



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

Spring Commencement

GRADUATE CEREMONY

FELTON G. CLARK ACTIVITY CENTER
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

MAY 8, 2025
2 P.M.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA



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

SPRING GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

MAY 8, 2025



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>
Mental Health Counseling.....	<i>Light Blue</i>
Music	<i>Pink</i>
Nursing.....	<i>Apricot</i>
Public Policy & Urban Affairs.....	<i>White</i>
Rehabilitation Counseling.....	<i>Golden Yellow</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*

Dennis J. Shields, *President of the Southern University System and
Secretary to the Board of Supervisors*

Members of the Board

Honorable Paul Matthews, Congressional District 1
Honorable Chris Masengill, Congressional District 1
Honorable Edwin M. Shorty Jr., Congressional District 2
Honorable Maple L. Gaines, Congressional District 2
Honorable Quincy Cawthorne, Congressional District 3
Honorable Samuel C. Tolbert Jr., Congressional District 3
Honorable Zazell V. Dudley, Congressional District 4
Honorable Henry Whitehorn, Congressional District 4

Honorable Ann A. Smith, Congressional District 5
Honorable Myron K. Lawson, Congressional District 5
Honorable Rani G. Whitfield, Congressional District 6
Honorable Donald Ray Henry, At Large
Honorable Domoine D. Rutledge, At Large
Honorable Dana Marie Bailey, New Orleans
(*student representative*)

Marshals

University Marshal

Donovan L. Segura, Ph.D.

Chief Assistant University Marshal

Lauri Patterson, J.D.

Assistant University Marshals

Maya Riley Banks, Ph.D.
Jackie Bryant
Christopher Chappell, Ph.D.
Lanell Kent Craig, Ph.D.
Fareed Dawan, Ph.D.
James Durriseau, Ph.D.
Marlin Ford, Ph.D.

Yasser Ismail, Ph.D.
Carmen Ginn Johnese, Ph.D.
Maryam Jahan, Ph.D.
Melissa Johnson, Ph.D.
Emily Jackson-Osagie, Ph.D.
Kourtnei Luster, DNP
Lauri Patterson, J.D.

Penny Sterling
Anthony Stewart, Ph.D.
Annisa Leachman Taylor, DNP
Tracey Taylor-Jarrell, Ph.D.
Yaw Twumasi, Ph.D.
Brian Warren, Ph.D.
Charmaine Williams, Ph.D.

Chief Academic Officer

Luria Young, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Library

Dawn Ventress Kight, Ph.D.
Dean

*Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes
Honors College*

Deadra James Mackie
Interim Dean

*International and
Continuing Education*

Barbara W. Carpenter, Ph.D.
Dean

Officer of Ceremonies

Johlana Turner
Interim Registrar

Announcers

Robert René, Ph.D.
SU Board Relations Coordinator

Tisha Y. Walker, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Graduate Enrollment/Budget Operations



ORDER OF CEREMONY

Spring 2025

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>	The Reverend Thomas F. Clark, SJ <i>Pastor, Immaculate Conception Church</i> <i>Chaplain, MLK Catholic Student Center</i>
<i>Anthems</i>	<i>"The Star Spangled Banner"</i> Written by Francis Scott Key, performed by Deterrius Johnson, senior, Vocal Performance Major, accompanied by Professor Laurence Hebert <i>"Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing"</i> Written by James Weldon Johnson, arranged by Kirk Franklin, performed by the Southern University Gospel Choir
<i>Introduction of Speaker</i>	John K. Pierre
<i>Commencement Address</i>	Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D. <i>Commissioner of Higher Education</i> Louisiana Board of Regents
<i>Music Selection</i>	<i>"Fight On"</i> Written by Kevin Davidson Performed by the Southern University Gospel Choir
<i>Certification of Degree Candidates</i>	Luria Young, Ph.D.
<i>Conferring of Degrees</i>	John K. Pierre Albertha H. Lawson, Ph.D. <i>Interim Dean, Graduate School</i> Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D. <i>Chancellor/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, DNS
Dean, College of Nursing and Allied Health

Lealon Martin, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Sciences and Engineering

Damien Ejigiri, Ph.D.
*Dean, Nelson Mandela College of Government and
Social Sciences*

*Remarks &
Acknowledgements*

Dennis J. Shields
President, Southern University System

John K. Pierre

*Induction into
Alumni Federation*

Darrin Dixon
*Director, Southern University Alumni Affairs and
Executive Director, Southern University Alumni Federation*

The Alma Mater

"O Southern, Dear Southern"
By R. E. Brown Jr.,
Led by Deterrius Johnson, accompanied by Professor Laurence Hebert

Benediction

The Reverend Thomas F. Clark, SJ

Recessional

"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.*

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

Albertha H. Lawson, Ph.D., *Interim Dean*

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

SPRING 2025

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Brittany Brimmer, New Orleans

Capstone Title: *"Improving HIV Stigma Through Education"*

Capstone Advisor: Alicia Restivo, DNP,
APRN, FNP-BC

Darrell Davis, Addis

Capstone Title: *The Role of Prayer in Reducing Anxiety in Adults with Terminal Illness*

Capstone Advisor: Wanda Spurlock, DNS,
RN, GERO-BC, PMH-BC, CNE,
FNGNA, ANEF, FGSA, FAAN

Lisa M. Legeaux, New Orleans

Capstone Title: *"Improving mental health care access for school-aged children: A review of the impact of telehealth access on pediatric and adolescent hospital visits for mental health crisis intervention."*

Capstone Advisor: Wanda Spurlock, DNS,
RN, GERO-BC, PMH-BC, CNE,
FNGNA, ANEF, FGSA, FAAN

Montrell Martin-Duhe, New Roads

Capstone Title: *The Efficacy of Probiotic Therapy In Adults Compared to Mouthwash Rinses to Alleviate Symptoms of Chronic Halitosis*

Capstone Advisor: Annisa Taylor, DNP,
APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CNE

Y'Mine Michael McClanahan, New Orleans

Capstone Title: *"The Impact of Telehealth vs. In-Person Clinic Visits on Hemoglobin A1C Levels in Adults with Diabetes Mellitus."*

Capstone Advisor: Annisa Taylor, DNP,
APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CNE

Mary M. McCrary, Baker

Capstone Title: *Determining the Potential Benefits of Doula Support in Improving Mental Health for African American Mothers During the Critical Postpartum Year.*

Capstone Advisor: Kourtnei Atkins-Luster,
DNP, APRN, FNP-C

Rosaline Osu, Baton Rouge

Capstone Title: *Nurse Burnout and Physical Activity Within the Nursing Profession*

Capstone Advisor: Alicia Restivo, DNP,
APRN, FNP-BC

Ashley T. Pourciau, Jarreau

Capstone Title: *Smoking Cessation Interventions: Predicting Abstinence Rates*

Capstone Advisor: Annisa Taylor, DNP,
APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, CNE

Monica Smart Mills, Fairburn, GA

Capstone Title: *Joint Journeys: Waves and Ways to Wellness*

Capstone Advisor: Wanda Spurlock, DNS,
RN, GERO-BC, PMH-BC, CNE,
FNGNA, ANEF, FGSA, FAAN /
Alicia Restivo, DNP, APRN,
FNP-BC

Chatisy T. Thomas, Prairieville

Capstone Title: *In Adults with Type 2 diabetes mellitus, does implementing a structured patient education program focused on medication adherence compared to usual care improve hemoglobin A1c levels over a 3-month period?*

Capstone Advisor: Kourtnei Atkins-Luster,
DNP, APRN, FNP-C



Crystal Traylor, Baton Rouge

Capstone Title: *Enhancing Appointment*

*Attendance: The Role of Text and Email
Reminders in Primary Care.*

Capstone Advisor: Kourtni Atkins-Luster,
DNP, APRN, FNP-C

Jaime Lynn Williams, New Orleans

Capstone Title: *Mediterranean and Sodium-R
estricted Diets Affect Reducing Diastolic
Blood Pressure in African American
Adults with Hypertension.*

Capstone Advisor: Wanda Spurlock, DNS,
RN, GERO-BC, PMH-BC, CNE,
FNGNA, ANEF, FGSA, FAAN

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Public Policy

Terrell Calvin, LaPlace

Dissertation Title: *Exploring the intricate
dynamics between the evolution of artificial
intelligence and the federal regulatory
frameworks in the United States*

Major Professor: Onyumbe Lukongo, Ph.D.

Joel C. George, New Orleans

Dissertation Title: *An Investigation of College
Students' Support of Gun Rights,
Agreement with the Government's
Response to Gun Violence and Levels of
Gun Policy Knowledge: A Case Study*

Major Professor: Revathi Hines, Ph.D.

Alexandra Sierra Clark, Baker

Dissertation Title: *Investigating the Relationship
Between the Use of Restrictive Factors and
Police-Involved Deaths Among Blacks in
Louisiana*

Major Professor: Augustine Adu-Frimpong, Ph.D.

Rhondie L. Morris, Tallulah

Dissertation Title: *Investigating The Effects of
Business Cycles on Quality of Life in
Louisiana*

Major Professor: Onyumbe Lukongo, Ph.D.

Eleanor Collins, Baton Rouge

Dissertation Title: *A Comparative Analysis of
Pediatric End-of-Life Care access and cost
across the United States*

Major Professor: Vanessa Greenslade, Ph.D.

Pashion Norman, Baker

Dissertation Title: *Examining the Factors
Contributing to the Increased Rates of
Women Who Have Experienced Opioid
Overdose in Metropolitan Baton Rouge,
Louisiana*

Major Professor: Vanessa Greenslade, Ph.D.

Executive Public Policy

Ebony M. Baylor, Shreveport

Dissertation Title: *An Examination on the Impact
of Title X on Access to Reproductive
Healthcare Services in Louisiana*

Major Professor: Revathi Hines, Ph.D.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

Nursing

Alexis Percell Landry, Prairieville

Dissertation Title: *Sexually Transmitted Infections Knowledge, Self-Efficacy, and Risky Sexual Behavior in undergraduate students attending a Historically Black College and University.*

Major Professor: Wanda Spurlock, DNS, RN, GERO-BC, PMH-BC, CNE, FNGNA, ANEF, FGSA, FAAN

Shena M. Williams, Brusly

Dissertation Title: *Relationships Between Perceived Stress, Coping Styles, and Test Anxiety among Baccalaureate Nursing Students at a HBCU*

Major Professor: Wanda Spurlock, DNS, RN, GERO-BC, PMH-BC, CNE, FNGNA, ANEF, FGSA, FAAN

Science and Mathematics Education

Rochelle L. Darville, Gonzales

Dissertation Title: *Understanding Science teachers' culturally relevant teaching practices through a Virtual Reality Professional Development*

Major Professor: Nastassia Jones, Ph.D.

Urban Forestry

Jacob Annan, Baton Rouge

Dissertation Title: *Modeling Sea Level Rise in Louisiana Using Machine Learning Algorithms*

Major Professor: Yaw Twumasi, Ph.D.

Tyrus Georgetown, Maringouin

Dissertation Title: *Evaluation of Hemp Production at Southern University and Best Management Practices for Indoor and Outdoor Cultivation*

Major Professor: Janana Snowden, Ph.D.

MASTER OF ART

Educational Leadership

Kendrick Smith, Port Gibson, MS

MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Adina N. Oubre, Edgard

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Chelsea Lachelle Hammond, Baton Rouge

Maiya C. Harris, Baton Rouge

Marcus Walker, Lafayette

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Ayomide Oluwatobiloba Adesemowo,
Lagos, Nigeria

Calvin AdolphII, Baton Rouge

Brandi Anderson, Zachary

Olawale Babalola, Baton Rouge

Iyan Carter, Fresno, TX

Rufus Trey Davis, Memphis, TN

Kermit Johnson, IV, Zachary

Angela Butler Jones, Baton Rouge

Khalil J'juan Key, Bastrop



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

Vishahan Kumaran, Toronto, ON Canada
George A. Miller, Prairieville
Carlace Thomas, Plaquemine
Safari Thompson, Houston, TX

Marcayla Vincent, Baton Rouge
Tyrone Joseph Watkins Jr., New Orleans
Ashley S. Wells, Baker
Jared M. White, Baker

ONLINE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Tristyn E. Boss, Baton Rouge
Jasmine J. Butler, New Orleans
Jordan Everett-Alexander Carter,
Fort Washington, Maryland
Emelda L. Hawkins, Baton Rouge
Serena Herbert, Baton Rouge

Joel Jones, Shreveport
Tyrone Love, New Orleans
Corey Russell, Arcadia
Quiana B. Skidmore, Shreveport
Monick M. Williams, Walker

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Jamarik Allen, White Castle
Kenneth Allen, Baton Rouge
Alyric Icies Asberry, Donaldsonville
Anahya C. Bailey, Baton Rouge
Jamie L. Burden, Marietta, GA

Desiree Faulk, Central
Daranae Griffin, Greensburg
Bernita Harris, Monroe
Ashley Jackson, Baker
Dominique Taylor, Semmes, AL

EXECUTIVE MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Kailon S. Babineaux, Lafayette
Erica L. Ennis, Atlanta, GA
Jamarkus D. Garrett, Selma, AL
Chasity Jordan-Canty, Baton Rouge
Anissa J. Henry, Roswell, GA

Avery Ferdinand Jack Sr., Baton Rouge
Emanuel Lain, New Orleans
Jerry L. Parker, Baton Rouge
Erica Toussaint, Zachary

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Biology

Aisha Johnson, Nassau, Bahamas

Niya Lewis, Gretna

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Michelle Suzzette Rios-McLeod, Baker
Kendall Robertson, Baker

Ashley Robinson, Prairieville

Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling

Sunnie Anita Martin, Batesville, AR

Computer Science

Manoj Kumar Alahari, Nellore, India
Jagadeeswar Reddy Amaravaadi,
Hyderabad, India
Anusha Avula, Hyderabad, India

ManiDeep Bajjuri, Sathupalli, India
Jahnvi Balaji, Hyderabad, India
Kalpana Banalu, Hyderabad, India
Aravind Banuka, Hyderabad, India



Akhila Boga, Hyderabad, India
Sai Kaushik Rao Bongu, Hyderabad, India
Calvin Butler, Baton Rouge
Sirisha Nallaguttahalli Byrareddy,
Chinthamani, India
Vishak Chandrasekharan, Bangalore, India
Siva Venkata Raja Sekhar Chippala,
Miryalaguda, India
Akhil Reddy Emmadi, Jangaon, India
Supreeth Gajawada, Hyderabad, India
Shwitanreddy Guda, Hyderabad, India
Akhil Gurram, Jaggayyapeta, India
Saiteja Juttu, Hyderabad, India
Chaitanya V. Kalidindi, Hyderabad, India
Vineetha Kalyanapu, Khammam, India
Abhishek Karayala, Jhunjunu, India
Sai Chandu Karna, Hyderabad, India
Pravalika Katta, Nalgonda Telangana, India
MShiva Kumar, Hyderabad, India
Saketh Kumar Kuthuru, Hyderabad, India
Rahul Lankalapalli, Secunderabad, India
SaiKiran Madhavaram, Gurranguda, India
Vinitha Madireddy, Jammikunta, India
Soumya Meesala, Kamareddy, India
Varalakshmi Meruva,
Kadapa Andhra Pradesh, India
Awez Mohammad, Hyderabad, India
Yaseen Mohammed, Warangal, India
Shreeja Nareddy, Hyderabad, India
Sucharitha Narneni, Peddapalli, India
Sudhamaye Narravula Lakshmi Narasimha,
Hyderabad, India
Vani Nomula, Palakedu, India
SrinivasaSai Nunnabodi, Vijayawada, India

SaiChandra Palle, Hyderabad, India
Rehathi Satya Anantha Lakshmi Parvatha,
Sankhavaram, India
Venkatasaikrishna Rakki, Hyderabad, India
Shwetha S. Ramadas, Bangalore, India
Raghuveer Dabbikarr Ramlal,
Hyderabad, India
Shanthipriya Ravapudi, Hyderabad, India
Nichay Reddy, Hyderabad, India
Shanur Rehman, Pune City, India
Anuvardhan Rekula, Peddapalli, India
Raghavendra Vara Prasad Reddy Samreddy,
Hyderabad, India
Sardar Manpreet Singh, Hyderabad, India
Venkata Sai Sreeja Somarouthu,
Rangareddy, India
Balina Sravanthnagasunil,
Tadikalapudi, India
Nalli Suvarna, Hyderabad, India

Bilal Tan, Uskudar, Turkey
***Thesis: AI-Driven Demand Forecasting in
E-Commerce***
Thesis Advisor: Sudhir Trivedi, Ph.D.

Vikram Thipparthi, Nagarkumool, India
Amithchandra Thota, Karimnagar, India
Satish Reddy Thurpu, Shadnagar, India
Avinash Vujjini, Baton Rouge
Radha Manohar Yeluri,
Ramachandrapuram, India
Kalyani Yenugupalli,
Rajamahendravaram, India

Criminal Justice

Warren Gibson, Baton Rouge
Kenisha Morrison, Denham Springs

Madison Ramsey, Baton Rouge
Tykebra Weams, Baton Rouge

Executive Master in Criminal Justice

Traneishia S. Alexander, Ponchatoula
Shanta R. Barnes, Baton Rouge
Jared Holcomb, Franklinton
Britainy Holmes, New Orleans

Shalen Moore, Baton Rouge
Victoria Parker, Memphis, TN
Dakiyah Sanders, Bessemer, AL
Joshua L. Smith, New Orleans



Engineering

Enoch K. Ameyaw, Accra, Ghana

Thesis: Reconfiguration Of DLP 3D Printers to Print in the Critical Dimension Using Waveguides

Thesis Advisor: Fareed Dawan, Ph.D.

John F. Gilmore, St. Francisville

Thesis: Electrolyte Innovations in Fuel Cells: A Pathway to Sustainable Energy Solutions

Thesis Advisor: Fareed Dawan, Ph.D.

Bernard Mahoney, Accra, Ghana

Thesis: Experimental Optimization of the Self-Healing Parameters of a Thermoset Based Vitrimers

Thesis Advisor: Patrick F. Mensah, Ph.D.

Cynthia Ndulaka, Baton Rouge

Abubakar Sumaila, Accra, Ghana
Thesis: Investigating the Mechanical properties, Thermal Properties & Self-Healing Efficiency of a Hybridized laminate Composite.

Thesis Advisor: Maryam Jahan, Ph.D.

Jonesha M. Turner, Jackson

Thesis: Design and Simulation of a Supercritical Fluid Extraction Chamber for Essential Oil Extraction

Thesis Advisor: Fareed Dawan, Ph.D.

Mathematics and Physics

Treston Egby, Opelousas

Thesis: Searching for Rare Proton Decay with an In-Ice Detector

Thesis Advisor: Ali R. Fazely, Ph.D.

Karriem A. Upshaw, Gary, IN

Thesis: Using Corsika and GEANT4 to Simulate the Forbidden Decay of Eta to Two Neutrinos

Thesis Advisor: Ali R. Fazely, Ph.D.

Nursing

Tania Brooks, New Orleans

Kaitlin Hayes, Zachary

Kristine W. New, New Orleans

Amanda R. Washington, New Orleans

Speech Pathology

Kristian Alisha Burnett, Gadsden

Christen M. Carter, Belle Rose

Chloe Cuccia, Mandeville

Ne'Sha G. Dailey, Vinton

Samaria G. Darlington, Hephzibah, GA

Courtney P. Dowden, Anacoco

Ty'Ilah Hooker, Many

Asha N. Jackson, Carencro

Raven Jefferson, Baton Rouge

Kennedy Johnson, Glenmora

Komonique L. Knighten, Baton Rouge

Larissa Geraldine Lewis, Chalmette

Laurielle Elexis Martin, Austin, TX

Kaitlyn Gabrielle Minnard, Harvey

Bailey Mire, Pride

Cagney Dominique Otkins, Destrehan

Kayla S. Pierre, Zachary

Emily Schmitt, Lake Charles

Uriah I. Scott, New Orleans

Catherine Celeste Seriale, Houston, TX

Hali West, Port Allen

Charisma N. Wheeler, Baton Rouge

Jonmeeshia A. Williams, Plaquemine



Sociology

Kecy Merant, Baton Rouge

Thesis: Disengagement or Disillusionment?

***Investigating Voter Apathy Among
African American Men***

Thesis Advisor: Julietta Raymond, Ph.D.

Urban Forestry

Derrick Boast, Opelousas

Latravia Fisher, Pride

Zoie Harris, Baton Rouge

***Thesis: Evaluating propagation methods to improve
restoration programs of Roseau cane
stands at the Mississippi River Delta in
Louisiana.***

Thesis Advisor: Veronica Manrique, Ph.D.

Cornelius Jackson, Baton Rouge

Ruth N. Kabera, Eldoret, Kenya

Calvonta Ard, Franklinton

Valeria Dennisha Tawanda Smart,
Baton Rouge

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

Albertha H. Lawson, Ph.D., *Interim Dean*

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

SUMMER 2025

MASTER OF ARTS

Educational Leadership

Morgan D. Brown, Baton Rouge

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Pamela D. Dawson, Liberty, MS

Yeketha B. Love, Baton Rouge

Carolyn L. Styranec, Zachary

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

NáKia Smith, Baton Rouge

Dwight Lewis, Lafayette

EXECUTIVE MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Felicia Gonzaque, Farmers Branch, TX

Bryan Lee, Shreveport

Dwight Lewis, Lafayette

Ulysses Moore, Houston, TX

Pleasure Mouton, Lafayette

Toniequa L. Yates, Baton Rouge



MASTER OF SCIENCE Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling

Tiffany Williams, Baton Rouge

Executive Master in Criminal Justice

Dana Alebrahim, Baton Rouge
Kalauna Anderson-Lloyd, Atlanta, GA
Asia Brown, Baker
Donald Burnette, Baton Rouge
Amber N. Delone, Port Allen
Sky Castro, Woodbridge, NJ

Cara Latrice Hamilton, Shreveport
Jeremiah Isaiah Gray, Montz
Nikitia Presley, Natchitoches
Joshua L. Smith, New Orleans
Teryn A. Smith, Baldwin
Jayson Demetrius Walker, Mobile, AL

Engineering

Kekeli D. Agbewornu, Baton Rouge
***Thesis: Al6061/Al7075 Dissimilar Metal
Joints made with Additive Friction Stir
Deposition***
Thesis Advisor: Congyuan Zeng, Ph.D.

Ebenezer Temi-Tope Ashimolowo,
Lagos, Nigeria
***Thesis: The Role of Rayleigh-Bénard Convection
on Jovian Planets' Gases and Cloud
Formation: The Planetary Cloud Aerosol
Research Facility***
Thesis Advisor: Stephen Akwaboa, Ph.D.

Edem D. Honu, Kumasi, Ghana
***Thesis: Advance Metallic Material Design for
Metal Additive Manufacturing and
Hydrogen Fuel Application: An
Experimental, Computational, and
Analytical Discussion.***
Thesis Advisor: Congyuan Zeng, Ph.D.

Bernard Mahoney, Baton Rouge
***Thesis: Experimental Optimization of the Self-
healing parameters of a thermoset based
vitrimers***
Thesis Advisor: Patrick F. Mensah, Ph.D.

Faiza Dad, Baton Rouge
***Thesis: Cancer detection and classification using
image processing and machine learning***
Thesis Advisor: Yasser Ismail, Ph.D.

Emmanuel T. Essel, Baton Rouge
***Thesis: Real-Time FPGA-Based Driver
Drowsiness Detection System for Vehicles
Using Vivado High-Level Synthesis
(HLS) Tools***
Thesis Advisor: Yasser Ismail, Ph.D.

Chisom V. Onyenagubo, Baton Rouge
***Thesis: Forecasting the Remaining Useful Life
of lithium-ion batteries using machine
learning models - a web-based Application***
Thesis Advisor: Fred Lacy, Ph.D.

Kingsley Yeboah Gyabaah, Accra, Ghana
***Thesis: 3d Printable Regolith Filled
Shape Memory Vitrimers Composite For
Extraterrestrial Application***
Thesis Advisor: Maryam Jaha, Ph.D.



Commencement Speaker

Kim Hunter Reed

Commissioner of Higher Education

Louisiana Board of Regents

Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D., is Louisiana's commissioner of higher education. She is currently the only woman in the country to have served as a state higher education leader in multiple states. Reed is a proven advocate for students who has worked effectively at campus, state, and federal levels. She was recognized nationally as the 2020 Exceptional Leader by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO).

Along with the Louisiana Board of Regents, Reed leads the state's talent development efforts, focused on increasing educational attainment, erasing achievement gaps, and increasing prosperity. To reach the state's goal of doubling the number of credentials awarded annually by 2030, she promotes transformational policies and deep collaboration, advancing the Regents' talent imperative.

In support of that vision, Louisiana's institutions are focused on strengthening the state's education-to-employment pipeline, accelerating student success, advancing innovation through research and discovery, and contributing significantly to the state's economic recovery.

Reed is a nationally recognized student advocate with extensive higher education and government experience. In addition to leading the Colorado Department of Higher Education, she served in President Obama's administration as deputy undersecretary at the U.S. Department of Education, where she also led the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Collectively, Reed has served in senior leadership roles with four governors across two states.

In January 2023, Reed was named as one of the nation's Top 10 Black higher education leaders by *Forbes*, which stated, "Louisiana's top higher ed exec is unrivaled, the absolute best among state-level leaders."

A Lake Charles native, Reed received a doctorate in public policy from Southern University and A&M College, as well as a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Louisiana State University and A&M College.



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 downSpring 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

Southern University and A&M College Chancellor

2025 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

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**SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY**
AND AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE

Southern University-Baron Rouge is a constituent of the Southern University System.

Dennis J. Shields, is the President of the Southern University System.

Tony Clayton, is the Chair of the Southern University Board of Supervisors, 2025.



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