



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE
FALL COMMENCEMENT
GRADUATE CEREMONY

F.G. CLARK ACTIVITY CENTER
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

DECEMBER 18, 2025
2 P.M.

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

2025



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

FALL GRADUATE
COMMENCEMENT
DECEMBER 18, 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 December 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 Aaron Manzy, Athens, GA
(*student representative*)

Marshals

University Marshal

Donovan L. Segura, Ph.D.

Chief Assistant University Marshal

Lauri Patterson, J.D.

Assistant University Marshals

Decembera 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
Bonny McDonald, Ph.D.
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
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

Fall 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 Joseph James Mitchell, <i>Pastor</i> True Vine Missionary Baptist Church and New Birth Missionary Baptist Church Baton Rouge, Louisiana
<i>Anthems</i>	<i>"The Star Spangled Banner"</i> Written by Francis Scott Key, performed by Professor Richard Hobson, accompanied by Professor Laurence Hebert <i>"Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing"</i> Written by James Weldon Johnson performed Professor Richard Hobson, accompanied by Professor Laurence Hebert
<i>Introduction of Speaker</i>	John K. Pierre
<i>Commencement Address</i>	Melva K. Wallace, Ph.D. <i>President & CEO</i> Huston-Tillotson University Austin, Texas
<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 <i>Dean, College of Nursing and Allied Health</i>



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 Professor Richard Hobson,
accompanied by Professor Laurence Hebert

Benediction

The Reverend Joseph James Mitchell

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

FALL 2025

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D., *Chancellor/Dean*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY

Dhruthi Reddy Mutyala, Hyderabad, India

Dissertation Title: *E-Cigarettes Trigger Lung*

Inflammation Through Lipid

Rafts-Proteasome Axis

Major Professor: Santra Batra, Ph.D.

URBAN FORESTRY

Raymond A. Antwi, Baton Rouge

Dissertation Title: *Flood Risk Assessment and*

Evaluation of Urban Tree Canopy

Changes for Resilient Urban Planning in

East Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Major Professor: Christopher Chappell, Ph.D.

Lakshmi Dasari, Pleasanton, California

Dissertation Title: *Model Based Approach*

to Determine Urban Tree Canopy

Influence on Erythemat UV-B Irradiation

and Air Temperature.

Major Professor: Yadong Qi, Ph.D.

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

Sandra Brown, DNS, Ph.D., *Dean*

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Ashley C. Amedee, Baton Rouge

Capstone Title: *In adults with Type 2 diabetes,*

how does the use of continuous blood

glucose monitoring compare to standard

blood glucose monitoring affect glycemic

control over a period of 6 months?

Capstone Advisor: Kourtnei Luster, Ph.D.

Raveen D. Coon, Franklinton

Capstone Title: *The Effect of Incentivized Wellness*

Programs on Health Outcomes in Adults

with Hypertension

Capstone Advisor: Alicia Restivo, Ph.D.

April Breaux, Lafayette

Capstone Title: *Pharmacologic Management Alone*

to Combined CBT Strategies in

Schizophrenia Treatment

Capstone Advisor: Wanda Spurlock, Ph.D.

Ashley Haney, Baton Rouge

Capstone Title: *The Effects of Dietary Intervention*

Compared to a Regular Exercise Program

in Adults with Chronic Kidney Disease

Capstone Advisor: Kourtnei Luster, Ph.D.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

Erin L. LaGroue, Denham Springs

Capstone Title: *In Outpatient Clinic Providers Does Increased Use of Electronic Communication with Patients Lead to Burnout When Compared with Limited Use of Communication Over a 6-Month Period?*

Capstone Advisor: Alicia Restivo, Ph.D.

Courtney Williams, Addis

Capstone Title: *The Efficacy of Formal School-Based Sex Education Programs in Preventing Teenage Pregnancy*
Capstone Advisor: Wanda Spurlock, Ph.D.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Lealon Martin, Ph.D., *Dean*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

Tracie D. Batiste, Natchitoches

Dissertation Title: *The Physics of Persistence: An Autoethnography of Reentry into a Doctoral STEM Program*

Major Professor: Nastassia Jones, Ph.D.

Amilah K. Mendoza, Marrero

Dissertation Title: *The Impact of MyMathLab on Academic Performance in a Dual Enrollment Pre-Calculus Course: A Quantitative Study*

Major Professor: Moustapha Diack, Ph.D.

NELSON MANDELA COLLEGE OF GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Damien Ejigiri, Ph.D., *Dean*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY

Jennifer Caldero, Monroe

Dissertation Title: *Analyzing the Underlying Factors Influencing Capital Funding Approval for U.S. Minority-Owned Businesses*

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

Cesar Fernandes, Baton Rouge

Dissertation Title: *Investigating the Effects of Political Institutions on Economic Growth in Africa, 1960-2024*

Major Professor: Onuymbe Lukongo, Ph.D.

Doris Chenier, Baton Rouge

Dissertation Title: *Identifying the Contributing Factors of Cancer in the United States of America, 1990-2022: A Meta-Analysis Perspective*

Major Professor: Onuymbe Lukongo, Ph.D.

Jessica Bintto Marie Lawal, Ann Arbor, MI

Dissertation Title: *A Comparative Analysis of the Impact of Tax Structures on Medical Marijuana Revenue: The Cases of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma*

Major Professor: Onuymbe Lukongo, Ph.D.

Roderick Jerome Dickerson, Baton Rouge

Dissertation Title: *An Examination of Stakeholder Policy Implementation and Effectiveness on the Texas Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program from 2006 to 2023*

Major Professor: Joycelyn Freeman, Ph.D.

Jasmine F. Thomas, Baton Rouge

Dissertation Title: *Examining the Demographic and Geographic Influence of the Death Penalty Sentencing in Texas*

Major Professor: Revathi Hines, Ph.D.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

Patrick L. Roque, Alexandria

Dissertation Title: *An Exploratory Analysis of SNAP Participation, Obesity, and Type 2 Diabetes Among U.S. Adults: A Social Determinants of Health Perspective*

Major Professor: Vanessa Greenslade, Ph.D.

Jaraski White, Atlanta, GA

Dissertation Title: *Examining the Outcomes of Special Education Due Process Hearings: Trends, Demographic Disparities, and Systemic Barriers in Louisiana's K-12 Public Schools*

Major Professor: Vanessa Greenslade, Ph.D.

Heather Tanner, Zachary

Dissertation Title: *A Comparative Analysis of H-2B Visa Utilization Patterns Among Crawfish Industry and Other Competing Sectors in Louisiana*

Major Professor: Onyumbe Lukongo, Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE PHD IN PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

Antoinette E. Banks, Baton Rouge

Dissertation Title: *Analysis of the Relationship Between Black Women's Socioeconomic Factors and Infant Health Outcomes in the State of Louisiana*

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

Roderick Jerome Dickerson, Baton Rouge

Dissertation Title: *An Examination of Stakeholder Policy Implementation and Effectiveness on the Texas Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program from 2006 to 2023*

Major Professor: Joycelyn Freeman, Ph.D.

Jaelyn B. Lombard, Denham Springs

Dissertation Title: *An Examination of Fatal Work Injuries in the United States*

Major Professor: Onyumbe Lukongo, Ph.D.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Orlando F. McMeans, Ph.D., *Chancellor/Dean*

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN FORESTRY

Destyne Howard, Houston, TX

Thesis Title: *Microbial Biomass Responses to Sugarcane Bagasse Amendments*

Thesis Advisor: Christopher Chappell, Ph.D.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Donald Andrews, Ph.D., *Dean*

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Dominique Deshawn Cavalier,
Denham Springs

Jelissa Duffey, Alexandria

L'Britney Moore, Baton Rouge

Kaymen St. Junious, Pearland

Ravi Chander Reddy Rondla,
Hyderabad, India

Josiah B. Tanner, Zachary



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ONLINE

Clyefer Bass, III, Monroe
Tayisha Monique Beard, Gonzales
Kennetrel Boyd, New Orleans
Kaleb Brooks, Gonzales
Decobea Butler, Baton Rouge
Kamira Hill, Baton Rouge
LaShanti Gabrielle Holden, Baton Rouge
Melony M. Hughes,
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
Shalonda Jackson, Zachary
Christiana Leshawn Johnson, Harvey
Makayla Mallery, Shreveport
Chamille Tawinna Muse, New Orleans

Omarosa Manigault Newman,
Youngstown, Ohio
Kimberlyn T. Palmer, New Orleans
Kenosha Capri Perry, New Orleans
Precious Richardson, Saint Joseph
Benjamin Rodgers, Denver, CO
Sierra Session, New Orleans
Anthony Terrell Shields, Jr., Jackson, MS
Makia Triplett, Gulfport, MS
Keenan Villery, Opelousas
Lakisha Omeka Williams Ware, Mt. Hermon
Alexandra Washington, Baton Rouge
Lawanda Washington-Major, Brusly

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Cynthia Bryant, Ph.D., Dean

MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Tyra D. Brownlee, Baton Rouge
Georgia Hurst, Baton Rouge
Shirnell Treniece Jackson, Zachary
Jasmine S. Payne, Baton Rouge
Gregory Ransom, Baton Rouge

Joshua Sanford, Baton Rouge
Franchesca Simmons, Opelousas
Andrew N. Vessel, Baton Rouge
Cai Wynn, Baton Rouge

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Takeyra Golden, Baker
MiAngel Nichols, Port Allen
Kenniesha Tolliver, Zachary

Marcus Walker, Lafayette
Sharona Renee Walker, Lafayette

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH

Sandra Brown, DNS, Ph.D., Dean

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Nikki Lombardo, Roseland

Helena Tibbs, Gonzales

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLINICAL REHABILITATION COUNSELING

Gail M. Johnson, Baton Rouge
Martiana Danielle LaBleu Jones, Monroe

Kelly LeDuff, Baton Rouge



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Alexandria Cooper-Davis, Lafayette
Joy Dixon, Zachary
Whitley M. Fletcher, White Castle

Jeanne L. Key, Plaisance
Natalie N. Pearley, Gonzales
Ashley O. Varnado, Clinton

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

Lealon Martin, Ph.D., *Dean*

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

Shila Kandel, Gairdakot, Nepal

***Thesis Title: Tire wear compounds as an Emerging
Aquatic Contaminants: An
Ecotoxicological Assessment Using the
Macrophyte Lemna Minor***

Thesis Advisor: Md. Ekhtear Hossain, Ph.D.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Vamsikrishna Reddy Bogireddy,
Prakasam, India
Durga Bhavani Challagonda,
Jangaon, India
Samrithreddy Gade, Hyderabad, India
Jhathin Kandregula, Vijayawada, India

Hemanth Nallamaddi, Hyderabad, India
Abhinay Kumar Rakashi,
Nagarkurnool, India
Pranay Kumar Ramadolla,
Nizamabad, India
Mussie Samuel, Baton Rouge
Srinadh Vaddi, Vijayawada, India
Zhaoqing Wang, Baton Rouge

Jordin P. Lewis, Long Beach, California

***Thesis Title: Comparative Case Study of AI Tools
for Enhancing Efficiency and Productivity***

Thesis Advisor: Mathieu Kourouma, Ph.D.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING

Damilare Rufus Adigun, Ibadan, Nigeria

Alfred T. Koomson, Tema, Ghana

Emmanuel T. Essel, Baton Rouge

***Thesis Title: FPGA-Based Optimization of
YOLOv8 for Driver Drowsiness Detection
Via Vivado HLS***

Thesis Advisor: Yasser Ismail, Ph.D.

***Thesis Title: Numerical Investigation of Different
PCM Container Geometries for
Optimizing Thermal Performance in
High-Efficiency Refrigerators***

Thesis Advisor: Stephen Akwaboa, Ph.D.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS

Kehinde Idowu, Baton Rouge

***Thesis Title: Oak Seed Derived Nitrogen Doped
Carbon as a Catalyst for Oxygen
Reduction Reaction***

Thesis Advisor: Guang-lin Zhao, Ph.D.

Amilah K. Mendoza, Marrero

***Thesis Title: The Mathematical Foundations
of Shor's Algorithm and its Implications
for Cryptographic Security***

Thesis Advisor: Humberto Munoz Barona, Ph.D.

Karriem Upshaw, Gary, Indiana

NELSON MANDELA COLLEGE OF GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Damien Ejigiri, Ph.D., *Dean*

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Chidinma N. Emukah, New Orleans

Chance A. Taylor, Baton Rouge

EXECUTIVE MASTER IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

Carl Armstrong, Ethel

Arnita Blair, Dallas, Texas

Asia Brown, Baker

Johneika Bruce, Thibodaux

John Dennis Carr, Baton Rouge

KaBreonta Colbert, Baldwin

Robert M. Cook, Zachary

Deauna Dobard, New Roads

Jeremiah Isaiah Gray, Montz

Brehonor Harris, Vidalia

Micaiah DeeShon Farmer, Hattiesburg, MS

Cristion JW Henry, Baton Rouge

Marcus Terrell Jones, Baton Rouge

Laddie S. Osby, Kentwood

Arjanae Palmer, Houston, TX

Kamren Phillips, Los Angeles, CA

Shanika R. Robinson, Beaumont, TX

Kayla Russo, Denham Springs

Dwight J. Smith, Humble, TX

Jasmine S. Thompson, Baton Rouge

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Ebony B. Allen, Baton Rouge

Mohammed Abusade, Baton Rouge

Kyndia Burton, Baton Rouge

Manuella A. Forson, Baton Rouge

Chelsea Johnson, Baker

Timmy Hampton, Baton Rouge

Donninetta Jackson, Baton Rouge

Jhimere Wilson Stevenson, Baton Rouge

EXECUTIVE MASTER IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

Keandrys M. Dalton, Kenner

Deauna Dobard, New Roads

Michelle E. Jones, Baton Rouge

Michael Anthony Mitchell, New Orleans

Tyquencia Parker, Zachary

Charita A. Perrilloux, Baton Rouge

Alan Stubblefield, Dallas, TX

Justin Wiley, Birmingham, AL





Commencement Speaker

Melva K. Wallace

President and CEO

Huston-Tillotson University

For over 20 years, Dr. Melva K. Wallace has worked in higher education as a leader and as a fierce national advocate. Today, she proudly serves as the seventh President and CEO of Huston-Tillotson University, an HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) and one of the top private liberal arts colleges in the country. It was the first institution of higher education established in Austin, Texas.

Since she took the helm in 2022, this powerhouse institution boasts increased fundraising efforts, increase in new student enrollment, increased international student enrollment, increased graduate enrollment, increased online enrollment, and boasts the largest male new student enrollment at 55 percent of the population. As a fiscal conservative, Wallace has been highly successful in assisting institutions reach their financial goals and trains higher education CPAs on best practices for enrollment, cost controls, and fiscal compliance. To date, Wallace has been instrumental in amassing over \$20 million in grants and gifts.

From all of Wallace's higher education leadership, she provided leadership in several roles within the Southern University System (Louisiana), the only HBCU college system in the world. She served in various capacities, including: vice chancellor for student affairs and enrollment at Southern University at Shreveport, where she increased three historic enrollment classes and assisted in securing funding for three new campus buildings; interim vice chancellor for student affairs and enrollment at Southern University at New Orleans, where she was instrumental in ensuring their reaffirmation; and chief of staff for two System presidents as the first chief of staff, during which she managed life campuses with over 15,000 students throughout the state of Louisiana.

Although much of Wallace's work has been within the higher education HBCU space, Wallace formerly worked in academic affairs as associate dean of the college at Centenary College of Louisiana. Centenary is lauded as one of the top four-year liberal arts colleges in the United States. Under her leadership, the College realized a 4 percent increase in retention. She currently serves as a member of the Centenary College of Louisiana's Board.



Wallace is a founding board member for the Higher Education Leadership Foundation, which has provided leadership training to over 500 HBCU leaders across the country. Many of those leaders are now serving as university presidents, vice presidents, deans and directors at HBCUs across the country. In 2011, she co-founded the Shreveport Charter Foundation, which built Magnolia School of Excellence Charter School, the first school built in the city of Shreveport, Louisiana, in over 30 years. Additionally, her service as vice president and president of the school's board also solidified the building of a second school, Magnolia High School, in 2016. These two schools now enroll over 1,000 students in the Shreveport community.

Since arriving to Austin, she has continued her community service work as a member of the board for Ballet Austin, Austin PBS, and the Black Fund which provides over \$1 million of funding for Black businesses. She is also a member of the National Association for University Women and board president for the Extensions of Excellence Arts Organization in Shreveport founded by Mr. Vincent Williams.

In 2016, Wallace, a then Presidential Leadership Scholar, was selected to study leadership under the tutelage of three former American Presidents: President George H. W. Bush, President George W. Bush, and President William J. Clinton. In 2020, she was heralded as a “futurist” by former President George W. Bush and was invited by the Bush Institute to be a featured writer for the Summer 2020 edition of *The Catalyst: A Journal of Ideas from the Bush Institute on How Educators Can Prime First-Generation College Students for Success*.

Wallace is also the 2018 recipient of the ATHENA award, which is the highest honor in the state of Louisiana for professional excellence, community service, and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills. In 2022, Wallace was lauded by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* as one of the top 25 minority women leaders in the world who are paving the way for others in higher education. Additionally, in 2022, Wallace was recognized in the city of Shreveport as a Virginia Shehee award nominee as one of the most influential women in the city.

In 2023, Wallace was honored by the United Negro College Fund as a president in leadership. Because of her national prominence in higher education as a national spokesperson for HBCUs, she has been featured in a number of magazines and media publications expressing her views on these beloved institutions. In 2023, she was named by Austin Monthly as one of the “Texas 100 Top Influential Professionals to Watch.”

Wallace received a bachelor’s degree in mass communication and a master’s degree in public administration from Grambling State University. She earned her Ph.D. in urban higher education from Jackson State University. She is married to her phenomenal husband, Dr. D.L. Wallace, of Flower Mound, Texas. You can follow her on Instagram at [@MKWalltx](#) to learn more about her views on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

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

Southern University and A&M College Chancellor

2025 FALL 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.

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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