

# SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS PARTNERS WITH THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ALL-PRO LINEBACKER, DEMARIO DAVIS, AND HIS DEVOTED DREAMERS ACADEMY

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) and Demario Davis, All-Pro Linebacker and captain of the New Orleans Saints hosted an open house on January 7, 2023, for his Devoted Dreamers Academy. This event welcomed members of the New Orleans community to come together and learn more about the Devoted Dreamers Academy and its plans for the upcoming years. Students from the inaugural class of the New Orleans Devoted Dreamers Academy also attended the Saints game Sunday, January 8, courtesy of Stand Together, a philanthropic community partner. The attendees were also invited to visit the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art (SUNOMA).

The Devoted Dreamers Academy is supported by Founding Trustee Mrs. Gayle Benson, Founding Partner, Stand Together, and Founding Athletes Alvin Kamara, Jarvis Landry, Cam Jordan, CJ Gardner-Johnson, Drew Brees, Jameis Winston, Malcolm Jenkins, Mark Ingram, Marshon Lattimore, Michael Thomas, Terron Armstead, and Tyrann Mathieu. SUNO and the Rooted School are also key partners of the academy.

The Devoted Dreamers Academy was founded in 2022 by Demario and Tamela Davis. It focuses on the individual student's learning styles, strengths, limitations, passions, and pursuits. Students will have access to elite sports experience labs, academic mentors, exposure to the world of professional sports, guest speakers, and personal guidance from experienced coaches to help navigate the college recruiting process.





## **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

#### POPUP GRANT-WRITING WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

The SUNO College of Business & Public Administration partnered with the principal of the SUNO Small Business Incubator Building-based Alpha Management and Consulting Services, Mary & Company Real Estate Services, and Mrs. Mary Adams-Thomas, to provide a popup grant-writing workshop for 11 New Orleans-based small business owners, some of whom are tenants of SUNO's Small Business Incubator Building. The January 10, 2023 workshop was facilitated by Ms. Tya Scroggins of Scroggins Consulting, LLC, a Shreveport-based business consultant and grant writer, at the SUNO Small Business Incubator Training Room. Program participants own businesses in such industries as real estate development and sales, engineering, education, social services, and community development. During her remarks, Mrs. Adams-Thomas stated that "...in addition to their obsession about their customer needs, many small business owners are hungry for information related grants, especially where to find them and how to put them together...." Dr. Igwe E. Udeh, Dean of the College of Business & Public Administration, was invited to bring greetings to the participants on behalf of the College.









#### MORE IT CERTIFICATIONS AND BADGES FOR SUNO COLLEGE OF BUSINESS STUDENTS

The faculty and staff of the SUNO College of Business & Public Administration organized various boot camps to incentive and shepherd students to earn very valuable Information Technology (IT) certifications and badges during the Fall semester of 2022. The CompTIA IT Fundamentals+ certification boot camp was underwritten with funding from a Louisiana Board of Regents grant. Dr. Igwe Udeh is the PI, and Drs. Alijani and Kwun are the Co-PIs. The CompTIA IT Fundamentals+ certification equips students to serve as desktop support specialists. In a highly structured certification exam, participants had to demonstrate appropriate baseline knowledge of operating systems, networks, computer security, hardware, and software maintenance. Thirty-two (32) business majors earned the CompTIA Fundamentals+ after passing the exam. SUNO students and staff also earned 39 certificates and badges from the Fall 2022 AWS/IBM Virtual Bootcamp in such specialties as Design Thinking, Enterprise Design Thinking, Zero Trust, AWS Certification, Cybersecurity, and Data Science. The Virtual Technology Bootcamp took place from December 10 to 21, 2022. The AWS/IBM Virtual Bootcamp was underwritten with financial support from DXC Partnership, IBM, and LAABSET. More badges and certificates are expected to be earned as participants take scheduled exams within the next few weeks.

Fall 2022 DXC Partnership/LAABSET IT Boot Camp Report - SUNO						
Badges or Certifications earned as of January 5, 2023						
Design Thinking	Enterprise Design Thinking	Zero Trust	AWS Certification	Cybersecurity	Data Science	Total
9	П	9		5	5	39



#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Lyceum at SUNO, in conjunction with the Center for African and African American Studies, hosted the 5th Annual Living Legends Award Ceremony on January 13, 2023. This event's mission is to acknowledge the accomplishments of local African Americans who have impacted the city of New Orleans through their dedicated work. This year's recipient is Dr. Keith C. Ferdinand, a Gerald S. Berenson Endowed Chair in Preventative Cardiology and Professor of Medicine in the John W. Deming Department of Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine. He was chosen in honor of his diligent work in cardiovascular health aimed at improving the health of African Americans and other high-risk, marginalized populations. This event was a great success.







#### **HEALTH SERVICES**

Ochsner/ SUNO Urgent Care continues to run smoothly. Numbers have been low due to the holiday break. We are geared up and ready for the new semester to start, preparing to host the Health is Wealth Spring Expo Day in conjunction with Priority Health Care and a few other community stakeholders. We are looking forward to the Spring semester and the return of the students.

### STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CENTER COMMUNITY SERVICE-LEARNING/SUNO CARES STUDENT RESOURCES

December 9, 2022, our staff planned and coordinated the first Our Money Matters Basketball Promotional Night. As a resource, students were able to sign up to receive information on financial literacy, promotional items, prizes, and \$50 e-cards were disseminated at the basketball game. Pictured below are two student winners during the half-time dance contest, Our Money Matters representative Ms. Allison Jean, and our SUNO mascot.

Our SUNO cheerleaders and their Coach, displaying some of the Our Money Matters promotional items that were given away before and during the game.

SUNO students signing up to receive information on financial literacy and the Our Money Matters promotional items.

Our next Our Money Matters Promotional Game Day is scheduled for January 21, 2023. In addition, we are developing and collaborating with Career Services, Criminal Justice, and Business Student Advisors to create a comprehensive plan of events to assist the FBI with communicating various internships, externships, and career opportunities available for our SUNO scholars and alumni.



