



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY *at* NEW ORLEANS
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NEWS ARCHIVES

***Southern University campuses to unite for S.O.S Day at the Capitol
April 25, 2011***

All five campuses of the Southern University System will gather at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge on Tuesday, April 26th for S.O.S. Day at the Capitol at 9 a.m. Representatives of all five campuses will speak at a rally to be held on the steps of the State Capitol at 10 a.m.

S.O.S., a term coined by SUS President Ron Mason, J.D., has several meanings. Guest speakers will focus on the following areas during the rally:

Save Our Students – College student leaders
Save Our State - Legislators, advocacy groups
Save Our SUNO - New Orleans community
Save Our Schools - Education community
Save Our Spirit - Religious community
Save Our Southern – Alumni

The Southern system has invited members of all Louisiana state institutions to express their support for strengthening institutions across the state within their current systems.

Sen. Conrad Appel (Dist. 9-Metairie) and Rep. Jim Tucker (Dist. 86) have filed bills proposing a merger between SUNO and the University of New Orleans as well as the transfer of both schools to the University of Louisiana System. Sen. Appel filed SB 183 and Rep. Tucker has filed HB 537. Rep. Tucker has also filed HB 391 which calls for "the Board of Regents and the management boards" to transfer "their powers, duties, and responsibilities to a newly created La. Postsecondary Education Board of Trustees."

***President Mason to appear on WBOK-AM's April 1st morning show
March 30, 2011***

Dr. Ron Mason, President of the Southern University System, will appear on WBOK-AM, 1230 on Friday, April 1st from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Dr. Mason will appear on "The Good Morning Show" with Gerod Stevens to discuss the latest on Gov. Bobby Jindal's proposal to merger SUNO and UNO as well as the System's proposed Honore Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement. The interview will also be streamed live on www.wbok1230am.com.

***SUNO's "Support Our Southern" campaign campus launch to happen March 16th
March 11, 2011***

Jonathan Sumter '02, president of the Urban League Young Professionals and Advocate Supervisor for CASA, will serve as a guest speaker

Southern University at New Orleans will launch its leg of the Southern University System's "Support Our Southern" (S.O.S.) campaign on Wednesday, March 16th at 11 a.m. The launch will take place in conjunction with the ribbon cutting of the Information Technology Center on the Lake Campus at 6801 Press Drive.

On February 25th, the Southern University System launched S.O.S. with a press conference on the campus of Southern University and A&M College during the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs' statewide conference for elected officials. Demetrius Sumner, president of Southern's Student Government

Association, presided over the event. Chancellor Victor Ukpolo spoke passionately about the challenges and successes of Southern University at New Orleans during his "Meeting the Challenge" address, previous to the press conference.

S.O.S. is an advocacy and fundraising campaign dedicated to preserving access to "education, excellence in teaching, and most importantly ensuring the perpetuity" of the Southern System and its five member institutions. During the S.O.S. press conference, all of the campus chancellors spoke of the challenges, missions, and successes of their respective campuses. View interviews from the Louisiana Hometown Network [here](#).

Most notably, President Ronald Mason, Jr. delivered opening comments which brought focus to the importance the Southern University System has to underrepresented degree-seekers throughout the state and beyond. "Our State is poor, 40% of its African American population is poor. We have the highest juvenile incarceration rate in the nation, at a cost of \$26,000 per inmate per year," said President Mason. "Seventy-four percent of the people in prison in our state are Black. These statistics make clear that Louisiana needs Southern to help secure its future."

Acknowledging the challenge placed before the Southern System, President Mason did not hesitate to question the fairness of selecting the Southern System as the primary model for streamlining higher education in Louisiana, "When we tighten our belts, why must the people who own only one belt do most of the tightening? Also, if the benefits of tax exemptions are supposed to trickle down, then why do the rich keep getting richer and the poor keep getting poorer?"

President Mason also pointed toward a positive future for SUNO. He pointed out that by 2015, the University's graduation rate is expected to reach 25%, and by 2020 it should reach 50%. "If we are successful, New Orleans will be greatly aided in claiming a place of prominence among the world's cities," he declared.

Each campus of the Southern System will hold its own launch event. The Baton Rouge campus will hold its launch on Friday, March 11th, and the Southern University Law Center will launch on Wednesday, March 30th. Dates for the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Southern University at Shreveport are currently being set.

University to get share of major Coca-Cola Foundation Grant December 22, 2010

The Southern University at New Orleans Foundation has been awarded \$25,000 from The Coca-Cola Foundation (the Foundation), the philanthropic arm of The Coca-Cola Company. The funds are part of a \$4 million grant distributed to 38 organizations across the United States and Canada in keeping with the Foundation's commitment to build sustainable communities throughout North America, including the District of Columbia and one Canadian province. The total scope of the grants includes water conservation, community recycling, active healthy living and education. The Southern University at New Orleans Foundation is the fund raising arm of SUNO.

The grant will provide First Generation College Scholarships to twenty students who are enrolled as full-time students at SUNO. To be eligible, students must have completed at least one semester at the University to be eligible. The First Generation Scholarship Program provides scholarship support to full-time students who are the first in their immediate family to attend college, maintain a 3.0 grade point average and demonstrate financial need. The Coca-Cola Foundation has contributed more than \$23 million in First Generation Scholarship support since 1993.

"The Coca-Cola Company should be commended for its support of education and its support of young people," said Dr. Emmett Bashful, Chairman of the Board of the SUNO Foundation. Bashful is also Chancellor Emeritus and the first Chancellor of SUNO.

"These funds are important to helping SUNO maintain a commitment to its mission of providing access to a college education to students," said Dr. Victor Ukpolo, Chancellor of SUNO. "The University wants to do whatever it can to ensure that first generation college students from everywhere have access to the affordable quality opportunity

SUNO presents to help students advance their lives.”

“At the Foundation, our goal is to make a positive impact by promoting and creating sustainable communities around the world,” said Ingrid Saunders Jones, senior vice president, Global Community Connections, The Coca-Cola Company and chair of The Coca-Cola Foundation. “The funding provided to these 38 organizations will support community programs that align to our giving priorities across the U.S. and Canada.”

Details of how and when students can apply for the scholarship have not yet been released.