



*Moving Forward*

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

September 2020

# SUNO

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY *at* NEW ORLEANS**

ARTS • HUMANITIES • SOCIAL SCIENCES

6400 Press Drive • New Orleans, LA 70126 • (504) 286-5000 • [www.suno.edu](http://www.suno.edu)

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Dr. Carl Johnson, Chair

**Congratulations** to Dr. Illya Tietzel for successfully completing the course work entitled "*Curriculum Design for Quality Instruction*" of the SUNO Summer 2020 Virtual Faculty Talent Development Institute.

**Congratulations** to Dr. Rachid Belmasrour, Mathematics Professor, Dr. Nebiat Sisay, Chemistry Professor, Dr. Mostafa Elaasar, Physics Professor, and Dr. Illya Tietzel, Biology Professor and Principal Investigator, for receiving the LaSPACE HBCU Institutional Scholars (HIS) award. The grant is entitled "*Student Opportunities in Aerospace Related Research at SUNO (SOARS) 4.*"

## ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Dr. Douglas Marshall, Interim Chair

Mrs. Connie Salaam served as a panelist for the Creole Genealogies: Critical Histories and Art Practices in August 2020 at the Louisiana State Museum virtually. Mrs. Salaam discussed her exhibition, "*Reclaiming Our Heritage: Traditional West African Coiffure.*"

## Creole Genealogies: Critical Histories and Art Practices



## HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Dr. John Barrilleaux, Director

Mr. John Barrilleaux and Mrs. Sharon McGee completed a six (6) week Faculty Development Workshop titled "*Curriculum Design for Quality Instruction.*"

## CENTER FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Dr. Clyde Robertson, Director

The Center for African and African American Studies collaborated with Mrs. Jennifer Edwards, Technical Writer and Research Assistant with SUNO's Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs on a Historic Preservation Fund Grant Proposal: *Pontchartrain Park Pioneers Oral History Project.*

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

*Dr. Igwe Udeh, Dean*

### Academic Excellence Initiatives

#### SUNO VITA Tax Office Delivers Tax Savings to Clients

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (VITA/TCE) Center continues to provide excellent service, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. SUNO's Tax Office, located at the University Conference Center, is directed by Dr. Simeon Okpechi, Professor of Accounting. The program is funded by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) through a subcontract with the United Way Agency. We, the College of Business and Public Administration, would like to recognize three (3) SUNO Accounting students (Shemar Boutte, Amia Auguillard, and Demetrice Fontenberry) who were instrumental in providing professional tax services to the community-at-large. We would also like to congratulate Dr. Simeon Okpechi and his team at the SUNO Tax Office on their 10th Anniversary and wishes them continued success in the years to come.



## EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH (TRIO)

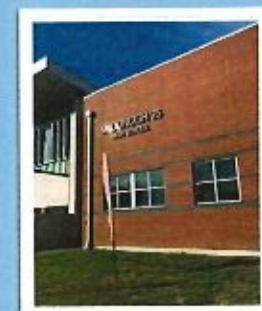
*Amelia Sellers, Director*

Educational Talent Search participant, Denzel Bethley participated in our four-week virtual Summer ACT Prep course and scored a 26 on the ACT test! #TRIOWORKS



### Welcome Back

The Educational Talent Search TRIO Program is excited to be back in our target schools. We are looking forward to another successful academic school year.



## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

*Dr. Rebecca Chaisson, Dean*

The School of Social Work bid farewell to three (3) faculty members and welcomed two (2) new faculty members.

Professor Gladys Merrick and Dr. Gail Wise retired this summer. Professor Merrick served SUNO for almost 19 years and Dr. Wise worked and taught at SUNO for more than 10 years. Dr. Hyacinth McKee, a SUNO School of Social Work alumna, resigned her faculty position after teaching at SUNO for three years. She accepted a position as Director of School Social Work Services under the Louisiana Department of Education. In this capacity, Dr. McKee is serving as the leader of Social Work Services at the state level and as an advocate for social workers who provide mental health services in schools at the national level. We congratulate Dr. McKee and wish her well. We also wish the two retirees a relaxing time following their contributions to the SUNO School of Social Work.

The School of Social Work is fortunate to hire Dr. Enchanté Franklin who received a Ph.D. in Social Work from the Whitney Young School of Social Work. She completed her dissertation study "An Ethnographic Study of Factors Influencing Cultural Resilience Among African American Women Survivors of Hurricane Katrina Residing in Post-Katrina New Orleans" this year. Dr. Franklin is no stranger to SUNO as she completed the MSW and the Master's in Criminal Justice from SUNO. She has published two books, in addition to completing ethnographic studies in Paris, France and in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. She is a full-time tenure-track assistant professor.



Dr. Damekia Morgan received a DSW in Social Work from the University of Southern California. Her dissertation is entitled "Mitigating Racial Bias: Promote Smart Decarceration by Eradicating Disproportionate Minority Contact and Confinement." Dr. Morgan completed her MSW from Southern University at New Orleans where she completed the MSW thesis on School Dropouts, Suspensions, and Expulsions rates. She is a member of the Board of Education and Justice Project and LGBTQ Community group. She is also a member of the Louisiana Association for Public, Community, & Adult Education (LAPCAE), as well as a trained and certified community mediator. Dr. Morgan has served as a Human Rights Institute Fellow, a

Women of Color Lead the Way Fellow, and a Trainer for the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. She is a full-time tenure-track assistant professor.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH & UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT***Ms. LaVerne Toombs, Interim Chief Administrative Officer*

The Office of Community Outreach & University Advancement would like to re-announce the great news that Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) has been removed from probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) as reported last week by the Chancellor's letter below:



Office of the Chancellor

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS**  
6400 Press Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70126  
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[www.sunu.edu](http://www.sunu.edu)

September 3, 2020

Dear Campus Community:

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) has voted to remove Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) from probation. The SACSCOC Board took this official action during its summer meeting earlier today.

SUNO received the best possible review, with the Board finding the University in full compliance with Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial Resources) with no recommendations or requests for continued monitoring. Today's accreditation decision acknowledges that SUNO has sound financial resources and a demonstrated, stable financial base to support the mission of the university and the scope of its programs and services.

While this is very good news for SUNO and those we serve, by no means does this mean we can rest easy. We still have much work to accomplish, all taking place in a challenging environment. I believe this thorough review by the Special Committee and the SACS Board of Trustees, and the serious work that we have done, position SUNO very well currently and as we prepare to submit the Compliance Certification Document to SACSCOC next month.

I want to thank each member of the SUNO community for your commitment and dedication to the future of SUNO. This successful outcome would not have been possible without you.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James H. Ammons Jr.".

James H. Ammons Jr., Ph.D.  
Interim Chancellor  
Southern University at New Orleans  
6400 Press Drive  
New Orleans, LA 70126  
(504) 286-5311 (O)  
[jammons@sunu.edu](mailto:jammons@sunu.edu)

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