



Southern University and A&M College
CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
to the
Southern University Board of Supervisors

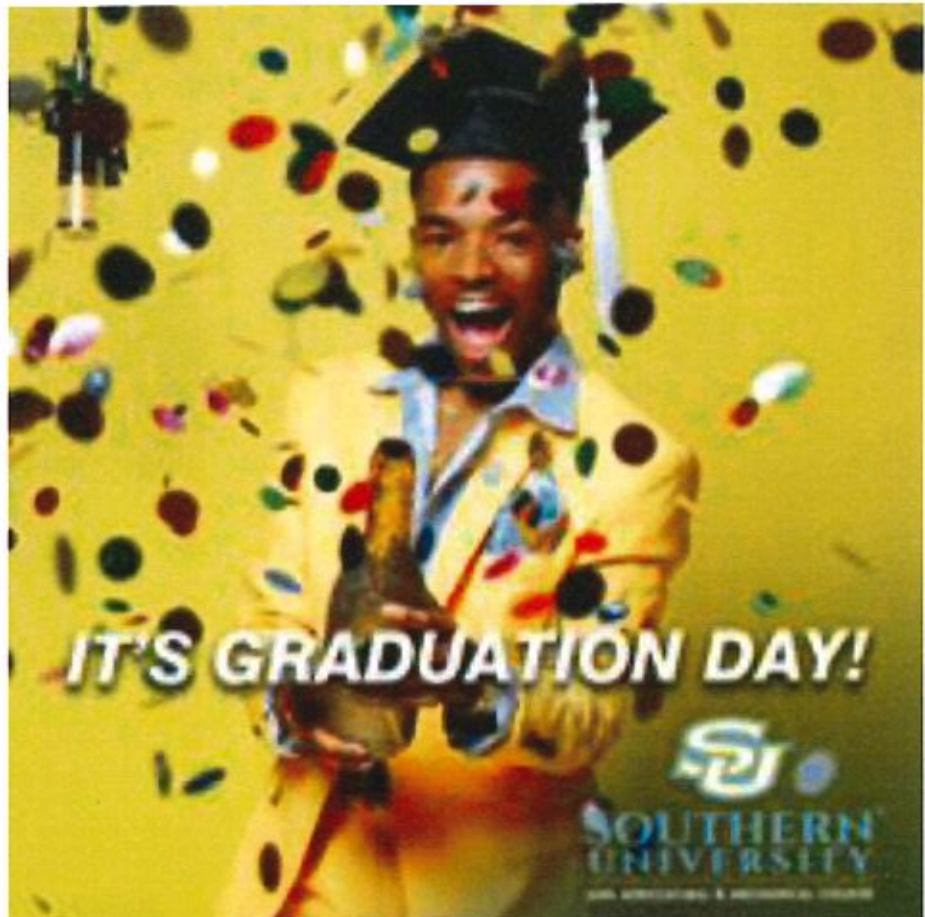
August 2020

"We Are Southern"

Report No. 9

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Southern University hosted its first Virtual Commencement Exercise.

Campus Community Works Toward Safe Return of Students, Faculty and Staff

Transition Taskforce

Southern University has been working since May to plan for the return of faculty, students and staff with the assistance from a TaskForce chaired by Atty. Tracie Woods, associate vice president of Human Resources.

The Taskforce helped frame the discussion regarding course offerings, communications, policy, employee return, safety concerns and student issues.

Out of an abundance of caution due to COVID-19, several changes are underway or have been implemented as a result of its efforts.

A complete report of their efforts will be available online.

Forums for Students Faculty and Staff

University leadership had an opportunity to share information about the start of the fall semester and answer questions for students, faculty and staff during Virtual Town Hall Meetings hosted by the Division of Academic Affairs.

Speaking during the sessions were President-Chancellor Ray L. Belton; Bijoy K. Sahoo, interim executive vice chancellor and senior associate vice chancellor for academic affairs; Benjamin Pugh, vice chancellor for Finance and Administration; and Atty. Woods.



In July 2020, the Division of Academic Affairs finalized its course delivery plans, agreeing to offer classes during the fall semester through three modes of delivery — traditional, hybrid and online instructions.

Partnering with Ochsner

The Southern University System is working with Ochsner Health by using Ochsner's Safe to Return Employer Solutions to help Southern provide a healthy and safe return to the campus for its employees.

Southern engaged Ochsner Health to conduct a comprehensive onsite assessment of all its workspaces and provide recommendations that the company is implementing as part of its Safe to Return plan.

As a result of those recommendations, Southern implemented the following actions:

- Deployed signage to encourage safe social distancing practices and proper hand hygiene.
- Placed hand sanitizer stations and wipes in all public areas.
- Displayed posters with information on COVID-19 symptoms, and how students and employees can best protect themselves.
- Mandated daily temperature checks at all campus entry points.
- Required masks in all public areas where social distancing is not feasible and provided access to necessary personal protective equipment.

Ochsner is offering a Virtual Employer Clinic to employees. Ochsner Health will reassess the campuses on a monthly basis and provide updated recommendations.

Southern Partners With CareSouth to Provide Employees COVID-19 Testing

Southern University and CareSouth Medical and Dental have partnered to provide COVID-19 testing and flu vaccinations to its employees with no out of pocket expense.

"Southern University continues a mission of access through CareSouth in this extremely important endeavor," said Ray L. Belton, president of the Southern University System and chancellor of the Baton Rouge campus. "As we continue to plan for the safe return to campus this fall for not only our students, but for all of our valued employees, it is imperative that we provide

onsite testing and other services. CareSouth has a proven track record of servicing our community with optimum health care."

Beginning in August, testing and vaccinations were made available to all employees of Southern University and A&M College, Southern University Law Center, and Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

CareSouth is providing medical personnel to conduct the testing and to deliver vaccines. Facilities at Southern's College of Nursing and Allied Health are being utilized and the mobile unit from the Ag Center for the clinic.

"CareSouth is very proud to partner with Southern University to continue to do our part to help slow the spread of this virus," said Matthew Valliere, chief executive officer for CareSouth. "Our mission is to make healthcare accessible to everyone and we're excited to assist this premier institution in making our community better and safer for everyone. This partnership is another way we can support the great work that Southern does."

Employees can use their insurance plans to receive services. CareSouth will work with individuals on a sliding scale if they do not have insurance.



2020 Football Season Postponed Until 2021

The Southwestern Athletic Conference announced it was postponing the 2020 football season because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The plans for football include a seven-game conference schedule that begins with an eight-week training period in January, 2021. SWAC commissioner Charles McClelland said games would begin near the end of February or the beginning of March. Each



school will play six conference games (four divisional/two non-divisional) with the option to play one non-conference game.

Details about the Cricket Wireless SWAC Football Championship game will be released at a later date, along with scheduling details for women's soccer, women's volleyball, and men's and women's cross country. According to the SWAC, the student-athletes still can participate in conditioning, strength training and practices in all sports -- provided all local, state and federal health and safety guidelines are met.

Preastly and Walton Hired as Vice Chancellors for Student Support Services

Southern University and A&M College student support services units have new leadership who pledge to positively impact the lives of students.

Dr. Jacqueline Gibson Preastly has been hired as the new vice chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Success and Frederick C. Walton as the vice chancellor for Student Affairs. They both started their new posts Aug. 1.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, all student support units reported to one vice chancellor. In the upcoming year, Housing, Dining Services, and Student Services will report to Walton, while Advising, Admissions, Recruitment, Financial Aid, the Career Center, University College and Student Success will report to Preastly.

"I am excited about the opportunity I have to make an impact in the lives of students and their families," said Preastly. "Serving as 'dream-makers,' we connect prospective students with life-changing opportunities at Southern, and we prepare current students to be successful professionals in their field of study. As part of the institution's lifeblood, our work in Enrollment Management and Student Success keeps the University healthy, helping it not only to survive, but to also thrive."

Dr. Preastly served as vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Mississippi Valley State University where she managed multiple budgets totaling \$13 million.



Dr. Jacqueline Gibson Preastly



Dr. Frederick C. Walton

She has served as assistant vice president of Student Engagement and Leadership Development at Kentucky State University. At Lincoln University, she was dean of Students, director of the Learning Resource Center and director of Student Life. At Georgia State University, she served as the Ronald E. McNair TRIO Program director.

Dr. Preastly started her career in higher education in 2000 as an instructor in the Department of Communications at Georgia State University. She has a bachelor's degree in English from Mississippi Valley State University, M.A. in organizational communication and Ed.D. in higher education administration from the University of Akron.

Dr. Walton said he wants to build on the institution's existing strengths.

"I am excited about joining the Southern University family," said Dr. Walton. "I appreciate the tradition of pride and excellence that characterizes the University. I look forward to leading the Student Affairs team as we continue to promote and enhance that legacy."

Dr. Walton has served as an assistant professor and administrator in higher education for 26 years. For five years, he served as vice president for Student Affairs at Savannah State University.

Prior to Savannah State, Dr. Walton was vice president for Student Affairs at Lincoln University of Pennsylvania. At Lincoln University, he served a short stint as interim director of athletics. Walton started his career in higher education in 1994 as an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Georgia. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Morris Brown College. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science from Purdue University.



New Student Orientation Deemed a Success for Fall 2020

Jag 365 New Student Orientation was held virtually Aug. 2-9 with the campus implementing health and safety measures. Students who moved into residential housing and were on campus for orientation were able to practice social distancing by viewing department presentations, videos, flyers, and safety announcements on the big screens that were stationed in the Courtyard and Residence Hall Circle, as well as personal mobile devices.

Students were not allowed to gather in crowds larger than 10 and were required to wear masks. If they did not have a



mask, one was provided at the front desk. Only the resident was allowed to enter for check-in and receive a key. Only two people were allowed at a time in an elevator.

Move-in was extended over the course of the day to ensure that social distancing practices were maintained. New residents

were given a specific date and time window to move into their residence hall. Each building had a set number of residents per time window check-ins. Only two non-residents were allowed in the building to help students move-in.

Residents and non-residents helpers were required to answer a questionnaire and have their temperatures taken before entering the building. If a resident or non-resident had a positive COVID-19 questionnaire or temperature, they were not allowed to move in. Residents and visitors were required to sanitize their hands before entering the building.

Southern University Receives Additional Funding Under CARES Act for Economic Development

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded \$7.8 million in EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance grants to universities across the nation to boost their capacity to support regional economic development strategies in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Southern University in Baton Rouge received \$300,000 in federal funding to assist with the response to COVID-19. Southern

and was one of the 26 institutions to receive the grant. University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana, also received \$300,000.

The grant is designed to help its Louisiana Entrepreneurship & Economic Development Center (LEED) provide start-up and small business guidance and strategic planning in low-income and rural areas of Louisiana.

The fund will help boost the university's capacity to support regional economic development

strategies in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Southern University's award will aid SU's EDA University Center efforts to support entrepreneurship development for poverty reduction, enhance e-commerce training. The money will be used to conduct applied research on regional economies, and promote workforce and leadership development. Both \$300,000 grants were awarded by the Economic Development Agency.

Southern Hosts Its First Virtual Graduation Exercise

SU offered a Virtual Commencement Exercise for its Spring and Summer graduates on August 7, 2020, as the city and state battled the COVID-19 virus.

University officials' goal was to reduce health risks for students and their families. The University offered an abbreviated version of the commencement program with all of the pomp and circumstance.

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Merck & Company Kenneth Frazier delivered the keynote address. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws.

Atty. Frazier is a global business leader known for his significant contributions to business, law and social justice. For 14 years, he worked in various capacities at

Merck including as general counsel, secretary and vice president before becoming president in 2007.

The ceremony highlighted SU's Chief Student Marshalls — Irene Lewis for Spring 2020 and Keyosha Dunn for Summer 2020.



SU Continues to Invest in Faculty Through Quality Matters

In response to the transition to online and remote learning, the Southern University and A&M College engaged in an aggressive campaign to prepare faculty to teach distance education courses.

Training opportunities included course design and course delivery. Adjunct faculty were also trained. Of 336 faculty, 83 percent have received Quality Matters training.

Various modes of delivery were offered, including live face-to-face sessions in the John B. Cade Library. Live sessions were available through ZOOM, and asynchronous online sessions.

"Faculty enjoyed the traditional collegial experience of face-to-face training," said Atty. Tracy Barley, director of Online Learning, who coordinated the sessions for the Division of Academic Affairs. "The demand and attendance at virtual sessions indicates that we are moving forward with more and varied virtual opportunities."

To incentivize faculty and recognize excellence in online course design, Academic Affairs recognized two faculty members who excelled in online course design for Summer 2020.

Dr. Melanie Rey and Dr. Mahmoud Braima, both of the College of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, were honored for demonstrating quality in the design of their summer 2020 courses. These faculty were

selected from the 265 courses reviewed by the team of Campus Peer Reviewers. A team of QM Certified Peer Reviewers and experienced online instructors served as Campus Peer Reviewers for Summer 2020 online classes. The team of eight Campus Peer Reviewers assessed course quality based on a checklist provided by Quality Matters Higher Education Rubric 6th Edition.

Following Quality Matters standards, reviewers made recommendations for online course improvement and recommendations for faculty recognition for excellence in course design.

To reinforce the strategic goals of quality assurance and continuous improvement, a dedicated "Quality Matters at Southern University" webpage was created.

The primary goal of the website is to create a culture of institutional information sharing and build capacity to deliver online instruction.

The webpage includes a schedule of training and professional development opportunities, the Campus Quality Matters Plan, the Peer Reviewer Selection Process, and the Course Peer Review Process.



SU Making a Difference in the Community During COVID-19

Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome announced the opening of several testing sites in East Baton Rouge Parish beginning Tuesday, July 7 through the "Geaux Get Tested" initiative, including a site on the campus of Southern University and A&M College.

The Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (MOHSEP) and Healthy BR worked with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Louisiana National Guard and the Louisiana Department of Health to test up to 5,000 people each day across all sites.

The "Geaux Get Tested" sites were part of the HHS's effort to support communities that have been identified as COVID-19 hotspots, or communities where there has been a recent and intense level of new cases and hospitalizations related to the ongoing outbreak.

"This rapid increase in testing is one of the most important things we can do right now to protect public health and our local economy. Knowing if you have COVID-19 and what to do to prevent further spreading the virus will save lives and lessen the economic impact in our community," said Mayor Broome. "I implore our residents to take advantage of these testing sites, especially if they have symptoms or were exposed to COVID-19."

These sites are being stood up to help stamp out community spread. Currently, there are dramatic increases of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations across the state, according to the Louisiana Department of Health. The largest increases in cases continues to be in the 18 to 29 age group. There are also upticks in young people under 18 and in people aged 30 to 39.

These increases are tied to increased movement as more businesses resume operations with inconsistent adherence by the public to recommended precautions like social distancing and masking. According to LDH, there have been 19 outbreaks associated with bars across the state.



SU faculty, staff and students worked as volunteers during Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank distribution of 1,500 boxes of food.

SU also continued to serve the Community as a site for the free COVID-19 testing.