

## A COVENANT – THE D. M. R. SPIKES HONORS COLLEGE

The Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes Honors College, at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge (SUBR), Louisiana, endeavors to immerse Honors College students in a supportive, stimulating, and challenging systemic mentoring environment. This immersion, with the active cooperation of the Honors College students, is to enable them to focus on their studies and scholarly activities, *to hone their judgment, to strengthen their character, and to grow their habituation to deploying sustained efforts (work ethics)*; said efforts, as per the Power Law and the Law of Human Performance, are necessary for the quest and attainment of excellence in most complex, human activities, including studying and research. In particular, these two laws have demystified, once and for all, the process of acquiring proficiency or expertise in any field. In contrast to the misguided notion of innate or given abilities, these laws make it clear that the intellectual, physical, and other attributes or abilities we positively engage, in a sustained fashion, are the very ones that grow, are strengthened, and endure. The extent to which an Honors College student (referred to as a scholar) engages in serious studies, scholarly activities, community service, etc., will mostly determine the level of preparation and competitiveness of that scholar upon graduation from SUBR and the D. M. R. Spikes Honors College.

The D. M. R. Spikes Honors College provides scholarships, depending on the availability of funds, for the explicit purpose of assisting students to pay for the various costs (tuition, fees, books, etc.) associated with their matriculation at SUBR – with the intent of having these students devote their time to studying, research, and to community service to the extent possible. Specifically, unless there are significant unmet needs after the posting of scholarships and other available funds, *the full time job of a Scholar is superior studies, research, experiential learning, and service*. The unmet needs, to be clear, are not “wants.” Rather, they are charges that remain after subtracting all available and posted funds from the “Cost of Study,” as determined by the Office of Student Financial Aid.

*The Ten Strand Systemic Mentoring Model* of the Timbuktu Academy ([www.phys.subr.edu/timbuktu.htm](http://www.phys.subr.edu/timbuktu.htm)), a model whose faithful implementation and related results earned the Academy’s director and the Academy the US Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (US-PAESMEM) in 1996 and 2002, respectively, has been adopted by the D. M. R. Spikes Honors College. Details are available on the strands of the model at the above website. *The provision of financial assistance (when available), scientific advisement, communication skills enhancement, tutoring activities, and generic scholarly (or research) activities are the first five (5) strands of the model. The last five (5) are the execution of specific scholarly (or research) projects, immersion in a professional culture, technical and technological skills enhancement, monitory (in part with a portfolio), and guidance to graduate school or to the job market.*

As per the concept of distributed responsibilities and shared credits, no one can do, for a scholar of the College, that which is for that scholar to do in terms of availing oneself to the activities and benefits of our systemic mentoring, understanding that the prime directive is superior studies, scholarly activities, and community service. Summer research and professional internships are expected. *The entire College and several other units and individuals at SUBR are at the service of the scholars*. Their competitiveness, upon graduation, their successful pursuits of graduate degrees, their gainful employment or self-employment, and their advancements or promotions (based on sound judgement, good character, professional competence, high work ethics, team work, etc.) are the ultimate aims of the College and of SUBR.

*“Luck is what happens when preparation meets, recognizes, and acts on opportunity.”*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diola Bagayoko', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

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