



SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



*Excellence, Pride, Tradition*

SEPTEMBER 2023

# JAGUAR SUCCESS ACADEMY OVERVIEW

The Jaguar Success Academy (JSA) was established during the summer of 2022 through the vision of President-Chancellor Shields to increase student outcomes and the Southern University Experience. Led by University College's Office of First and Second Year Experience, Southern University welcomed 167 JSA students to campus for the summer of 2023 from June 28th to August 1st. Jaguar Success Academy was a 4-week summer program in which incoming freshmen applied to be a part of. In this program the freshmen students received a jumpstart academically, socially, and professionally.

The program was completely free to students. The University paid for 2 classes (English or Math and College Success Skills Course), a summer meal plan, JSA branded polo shirts, iPads, iPad pencils, iPad case, and summer housing. Jaguar Success Academy students moved into their summer on-campus residential life housing assignments on June 28th. The male students stayed in White (54) or Grandison (21). The female students stayed in Reed (36) or Bethune (56). The students attended New Student Orientation on June 29th along with other freshmen and transfer students that signed up for that date. Classes began on July 5th and ended on August 1st. They transitioned to their on-campus fall housing assignment on August 2nd, a day after the JSA End of the Summer banquet where the JSA student of the summer (Hannah Brister) and JSA mentor of the summer (Alton Holloway) were announced. University College Ambassadors (UCA) were hired to help facilitate 8 New Student Orientation sessions and to assist with the JSA program.

Thirty (30) UCA successfully matriculated during the summer program. There were 7 male ambassadors and 23 female ambassadors. University College Ambassadors hosted Keys to Success Workshops, mentored and guided the JSA students, assisted with JSA Move in, and stayed on campus with the students while serving in an on call rotation. Jourdan Hilaire, Director of First and Second Year Experience and Iyanna Lewis, Coordinator of First and Second Year Experience worked in tandem to organize, plan, and execute tasks related Jaguar Success Academy. They orchestrated several virtual meetings with potential JSA students and parents, communicated and met with JSA instructors, addressed JSA student/parent needs before, during, and after the program. The Director and Coordinator of First and Second Year experience occasionally stayed on campus during their on-call shifts in Grandison Hall. Dr. Anthony Jackson and Ms. Avis O'Bryant-Chaney also assisted with the on-call shifts the last two weeks of the program.

## JAGUAR SUCCESS ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

- 100% of students who began the program on July 3rd (first day of classes) registered in Fall semester classes.
- Forty-two (42) students were placed in SENL 100B. The average grade for this course was 3.24.
- Twenty-nine (29) students were placed in SENL 101B. The average grade for this course was 3.42.
- Fourteen (14) students were placed in MATH 129B. The average grade for this course was 3.57.
- Sixty-nine (69) students were placed in MATH 134B. The average grade for this course was 3.13.
- 80 students received a grade of an A in their courses.
- Peyton Weatherspoon was elected to serve as Miss Freshman
- Faith Alexander was elected to serve as Freshman Justice
- Kellen Anthony was elected to serve as Vice President for Freshman Class
- Jaden York ran for Freshman Class President
- Jakari Brown ran for Freshman Class President
- Jakari Brown received the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc College Scholarship.

# ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS



*The above photo displays the Director of First and Second Year Experience - Jourdan Hilaire and University College Ambassador - Alton Holloway Jr..*



*The above photo displays Coordinator of First and Second Year Experience - Iyanna Lewis and JSA student Riggous Allcutt at the Jaguar Success Academy banquet.*



*The above photo JSA students Madyson Johnson and Trent Smith for ice cream sundaes provided by Aramark at the emotional intelligence and microaggressions presentation by Taylor McCain.*



*The above photo displays JSA students for a financial wellness presentation by Essence Davis.*



*The photo on the left displays "Mentor of the Summer" Alton Holloway Jr. and "Student of the Summer" Hannah Brister at the Jaguar Success Academy banquet.*

# INSIDE STORY

## SUBR STUDENT LEADERS ATTEND HEALTH IS WEALTH KICK-OFF EVENT



SUBR student leaders from the Student Government Association, royal court, Jaguar Activities Board, and the presidents of the Divine Nine were treated to a special dinner hosted by Tommi Vincent, life coach, chef, author, and host of Stay A While.

The event, held on September 12, featured Vincent's Soul Food Workshop - Whole Life, where the goal was for

participants to acquire an intimate knowledge of self to serve as a measure to gauge their wellbeing in all areas of their lives.

President-Chancellor Shields led the evening by sharing with students his commitment to student success and encouraged them that focusing on their health and wellness was foundational to their success.

Vincent presented information on how to develop healthy lifestyles, increasing self-awareness, and shared tools for internal checks and balances.

The intent of the gathering is to have our students leaders serve as ambassadors for healthy lifestyles as they engage with their peers in their respective leadership roles.

Also joining the evening were administrators from the Division of Student Affairs.

## THE COLLEGE TOUR (AMAZON SERIES)

All campuses are participating in production of upcoming season of "The College Tour," an Amazon Prime series highlighting higher education institutions across the country. Some schools that have been featured include Tulane, Xavier, Morgan State, Pepperdine, University of Oregon and Jackson State.

The one-hour program will feature our campuses through the eyes and voices of our students, the best spokespeople for campus life, academics and other experiences. This allows anyone from anywhere in the world to tour our campuses and get vital information about our processes for admissions, financial aid and more. Our communications teams have been working with the award-winning production team to cast, do scout locations and more. Filming will begin in late October on campuses.

This will be streamed on Amazon Prime, social media and other platforms when finalized.

# INSIDE STORY

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ENTERS INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

The Southern University System has entered into a partnership with the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis to provide quality education for Kittitians and Nevisians at a reasonable cost. In a ceremony held on September 13, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Dr. Geoffrey Hanley and SU System President-Chancellor Dennis Shields signed a memorandum of understanding outlining the terms of the partnership.

The purpose and goals of the partnership are:

- The SU System has a significant interest in expanding global awareness of the System and its campus program offerings.
- The SU System has a significant interest in enrolling high quality students to various degree programs.
- The SU System has a particular interest in expanding the number of students from St. Kitts and Nevis who wish to pursue degrees at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- St. Kitts and Nevis has a particular interest in providing high quality, baccalaureate and graduate degree preparation and other educational programs for its citizens and residents at a reasonable cost.

This partnership makes SU System campuses a college of choice for the residents of St. Kitts and Nevis while also allowing them admission to SU campuses as in-state students.

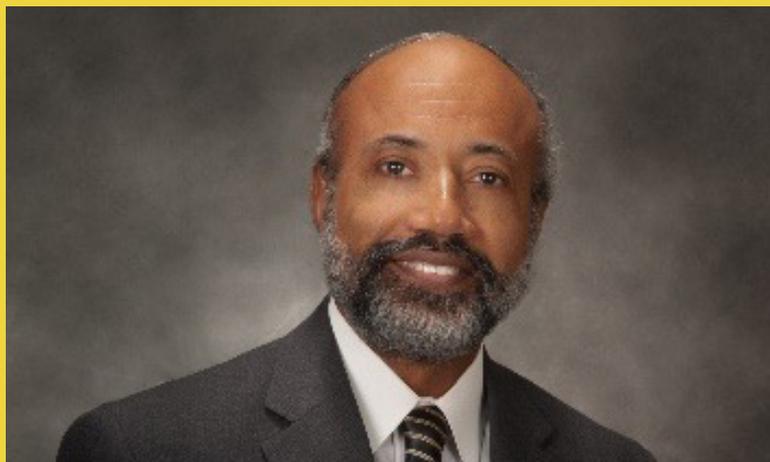
## OCHSNER HBCU HEALTHCARE CAREERS SUMMIT

On Wednesday, September 13, Ochsner held its HBCU Healthcare Careers Summit in the Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union. More than 700 students registered for the event, which catered to all majors, underscoring the vast opportunities in healthcare, including I.T., human resources, nursing and allied health, and more.

Activities included keynote sessions with professionals, resume writing tips, LinkedIn advice, professional headshots, and mentor

# INSIDE STORY

## DR. DONALD ANDREWS NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE HBCU BUSINESS DEANS ROUNDTABLE



Dr. Donald Andrews, Dean of Business and George Leon Netterville/Kellogg Endowed Professor, was appointed to be the President of the HBCU Business Deans Roundtable. He is leading the effort for its 2024 Summit, “Building for the Future: Thriving in a World of Digital Disruption” The tentative agenda includes sessions on: Program Capacity Building and Development, Student Preparation and Development, Faculty and Administrator Development, and Partnership Expansion all led by sponsors and previous Roundtable Presidents. The summit will conclude with an Awards Program for participants with over 20 years of service. As the President, Dr. Andrews plans “to work with the new President Elect, Summit Program Chair, and Immediate Past President to help continuing to develop the 2024 Summit program which is shaping up to be an outstanding opportunity for continuing the dialogue, developing outstanding business programs by deans for the faculty and students that we serve, move to implement our strategic plan and increase the value of the organization to our stakeholders, continue outreach to Business sponsors especially those in AI and Federal Agencies specifically those with a direct connection to Business, such as the Departments of Commerce, Education, Treasury, SBA, SEC and others.

## DR. ALISA ROSS, DIRECTOR OF DATA ASSESSMENT AND THE QEP, SPOTLIGHTED ON NEW TEACHER TALK



Dr. Alisa Ross, Director of Data Assessment and the QEP, produced the first of several episodes this month titled, “Creating an Environment of Celebration,” on the New Teacher Talk Channel. New Teacher Talk is quickly trending toward 2,000 downloads, with outreach to many different countries: United States, Chile, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Spain, United Kingdom, Croatia, Germany, and El Salvador.

Dr. Ross’ episode is housed on Podbean but can be found on iTunes, Spotify, Google Podcasts, and other major platforms under the New Teacher Talk Channel. Additionally, marketing of her episode included notification on X (formerly known as Twitter) and a shoutout to Southern University and A&M College (SUBR) via Instagram. The architects of the podcast channel are Dr. Elizabeth Wilkins, Emeritus faculty member at Northern Illinois University, and Dr. Anna Quinzio-Zafran, NBCT, NIU. We are the architects of the podcast channel called, New Teacher Talk.

Dr. Wilkins stated, “We have enjoyed working with Dr. Ross and look forward to her upcoming episodes. As you listen to her episode, we believe you’ll be drawn into the content based on her vocal cadence and pragmatic ideas. In short, her episode draws in the listener because of her approach.”

# INSIDE STORY

## DR. LURIA YOUNG APPOINTED TO SREB ADVISORY BOARD FOR NEW FACULTY DEVELOPMENT CENTER



The Southern Regional Education Board has named leaders from a diverse group of colleges to an advisory committee for a new Center for Innovative Faculty Development. Dr. Luria Young, Interim Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, was selected for its inaugural advisory board.

As part of SREB's efforts to improve the success of postsecondary students, the center will support faculty with teaching strategies to help more students complete credentials and launch careers. This goal is in direct alignment with the Louisiana Board of Regents Meauxmentum Initiative. Advisory committee members will help SREB shape the center's focus, including lending their expertise to the center's curriculum and design.

The group began its initial in person convening this month. Other advisory board members include:

- Derek Greenfield, vice president for inclusive excellence, Harris-Stowe State University, chair
- J. Indigo Eriksen, associate professor of English, Northern Virginia Community College
- Melody Kelley, associate professor of chemistry, Georgia State University
- Robert Osgood, associate professor and program director, department of biomedical sciences, Rochester Institute of Technology
- William Russell Robinson, associate professor and chair, department of communications, Alabama State University
- Betina Cutaia Wilkinson, associate professor and associate chair, department of politics and international affairs, Wake Forest University
- Sheila Witherspoon, CEO, eLearning Design

Ex-officio members are Douglas Curry, doctoral candidate at North Carolina State University, and Stevie Lawrence II, provost and vice president for academic affairs, Lincoln University

"Faculty members play an important role in their students' success, not only in coursework but as they embark on their chosen paths into the workforce as well," said SREB President Stephen L. Pruitt. "At institutions that serve students from low-income families, rural areas and racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in higher education, it's especially important for faculty to align teaching with how students learn and what they need in the workplace."

"It's an irrefutable fact that our population of students will continue to grow more diverse in the coming years, and our faculty need ways to reach students of a new generation unlike their own," said Ansley Abraham, director of SREB's Doctoral Scholars Program. "The center will build on what we've learned over 30 years in preparing faculty through the Institute on Teaching and Mentoring."

SREB is announcing plans for the new center on Sept. 13 and 14 at its annual Student Success Summit in Atlanta. Faculty are encouraged to attend to participate in training and provide feedback on the center's future offerings. The SREB Center for Innovative Faculty Development plans to host its first faculty cohort in the 2024-25 school year.

*The Southern Regional Education Board works with states, districts and schools to improve education at every level, from early childhood through doctoral education and the workforce. An interstate compact and a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Atlanta, SREB was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators to advance education and improve the social and economic life of the region.*

# GRANTS AWARDED

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



**Project Title:** Wraparound Educational Supports for Teacher Candidates at Southern University (WESTC)

**Funding Agency:** Louisiana Board of Regents Departmental Enhancement, Comprehensive Award

**Amount Funded:** \$930,892

**Project Overview:** WEST-C is the Board of Regent's first comprehensive award in the area of teacher preparation. The project is designed to enhance the Southern University (SU) School of Education's (SOE) ability to prepare "diverse professionals who foster learning by utilizing technology and best practices in diverse educational and clinical environments" through "appropriate, intensive educational and field experience opportunities" (SU). The three-point comprehensive program will (1) provide and evaluate wraparound student support services to teacher candidates by hiring Student Service Coordinators and Graduate Research Assistants, (2) implement Pre-Educator Pathways (PEPs) in partner high schools by training K-12 teachers and licensing the PEP course content and support, and (3) engage a consultant to support accreditation activities.

Each activity plays a role in meeting these SOE goals: (1) prepare teacher candidates who are day one ready to serve diverse students; (2) provide candidates with a culturally relevant and sustainable program experience; (3) strengthen the career teacher pipeline; and (4) engage in a cycle of continuous improvement to meet teacher candidates' needs and maintain accreditation.

**PI:** Erin Scott-Stewart, Ph.D.

**Co-PIs:** Emily Jackson-Osagie, Ph.D., VerJanis Peoples, Ph.D.

# CONT. GRANTS



**Project Title:** Diversifying STEM Teacher Education via Evidence-based Instruction and Authentic Research Experiences (D-STEP)

**Funding Agency:** National Science Foundation

**Amount Funded:** \$1,200,000

**Project Overview:** This project aims to serve the national need of recruiting, preparing, and retaining high-quality secondary STEM teachers who possess deep subject matter and pedagogical knowledge; well-developed knowledge and skills for integrating STEM content, processes, and practices; and a commitment to creating equitable and inclusive learning environments for diverse student populations. Numerous reports link K-12 STEM education to the U.S. effort to maintain its scientific and economic leadership in today's global economy. Through efforts targeting development of intern, scholar, and teacher content knowledge, teaching practice, and research skills, the project will position prospective STEM teachers from diverse backgrounds to effectively meet the needs of learners in high-need schools located in historically underserved communities. The thrust for this project will come from its foundation of fostering STEM teacher self-efficacy, incorporating inquiry-based laboratory experiences and field-based teaching experiences, and focusing intentionally on

learning instructional practices that allow, invite, and encourage students to seamlessly maintain alignment between the culture at school and the culture in their home. In addition, the project activities aims to enhance understanding of how evidence-based instruction and authentic research experiences support preparation of prospective STEM teachers and the role this plays in retaining STEM teachers in the teaching profession.

D-STEP at Southern University and A&M College, the main campus of the only Historically Black College and University System in the Nation, includes partnerships with the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, Southern University Laboratory School, experts in STEM education, and two NSF-funded research projects (1) Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory Science Education Center (LIGO SEC) Partnership and (2) California Polytechnic State University's STEM Teacher and Researcher Project (STAR). By leveraging culturally sustaining pedagogy and self-efficacy principles, this project aims to target the unique resources women and others from historically disenfranchised groups bring to teaching. Goals of this 5-year project include (1) engaging 15 interns in authentic STEM research experiences, (2) certifying 15 highly qualified STEM teachers, and (3) providing high-quality induction support for novice STEM teachers. At all project levels, participants will serve in high-need school settings. This Track 1: Scholarships and Stipends project is supported through the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program (Noyce). The Noyce program supports talented STEM undergraduate majors and professionals to become effective K-12 STEM teachers and experienced, exemplary K-12 teachers to become STEM master teachers in high-need school districts. It also supports research on the effectiveness and retention of K-12 STEM teachers in high-need school districts. This award reflects NSF's statutory mission and has been deemed worthy of support through evaluation using the Foundation's intellectual merit and broader impacts review criteria.

**PI:** Emily Jackson-Osagie, Ph.D.

**Co-PIs:** Erin Scott-Stewart, Ph.D., Raphyel Rosby, Ph.D., VerJanis Peoples, Ph.D.

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*Produced by the SULC Office of External Affairs*