



Southern University Alumni Federation

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Southernites:

Congratulations to Governor-Elect John Bel Edwards and his wife, Donna, on winning the Louisiana gubernatorial election on November 21, 2015! Mr. Edwards is a Louisiana State Representative, who served on the House Education Committee. He has been a friend of Southern University and supported the legislation the Alumni Federation advocated for during the 2015 Louisiana Legislative Session. We greatly appreciate his support of Southern and all of higher education during his service in the Louisiana Legislature, and look forward to an even stronger relationship during his tenure as governor.

I have so much to be thankful for this week. One of the biggest initiatives in the history of Southern University also received some great news. As you know, the university has been working most of the year to expand its elementary and secondary education program to its Shreveport and New Orleans campuses. The success of Southern Lab on our Baton Rouge campus received the attention of the SU Board at the beginning of the year. Indeed, the Board of Supervisors' Lab School Expansion Committee has been working hard to make this expansion a reality. I am pleased to report to you that the Louisiana Superintendent of Education, John White, informed us several days ago that he would support and recommend Southern's application that is being considered by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education next week. The fact that Louisiana has elected a new governor who is a true friend of Southern, and to learn that Superintendent John White supports this important Southern University initiative, are two big reasons to be thankful.

The Bayou Classic festivities are in full swing today. I don't expect to get much sleep over the next 72 hours. This morning is the SU Board meeting. After the meeting, I head off to the Coaches Luncheon to see our football team don their new blazers the Home Chapter helped purchase. Then, I join a panel of other HBCU National Alumni Presidents for the Black College Alumni Caucus as we discuss strategies for strengthening HBCUs through "Systemic Alumni Engagement." I will top off the day with the Alumni Hospitality Mixer, the SUYAN party, the Battle of the Bands and Greek Show, and the TrueBlue Donor Appreciation Gala.

Of course, the reason we are all here at the Bayou Classic this week is the football game. Records don't matter much in rivalry games like this one. Southern lead the series against Grambling 21-20, and we are looking forward to widening the lead. We expect an exciting game and wish our mighty, mighty Jaguars the best of luck tomorrow!

Go, Jags!

Preston

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Making a Great University Greater!

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