A. Tyehimba, St. Louis, MO
Yolanda L. Harris, Jackson	Amaya Renee Walker, Texas City, TX
Alexia D. Herrin, Baton Rouge	Kayla Olivia Youngblood, Kenner
Amaya R. Johnson, Vacherie	

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN URBAN FORESTRY

Bryce E. Campbell, Carencro

Zayyir Lee Wells, Baton Rouge

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Donald Andrews, Ph.D., *Dean*

Demarion Sowell, *Student Marshal*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING

Brianna Lasha Battley, Baton Rouge

Diamond Abrea Harris, Shreveport

Cedricka Trazjea Brady, Baton Rouge

Madison J. Holmes, Zachary



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Cheldon M. Lampkin, Laurel, MD
Kayse Pettus, Houston, TX
Chasity C. Preston, Baton Rouge
Mel'Laya L. Price, Baton Rouge
Ronald J. Rhea, New Orleans

Corey L. Robinson, Slidell
*Alayasia Moné Smith, Bastrop
Demarion Sowell, Natchez
JaKayla Tomlinson, Akron, OH
Amber Williams, Baton Rouge

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FINANCE

Jordan Ahman August, Baton Rouge
*Brianna T. Clemons, Houston, TX
Kristian Orlando Coleman, Zachary
Kayla Rayvionne Granville, Port Allen
Rhonda J'Nel Harris-White, Houston, TX
Sean Thomas-Alexander Inman,
Sugar Land, TX

Barret L. Rey, Zachary
*Kaliah Cenae St. Cyr, Zachary
*Damond Venible, Slidell
Zaire Zhane Wade, Gonzales

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

*Mariah Treasure Alston, Jacksonville, AR
Adana Dorothy Ards, Houston, TX
Tajjæ K. Bazile, Slidell
*Amaya R. Beckwith, Bossier City
Justin D. Booth, Simsboro
*Herman Renaldo Brister, III, Brusly
Cierra Marlyn Campfield, Baton Rouge
Deondrick Davis, Opelousas
Jordan Michelle Felix, New Orleans
Hannah C. Frank, Ville Platte
Charles Green, III, Gretna
Altayveyon Gunner, New Iberia
Ari M. Harris, Washington
Chloe E. Haynes, Lafayette
*Donald Ray Hives, Baton Rouge
Donald Ray Howard, Geismar
Justin Y. Johnson, Benton
*Miles Christian Johnson,
Jacksonville, FL

Gabrielle G. Kelley, Monroe
*Charneika R. Lawson, Baton Rouge
Taryn Elizabeth Lewis, Baton Rouge
Sonae Julianna Mays, Baton Rouge
James Monroe, Opelousas
Jalen Tremon Nero-Buckles, Baton Rouge
Carl Nixon, Avondale
Chakirrious Parker, Vacherie
Alexis Cheyanne Pierre-Adams, Whittier, CA
Amariah Tavera Pridgen, Geismar
Nolan Drew Sheppard, Carson, CA
Luther Malachi Smith, Memphis, TN
*Traylain T. Spriggs, Baton Rouge
JaKayla Tomlinson, Akron, OH
Norea'l M. Townsend, Columbus, OH
Ikera Monique Truehill, Gonzales
Tykwon Wade, Madison, MS
Elijah K. White, Ferriday

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MARKETING

Layla Bianca Below, Natchitoches
Jaxon L. Brewer, Powder Springs, GA
Kamia Niyana Brown, Altadena, CA
Aniya R. Donald, Baton Rouge
Evan M. Dunkley, Euless, TX

Carl Nixon, Avondale
Barret L. Rey, Zachary
Eric Riley, Cypress, TX
Rodney Lamar Shepherd, Las Vegas, NV
Justin D. Toussaint, Los Angeles, CA

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Cynthia Bryant, Ph.D., *Dean*
Mya Simone Robinson, *Student Marshal*

BACHELOR OF ARTS

English

Tristen I. Collins, Lake Charles

Abreeona Godis Love, Baton Rouge



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

Chloe Parks, Baton Rouge

Kharis Z. Taylor, Gramercy

History

TréVione Nathan Johnson, Baton Rouge

Nia Murae Robinson, Hinesville, GA

Olivia Jewel Lockett, Dayton, OH

Alexis Sam, Lafayette

*Jawaun McLemore, St. Martinville

Mylin Leilani Wilson, Morgan City

Louis J. Osborne, White Castle

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MASS COMMUNICATION

Aaliyah J. Addison, Baton Rouge

Taylor D. Mcglory, Atlanta, GA

Jodeci Ashford, Baton Rouge

Jasmine Simone Meriedy, Jacksonville, FL

Jace J. Brown, Vacherie

Hailey Gloria-Bless Mitchell, New Orleans

Carmen Alonia Calhoun, DeQuincy

Deanna J. Moncriste, Baker

Timothy Terrell Emerson, Baton Rouge

Kynedi Mckenzi Nichols, Jackson, MS

Myles Nicholas Eskridge, Covington

Joaquin R. Parks, Monroe

Gianni Frangella, Baton Rouge

Mya Simone Robinson, Homestead, FL

Kenneth Shaurone Gooden Jr., DeRidder

Channing-Perry Carswell Scott, Albany, GA

Spencer E. Holloway, Corona, CA

*Glynn Robert Simmons, Baton Rouge

Amaria D. Hubbard, Dallas, TX

Journei S. Turner, Suwanee, GA

Eryka W. Jackson, Baton Rouge

Amare M. Walker, Aurora, IL

Floyd A. Knox, Greenwell Springs

Luke C. Williams, McDonough, GA

Timothy Harris Kullman, Baton Rouge

Blair Christionne Willis, Opelousas

BACHELOR OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Chukwuebuka Akabuez, Stonewall

Jayla J. Larvadain, Belle Rose

Kyndal I. Ayro, Spring, TX

*Jebria Martinique Lee, Baton Rouge

Taj Kenaz Bates, Christiansted, VI

*Ladetra G. Lee, Baton Rouge

Antony A. Brown, Baton Rouge

Shaquandria Litmon, South Miami, FL

Lakyra Shaneice Burks, Shreveport

Chaun Lei Moore, Zachary

Jai Malik Butler, Plaquemine

Wayne J. Narcisse, Geismar

*Diamonetta Clark, Baton Rouge

Chamma Nelson, Gretna

*Madison Annabelle Clark, Kimberly, ID

Jayda Nicole Propes, Midlothian, TX

*Tia Nicole Coates, Baton Rouge

Genesis Love Prosper, New Orleans

A'Lacha Reyonna Combs-Cosey,

Carmalita Danielle Pullett, Baton Rouge

Bossier City

Aqila Raqeeb, Baton Rouge

Makayla C. Crutchfield, Shreveport

Rhonda L. Robertson, Milwaukee, WI

Allyson D. Dickerson, Vacherie

Rajanee Smith, New Orleans

Blessing Monique Ferrell, Fort Worth, TX

*Richard L. Square, Port Allen

David Frank Jr., New Orleans

*Rayleigh Gabrielle Stills, Shreveport

Jewell A. Gibson, Slidell

Michelle Antionette Taylor, Denham Springs

*Efia Precious Hullinger, Riverton, UT

Victor Lemar Thomas, Shreveport

Adrian Jackson, Baton Rouge

Winona Ann Thomas, Opelousas

Tasia Marae Jackson, Sunset

Theodore M. Thyssen, Baton Rouge

Raymond W. Johnson, Greenwell Springs

Sonja Robinson Victorain, Baton Rouge

Vernell Jones, Baton Rouge

Lori R. Warren, Baton Rouge

Dominic Joseph, Newport, DE

*Kelcey Laron White Jr., Ellenwood, GA

*Damien D. Knighten, Baker

*Erica Williams, Baton Rouge

Greyson L. Lafleur, Baton Rouge



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Isaiah A. Alvarado, Houston, TX
Bryana J. McIntosh, New Orleans

Kenneth D. Murry, Dallas, TX
Nickerra Taneise Sam, Pearland, TX

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Kara Fayth Billington, Dallas, TX
Elissac Johnmell Larson, Baton Rouge
Jaylin A. Marks, Baton Rouge

Daylon McClendon, Midlothian, TX
Kairah Trishele Williams, Pineville

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

Sandra Brown, Ph.D., *Dean*
Pilar J. Morris, *Student Marshal*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Rehabilitation Services

Synaea E. Ferbos, New Orleans
Bethany Lightfoot, Franklin
JonNá Commeal McDonald, Mesquite, TX
Taylor A. Randall, Baton Rouge

Lynjada De'Wanda Sears, Baton Rouge
Kelvin D. Tillotson, Gonzales
Kiana Alexis Wilson, Jacksonville, FL

Therapeutic Recreation & Leisure Studies

Peyton Cole Baker, Mooringsport
**Kavon Barnhill, Shreveport
Ashanti A. Bratten, Bossier City
Kourtney J. Cole, Chicago, IL
Imari Jnaye Colston, Lake Charles
Sharaymond D. Dangerfield, Baton Rouge
*Chelsea Noelle Friendship, Saint Gabriel
Léshanda LÉNika Frye, Harvey
Essence A. Lewis, Baton Rouge
Dajuan L. Mattox, Memphis, TN
Lauren C. Montgomery, Hammond

Niala Michelle Moore, Pine Bluff, AR
Pilar J. Morris, Crowley
Lauren Nichole Peoples, New Orleans
Trinity Alyce Seay, Monroe
Jaedyn Jaquin Singleton, Lafayette
Iyanah S. Taylor, Nacogdoches, TX
Rogerick Jarod Thompson, Madison, MS
Madison Liela Ward, Tampa, FL
*Giah Ware, Shreveport
Thomas E. Watson, Baton Rouge, LA

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Shaniya S. Allen, Coushatta
Jánya Lashay Arvie, Opelousas
Kennedy Imani Bates, Harvey
Ashlynn J. Batiste, Opelousas
Elissa F. Batiste, Oxford, GA
Chania Saron Bishop, Anaheim, CA
Zacqkia S. Boughton, Baton Rouge
Jamese Brown, Baton Rouge
Keneisha L. Brown, Baton Rouge
Jarvis Cox, Compton, CA

Allayah Trenaé Curtis, Baton Rouge
Danaijah L. Davis, New Roads
DyAnna Imari Farmer, Baton Rouge
Chassidy Franklin, Baton Rouge
Wynter L. Gary, Vancouver, WA
Jailah R. Hardnett, Zachary
Chyanne R. Harris, Victorville, CA
Jaidah E. Jackson, Gonzales
Ariuna N. Johnson, Coushatta
Devin Michael Jones, New Orleans



Paige J. Joseph, Donaldsonville
Makayla Demiah Lampkin, Shreveport
Armani L'Ynn Lumar, Edgard
Victoria L. Malvo, Lafayette
Aaliyah Jakyri Martin, Crowley
Diamond D. Martin, Bogalusa
Kendall D. Melvin, Baton Rouge
Tiffany Miller, South Euclid, OH
Areona C. Mitchell, Montgomery, AL
K'Mia Arielle Payne, Denham Springs
Diamond L. Robertson, Jeanerette

Kayce Stacy Marie Roché, New Orleans
James Rodgers, Zachary
Akyria S. Shoemaker, Clinton
Kayla S. Simmons, Slidell
Darchelle Danaye Smith, Belle Chasse
Jennifer Anaya Smith, Scott
Lynsay Nicole Taylor, Abbeville
Katelynn Sharyiah Tugwell, Bernice
Arielle S. Watson, Plaquemine
Trinity Gabrielle Yelder, Baton Rouge

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Krysten A. Auguste, Chicago, IL
Tiffany Boothe, Washington, DC
Chloe' N. Boxley, Baker
Lyndsey Yvonne Clay, Houston, TX
Sakiyah Briona Coats, Bessemer, AL
Lagerrica Dangerfield, Amite
Shiya D. Jackson, Baton Rouge
Sierra P. Jenkins, Tucson, AZ

Deayra Kitt, New Orleans
Jailen Kennedy Robertson, Washington, DC
Journi A. Smith, Lafayette
Jordan Wheeler, Baton Rouge
Mikaya-Sanae L. Whitaker, Los Angeles, CA
Leaiah Williams, Gardena, CA
Kai Helaina Wince, Memphis, TN

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Lealon Martin, Ph.D., *Dean*
Calli Schell, *Chief Student Marshal*
Lauryn A. Shavers, *Student Marshal*

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Biology

Haley Brenae Allen, Lewisville, TX
SháKyria Janya Allen, Byram, MS
Ebony K. Baker, Franklinton
Tashina Beyioku-Alase, Ramsey, MN
Khalaija Leani Day, Richmond, CA
Soteria N. Gibbs, Arlington, TX
Zarya N. Grant, Millington, TN
Michael K. Haney, Gloster, MS
Victoria A. Hart, Hammond
Aniyah Jena Hawkins, Richardson, TX
Lauren Chanel Henry, Bronx, NY
Tori D. Lastrape, Breaux Bridge
Gala Juliette Marcus, Albany, GA
Brooklyn G. McKinney, Cedar Hill, TX
Gavin B. McLemore, Shreveport
Kezia M. McClain, Haughton

Kristen Laivon Montgomery, Hammond
Jamicah D. Reed, Alexandria
Raymond A. Rideaux, Spring, TX
Calli Schell, Kirkland, IL
Lauryn A. Shavers, Denham Springs
Myisha E. Spikes, Baton Rouge
Trinity T. Sylvester-Mahone, Vancouver, WA
Jerrell Quintin Taylor, Atlanta, GA
Braylon Dominic Valentine, Baton Rouge
Mariah Arianna Ward, Lansing, IL
Leslie Warren, New Orleans
Cierra Dominique Reshma Williams,
Baytown, TX
Samia O. Womack, New Orleans
Brayli Wright, Geismar



Chemistry

Marné Shanel Pierre, LaPlace

Karrington N. Williams, Memphis, TN

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Khloe Deonne Beal, Atlanta, GA

Kayla N. Bobo, Carville

Jaylon C. Bridgewater, Baton Rouge

Andrew Cole Davison, Baton Rouge

Darrin D. Gardiner, Opelousas

Dustin Langston Graves, Geismar

Myles Trent Gray, Baton Rouge

Matthew H. Green, Lafayette

Tynia Dénae Hamilton, Gloster

Jessica M. Jenkins-Gayles, Baton Rouge

Kailea A. Lee, New Roads

Morgan Clarice McQueen, Allen, TX

Donrell Mckenzie Jr., Prairieville

Gavin Miniex, Opelousas

Jahaven Moore, Monroe

Fard E. Muhammad, Buford, GA

Jamicah D. Reed, Alexandria

Chandler W. Small, Shreveport

Nyles E. Ware, Mansfield, TX

Jason R. Williams, Baton Rouge

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Bria D. Bean, Zachary

Brenden Evans, Los Angeles, CA

Joseph B. Prejean, New Iberia

Alex M. Spencer, Cypress, TX

Brayden Veal, Brusly

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Terrell Nde-Tita Kimbeng, Baton Rouge

Dylan Michael Norwood, Baton Rouge

Michael C. Williams, Meraux

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Taj Patrick Anthony, Baton Rouge

Carter Byrd, LaPlace

Trinity T. Cannon, Byram, MS

Kendell T. Carr, Baton Rouge

Bryce E. Drexler, Baton Rouge

Ashton J. Hull, Zachary

Deandre B. James, Carencro

Destiny Malbrough, Church Point

Kylen J. Mingo, Gonzales

Trent Michael Newton, Lafayette

Kenneth D. Oneal, Baton Rouge

Jonathan E. Porter, LaPlace

Daylon Todd Richard, Baldwin

Michael Anthony Ruffin, Denham Springs

Carljuan Markez Snowden, Baker

**Caleb Jayden Wilson, New Orleans



NELSON MANDELA COLLEGE OF GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Damien Ejigiri, Ph.D., *Dean*
Derriona L. Glodd, *Student Marshal*

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Political Science

Soija Mo'Ney Cameron, Racine, WI	Christina P. Holmes, Memphis, TN
Kayla Raeshel Carter, Baton Rouge	Taniya Delise Irving, DeSoto, TX
Kassidy J. Collins, Corona, CA	Sahnya Marie Lathon, Gonzales
Alexandria G. Dread, Cantonment, FL	Janiyah Danyelle McCarddle, Houston, TX
Kennedy L. Griffin, Zachary	Niara Mims, Alameda, CA
*Kamren Jane'e Herring, Mason, OH	Keira Candace Miracle-Tilford, Riverside, CA
Simeon T. Hill, Jacksonville, FL	Kylon K. Woodson, Baton Rouge

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Psychology

Xaiya Adams, Napoleonville	Keldrick T. Lacour, Baton Rouge
Kobe D. Amos, Covington	Kry'Stell L. Lewis, Baton Rouge
Therman T. Black, Lake Charles	Bryona L. Lyons, Bastrop
Sade M. Breaux, Baton Rouge	Kendra Martin, Harvey
Erin A. Brown, Byram, MS	Brianna L. Medearis, Denham Springs
Lailah Marie Brown, Lithonia, GA	Dannielle Miller, Addis
Breana Sheralyn Collins, Baton Rouge	Kamrynn Carolyn Marie Miller, Destrehan
*Amerial L. Compton, Baton Rouge	Brandon T. Moore, Baton Rouge
*Kaylan Dajuan Dale, New Orleans	Chase M. Morman, Beaver Creek, OH
Gloria M. Davis, Baton Rouge	*Laronda C. Mosley, Kenner
*Kiaya Monet Florence, Los Angeles, CA	Zariyah J. Parker, West Monroe
Airionne Xaviere Garner, Hammond	Jada S. Piernas, Prattville, AL
Destiny Emily Goodly, Lake Charles	André Anna Pierson, Baton Rouge
YáJaia Marie Moné Reshea Goudeau, Palmetto	Zion M. Powell, McDonough, GA
Uzuri Graves, Phoenix, AZ	Jaden Reed, Addis
Felicia Lynn Gray, Prairieville	Kenya Gabrielle Ridley, Houston, TX
*Taylor R. Green, Baton Rouge	Alexis Smith, Natchez, MS
Bruce A. Greene, Plaquemine	Sharleah Irene Stanley, Missouri City, TX
*Asia Benae Harris, Richmond, VA	Kaneshia D. Stewart, Baton Rouge
JáKeris A. Harris-Minor, Raleigh, MS	Imani Amira Stubbs, Indianapolis, IN
Triniti A. Hawkins, Arlington, TX	D'Arshe Anise Tabor, Tracy, CA
Ashia M. Henry, LaPlace	Myca Trail, Pearl River
Chancell Ontario Hymes, Port Sulphur	Janautyica Travis, Baton Rouge
Tamala Meco Jackson, Baton Rouge	Madisyn Lyndsey Verge, Ontario, CA
Kourtney Yvonne January, Zachary	Janiya Renee Vidito, Opelousas
*Olivia Jenkins, New York, NY	*Ayanna N. Washington, Shreveport
Torie Joseph, LaPlace	*Derick Dewayne Washington, Spring, TX
William Henry Kearney Jr., Richmond, VA	Avony D. Williams, Baton Rouge



Sociology

Saria E. Allen, Houston, TX	Damariee Jones, Birmingham, AL
Tashina Beyioku-Alase, Ramsey, MN	Cameron Plummer, Missouri City, TX
Andria Brown, New Orleans	Etem Ulasan, Metairie
Crystal Jean Culberath, Baton Rouge	Demetrios C. Walker, Raymore, MO
Puoch Doboul, Minneapolis, MN	Courtney R. Winchester, Geismar
D'Shantae T'Airra Edwards, York, PA	Kaitlyn G. Young, Iowa Colony, TX
Devan Hopkins, Greensburg	

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Adekunle Zechariah Ajayi, Somerville, TN	*Calvin M. Hudson, Baker
Destiny Faith Andrus, Opelousas	Erykah K. Joseph, Boutte
Lydia Anthoni Baines-Gatewood, Dickinson, TX	Antonio Jermaine LeDuff, Baton Rouge
Amari Barbarin, New Orleans	Jada Michelle Rene Leary, Baton Rouge
Mya A. Bateman, Fort Worth, TX	Jada Denise Lewis, Marion, AR
DéAndre J. Boutte, Fresno, TX	Tamia Monet Olivia Lewis, Saint Rose
*Anthony P. Bradford, Zachary	Tyree Link, Plaquemine
Kodie D. Brown, Baton Rouge	Jelisa Pauline McNeary, Blytheville, AR
*Kaily R. Breaux, Jennings	Shuntinna Montgomery, Marion
Jamee Adajah Cameron, McComb, MS	Sean-Charles Ned, Maurice
Kevia Sharan Campbell, Baton Rouge	Jae'Maylous Immanuel Prince, Lancaster, TX
Alaijah E. Carr, Baton Rouge	Larrissa Randolph, Baton Rouge
Ruby Ann Ceasar, Orange, TX	Trinity Riley, Vidalia
Anaiyah Kadayshi Chandler, McComb, MS	Cameron Robinson, Hutchins, TX
Arieona LáShae Chenier, Opelousas	Samajh P. Robinson, New Orleans
Kevin Joseph Deloch, Addis	Brishae Sharee Myrakle Scott, Akron, OH
Shannia J. Derouen, Baton Rouge	Jayla Victoria Strong, Fontana, CA
Lakeisha Ealy, Baton Rouge	Amber M. Swayzer, Natchitoches
Sade Symone Chanel Earle, Larchmont, NY	Mikyla S. Thomas, Baton Rouge
Tionna N. Ellis, Vidalia	Terren Renee Thomas, Palmdale, CA
Alaina C. English, Woodbury, MN	Faith A. Trackling, Baton Rouge
Amber R. Fleming, Plattenville	Tayana MáKaylia Washington, Wetumpka, AL
*Dwondra Chere' Gloster, Baton Rouge	Chakyrh Trinique Whitley, Gretna
Connor J. Goodly, New Orleans	Mya Reñee Wilson, Marksville
Kamryn S. Griffin, Baton Rouge	Byron Wanya Wyatt, Alexandria
Xyllize Jakia Harrison, Prairieville	Aleasia Janae Young, Baton Rouge
Akhi Hines, Auburn, GA	
Kaleb J. Holmes, New Orleans	

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Johnaya P. Brown, Tangipahoa	N'Kaya Ariel Maltie, Alexandria
Derriona L. Glodd, Lake Charles	Lakeena R. Robinson, Bastrop
Hayleigh N. Henderson, Lake Charles	Nadia Symone Thomas, Frisco, TX
KéAnni Lá'Shay Hilliard, Patterson	Russia Mykell Whittington, New Orleans
Meghan M. Joshua, Prairieville	

(*) Commencement Participation Only

(**) Posthumous Degree



DOLORES MARGARET RICHARD SPIKES
HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES

Completing their Matriculation with Full Honors
Deadra James Mackie, Ph.D., *Interim Dean, Honors College*
and *Assistant Professor of Biology, College of Sciences and Engineering*

Taj Anthony

Degree: *B.S. in Mechanical Engineering*

Thesis Title: *The Design of a Solar-Powered
Wide-Brim Cooling Hat*

Thesis Advisor: Brian Warren, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Mechanical
Engineering
Department of Mechanical
Engineering
College of Sciences and
Engineering

Lauren Dukes

Degree: *B.S. in Mechanical Engineering*

Thesis Title: *Design of a System to Reduce Lost
Luggage for Airline Travelers*

Thesis Advisor: Samuel Ibekwe, Ph.D.
Professor of Mechanical
Engineering
Department of Mechanical
Engineering
College of Sciences and
Engineering

Khloe Beal

Degree: *B.S. in Computer Science*

Thesis Title: *The Impact of Artificial Intelligence
on Automating Entry-Level Roles and
Changing Job Requirements in the U.S.
Tech Industry: A Review of Literature*

Thesis Advisor: Davoud Arasteh, Ph.D.
Professor of Computer Science
Department of Computer Science
College of Science and Engineering

Faith Ellison

Degree: *B.S. in Child and Family Studies*

Thesis Title: *Impacts of Parental Incarceration on
the Social, Emotional, and Behavioral
Development of Young Children*

Thesis Advisor: Kenyetta Nelson-Smith, Ph.D.
Professor of Human Science
Department of Human Science
College of Agriculture, Human and
Environmental Sciences

LaGerrica Dangerfield

Degree: *B.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology*

Thesis Title: *Prenatal Medication Exposure
Associated with an Increased Risk of
Speech Disorders: A Review of Literature*

Thesis Advisor: Mariajosé Bosanko, Ph.D.
García, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Department of Allied Health
College of Nursing and Allied
Health

Bruce Greene, Jr.

Degree: *B.S. in Psychology*

Thesis Title: *The Effect of Self-Esteem, Anxiety,
and the Need to Belong on Domestic
Violence Rates among African American
College Students*

Thesis Advisor: Reginald Rackley, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
Department of Psychology
Nelson Mandela College of
Government and Social Sciences

Derriona L. Glodd

Degree: *B.S. in Social Work*

Thesis Title: *A Literature Review of the Disproportionate Impact of Firearm-Related Deaths in Black*

Communities: *A Social Justice Perspective*

Thesis Advisor: Xavier Henson, M.S.
Department Chair of Social Work
Assistant Professor of Social Work
Department of Social Work
Nelson Mandela College of
Government and Social Sciences

Chloe Haynes

Degree: *B. S. in Business Management*

Thesis Title: *Investing in Us: Circulating the Black Dollar and the Socioeconomic Impact of Building and Supporting Black-Owned Businesses*

Thesis Advisor: Lauri Patterson, MBA
Assistant Professor of Management
and Marketing
Department of Management and
Marketing
College of Business

Tynia D. Hamilton

Degree: *B.S. in Computer Science*

Thesis Title: *Evaluating Machine Learning and Deep Learning Feature Extraction Methods for Facial Biometrics Recognition*

Thesis Advisor: Nigel Gwee, Ph.D.
Professor of Computer Science
Department of Computer Science
College of Sciences and
Engineering

Chasity Joseph

Degree: *B.S. in Agricultural Science*

Thesis Title: *Building a Framework for Student Experiential Learning: Socio-Ecological Systems at Southern University*

Thesis Advisor 1: Kristie Perry, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of
Sociology
Thesis Advisor 2: Christopher Chappell, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department
of Urban Forestry
Nelson Mandela College of
Government and Social Sciences

Ániyah Hawkins

Degree: *B.S. in Biology*

Thesis Title: *Regional Differences in Childhood Obesity Among U.S. Children Ages 0–18: A Literature Review*

Thesis Advisor: Tanganika Johnson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
Department of Biology and
Chemistry
College of Sciences and
Engineering

Gabrielle Kelly

Degree: *B. S. in Business Management*

Thesis Title: *The Digital Shift: How E-Commerce and Covid-19 Reshaped the Retail Industry: A Review of Literature*

Thesis Advisor: Lauri Patterson, MBA
Assistant Professor of Management
and Marketing
Department of Management and
Marketing
College of Business

Cheldon Lampkin

Degree: *B.S. in Accounting*

Thesis Title: *The Limitations of Current Accounting Standards in Recognizing Intangible Assets and the Implications for Firm Valuation and Investor Decision-Making in the U.S. Capital Markets: A Review of Literature*

Thesis Advisor: Lauri Patterson, MBA
Assistant Professor of Management and Marketing
Department of Management and Marketing
College of Business

Keira Miracle-Tilford

Degree: *B.S. in Political Science*

Thesis Title: *Housing Instability and Academic Success: Examining Retention and Graduation Outcomes at Southern University and A&M College*

Thesis Advisor: Chenetra Hall, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science and Geography
Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences

Kristen L. Montgomery

Degree: *B.S. in Biology*

Thesis Title: *How Neurotransmitter Imbalances Contribute to Depression and Anxiety: A Review of Literature*

Thesis Advisor: Deadra James Mackie, Ph.D.
Interim Dean Dolores Margret Richard Spikes Honors College and Assistant Professor of Biology
Department of Biology and Chemistry
College of Science and Engineering

Jahaven Moore

Degree: *B.S. in Computer Science*

Thesis Title: *Talent Gone Rogue: Understanding Why Technically Skilled Youth Choose Cybercrime over Cybersecurity: A Review of Literature*

Thesis Advisor: Krutthika Hirebasur
Krishnappa, Ph. D.
Associate Professor of Computer Science
Department of Computer Science
College of Science and Engineering

Dylan Norwood

Degree: *B. S. in Electrical Engineering*

Thesis Title: *Analysis of Electrical Vehicle Adoption and effects of GDP and Battery Technology in selected Countries: A Review of Literature*

Thesis Advisor: Fred Lacy, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering
Department of Electrical Engineering
College of Science and Engineering

Marne Pierre

Degree: *B. S. in Chemistry*

Thesis Title: *Synthesis of Plasmatic Metal Nanoparticles by Chemical Reduction Method*

Thesis Advisor: Weihua Wang, Ph. D.
Associate Professor of Chemistry
Department of Chemistry
College of Sciences and Engineering

JaéMaylous Prince

Degree: *B. S. in Criminal Justice*

Thesis Title: *Lived Experiences of Sexual Victimization Among On-Campus Students: A Qualitative Case-Based Analysis of Five Narratives*

Thesis Advisor: Geraldine Doucet, Ph.D.
Professor of Criminal Justice
Department of Criminal Justice
Nelson Mandela College of Government And Social Sciences



JáMicah Reed

**Double Degree: B. S. in Computer Science and
B. S. in Biology**

Thesis Title: Investigating the Synthesis

**By Electrolysis: A Machine Learning
Approach**

Thesis Advisor: Anthony Stewart, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Physics
Department of Physics
College of Sciences and Engineering

Nolan D. Sheppard

Degree: B. S. in Business Management

**Thesis Title: A Review of Literature: The Growing
Role of Artificial Intelligence in Business Innovation**

Thesis Advisor: Lauri Patterson, MBA
Assistant Professor of Management
and Marketing
Department of Management and
Marketing
College of Business

Zion Robinson

**Degree: B. S. in Family and Consumer
Sciences, Child Development**

**Thesis Title: The Color of a Cry for Help: The
Inequity and Misdiagnosis of Disruptive
Disorders in African American Youth: A
Literature Review**

Thesis Advisor: Brandi Gunn, M.S.
Associate Professor of Child
Development
Department of Family and Consumer
Sciences
College of Agriculture, Human
and Environmental Sciences

Leslie L. Warren

Degree: B. S. in Biology

**Thesis Title: Beyond the Smile: Assessing Oral
Health and Neurodegenerative Disease-
A Literature Review**

Thesis Advisor: Mary K. Beals, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
Department of Biology and Chemistry
College of Sciences and Engineering

Lauryn A. Shavers

Degree: B. S. in Biology

**Thesis Title: Testosterone Hormonal Influence on
Aggressive Behavior in Zebrafish**

Thesis Advisor: Mark K. Beals, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
Department of Biology and Chemistry
College of Sciences and Engineering

Calli Schell

Degree: B. S. in Biology

**Thesis Title: Combating Tamoxifen Resistance in
3-D Cultured Breast Cancer Cells**

Thesis Advisor: Eduardo Martinez, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
Department of Biology and Chemistry
College of Sciences and Engineering



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSION

SPRING 2026

United States Army

Second Lieutenant
Timothy Terrell Emerson
Louisiana Army National Guard
Chemical Officer
Chemical Platoon Leader
769th Engineer Battalion

Second Lieutenant
Ladarius Deonte Daniels
Louisiana Army National Guard
Engineer Officer
Engineer Platoon Leader
927th Engineer Battalion

United States Navy

Ensign Alexandria Dread
United States Navy
Surface Warfare Officer
Duty Station: USS New York (LPD-21)
Norfolk, VA



HONOR GRADUATES SPRING 2026

Summa Cum Laude

Cumulative Grade-point Average of 3.90 – 4.00

Faith Amber Ellison
Zion A Robinson
Calli Schell
Lauryn A. Shavers

Magna Cum Laude

Cumulative Grade-point Average of 3.70 – 3.89

Saria E. Allen	Gabrielle G. Kelley
Janiya W. Bailey	Cheldon M. Lampkin
Destiny A. Baskett	Tamia Monet Olivia Lewis
Mya A. Bateman	Jahaven Moore
Khloe Deonne Beal	Marne' Shanel Pierre
Soija MÓNey Cameron	Mya Simone Robinson
Kevin Josphe Deloch	Rodney Lamar Shepherd
Morgyn Edwards	Demarion Sowell
Jadan S. Fobb	Kharis Z. Taylor
Derriona L. Glodd	Myca Trail
Chloe E. Haynes	Amaya Renee Walker

Cum Laude

Cumulative Grade-point Average of 3.40 -3.69

Adekunle Zechariah Ajayi	Symira S. Horton-Conecin
SháKyria Jamya Allen	Kourtney Yvonne January
Lydia Anthoni Baines-Gatewood	Arynn Elizabeth Jenkins
**Kavon Barnhill	Chasity Mariana Joseph
Brianna Lasha Battley	Torie Joseph
Tashina Beyioku-Alase	Meghan M. Joshua
Therman T. Black	D'Nai A. King
Sade M. Breaux	Timothy Harris Kullman
Erin A. Brown	Kailea A. Lee
Jace J. Brown	Destiny Malbrough
Alaijah E. Carr	Gavin B. McLemore
Kourtney J. Cole	Jelisa Pauline McNeary
Destinae M. Davis	Keira Candace Miracle-Tilford
Myles Nicholas Eskridge	Kristen Laivon Montgomery
Amber R. Fleming	Pilar J. Morris
Kiaya Monet Florence	Kynedi Mckenzi Nichols
Kamryn S. Griffin	Dylan Micheal Norwood
Christin E. Hall	Chakirrious Parker
Tynia Dénae Hamilton	Zion M. Powell
Diamond Abrea Harris	Jamicah D. Reed
Jikaya J. Hart	Nyla M. Reiss
KéAnni LáShay Hilliard	Barret L. Rey



Kenya Gabrielle Ridley
Corey L. Robinson
Iyanah S. Taylor
JaKayla Tomlinson
Jurnei S. Turner

Amare M. Walker
Mikaya-Sanae L. Whitaker
Chakyrach Trinique Whitley
Kairah Trishele Williams

Honorable Mention

Cumulative Grade-point Average of 3.00 -3.39

Aaliyah J. Addison
Shaniya S. Allen
Jánya Lashay Arvie
Krysten A. Auguste
Ebony K. Baker
Elissa F. Batiste
Chania Saron Bishop
Zacqkia S. Boughton
Jaxon L. Brewer
Carter Byrd
Kendell T. Carr
Kayla Raeshel Carter
Tristen I. Collins
Lagerrica Dangerfield
Danaijah L. Davis
Timothy Terrell Emerson
Mia English
Brenden Evans
DyAnna Imari Farmer
Hannah C. Frank
Wynter L. Gary
Soteria N. Gibbs
Kayla Rayvionne Granville
Dustin Langston Graves
Charles Green III
Bruce A. Greene
Ari M. Harris
Chyanne R. Harris
JáKeris A. Harris-Minor
Triniti A. Hawkins
Hayleigh N. Henderson
Lauren Chanel Henry

Alexia D. Herrin
Amaria D. Hubbard
Ashton J. Hull
Ariuna N. Johnson
Floyd A. Knox
Greyson L. Lafleur
Makayla Demiah Lampkin
Elissac Johnmell Larson
Tori D. Lastrape
Antonio Jermaine LeDuff
Essence A. Lewis
Armani LYnn Lumar
Victoria L. Malvo
Kezia M. McClain
Kendall D. Melvin
Jalen Tremon Nero-Buckles
Chasity C. Preston
Samajh P. Robinson
Kayce Stacy Marie Roché
Nolan Drew Sheppard
Alexis Smith
Imani Amira Stubbs
Lynsay Nicole Taylor
Katelynn Sharyiah Tugwell
Zaire Zhane Wade
Tykwon Wade
Leslie Warren
Jordan Wheeler
Kiana Alexis Wilson
Brayli Wright
Trinity Gabrielle Yelder
Aleasia Janae Young





Commencement Speaker
Paula A. Shepherd
Senior Vice President and COO
Banner Plans and Networks

Paula A. Shepherd is the senior vice president and chief operating officer of Banner Plans and Networks, which serves more than one million people across six states. A 25-year veteran of health care coverage leadership, Shepherd is charged with advancing Banner Plans and Networks’ mission to transform health care delivery by aligning insurance with coordinated care.

A native of Napoleonville, Louisiana, Shepherd most recently served as executive vice president of health plan operations and technology for Blue Cross Blue Shield, a health insurance company serving 1.9 million people in Louisiana. At Blue Cross, she headed the largest division within the company, which included customer service operations, enrollment and billing, claims operations, core system configurations, and other duties that directly impacted customers and corporate operations. She also promoted diversity and social justice, most notably in her partnership with 100 Black Men in the “Get the Facts, Get the Vax Campaign.” She was also head of the African-American Employee Group at Blue Cross.

Shepherd earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Southern University and A&M College, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix, and a juris doctor degree from the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge.

A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Shepherd’s community service extends to serving on the governing boards of the Capital Area United Way in Baton Rouge and the Louisiana Center for Children’s Rights in New Orleans.

Possessing a wealth of ministerial and leadership experience, Shepherd is the co-founder of Philadelphia Christian Ministries in Baton Rouge with her husband, Apostle C. L. Shepherd. They have two children, Curtis Jr. and Tylour.

Shepherd also lovingly embraces her role as a grandmother, or more preferably to her, “Nana.”

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

By Francis Scott Key, 1814

Arrangement by Thomas Dawson

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



“LIFT EV’RY VOICE AND SING”
By James Weldon Johnson, 1899
Arrangement by John Rosamond Johnson

Lift ev’ry voice and sing

‘Til earth and heaven ring

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty

Let our rejoicing rise

High as the list’ning skies

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun

Let us march on ‘til victory is won.



ALMA MATER

Original Words And Music By R.E. Brown, Jr.

Dear Southern

O Southern, Dear Southern, Thy praises we shall sing

Until all the heavens and echoes loudly ring.

The winds of the sky as they pass us by

Will adoration bring.

O Southern, Dear Southern, we owe our all to Thee

In downfall or victory, we'll always loyal be.

Thy Sons and Daughters as they work

Will be inspired by Thee.

O Southern, Dear Southern, Thy name will ever be

As mighty as the river that flows on to the sea.

As pure and true as the Gold and Blue

That stand out bold for Thee.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI FEDERATION PLEDGE

I _____, an alumnus of Southern University, do hereby pledge allegiance to the Southern University Alumni Federation, and the great honored institution which it represents. I promise to remain loyal, faithful, and steadfast in my support of its programs, uplift of its principles, maintenance of its tradition, and defense of its honor.

I further promise to always stand ready to contribute my time, efforts, financial assistance, and services toward the advancement of the welfare of the Southern University Alumni Federation and my beloved Alma Mater, so help me God.

A closing message

As we congratulate our distinguished graduates and honor their accomplishments, we acknowledge the tremendous support from parents, guardians, family members, and friends. Thank you for your dedication and commitment throughout their journey to receive a first-class education at Southern University. We appreciate your encouragement and inspiration.

Best wishes,
John K. Pierre
Chancellor, Southern University and A&M College

2026 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

Committee Members

Welton Bowie
Marcus Brown
Cynthia Bryant
April Buffington
Barbara Carpenter
Eric Cantrelle
De'Andre L. Dearinge
Darrin Dixon
Cameron Fontenot
Devin Hadrick
Courtland Jackson
Beatrice A. Johnson
Joycelyn Johnson
Kevin Johnson
Deshawn Jones

Debra M. Lawson
Christopher Levy
Robyn M. Merrick
Tyquencia Parker
Eric T. Reid
Robert René
Donovan L. Segura
Janene Tate
Regina Thomas
Johlana Turner
Tisha Walker
Sonita Williams
Clourth Wilson
Luria Young



**SOUTHERN[®]
UNIVERSITY**
AND AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE

Southern University-Baron Rouge is a constituent of the Southern University System.
Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D. is the Interim President of the Southern University System.
Tony Clayton is the Chair of the Southern University Board of Supervisors, 2026.



subr.edu/sucommencement

Southern University and A&M College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. Contact SACSCOC at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, P (404) 679-4500.



