

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

AUGUST 2025

## PATHWAY TO KNIGHTHOOD

ENROLLMENT



RETENTION



GRADUATION



PERSISTENCE



GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL  
STUDIES/PLACEMENT



# In the Know AT SUNO

## DR. JOSEPH BOUIE, JR. APPOINTED THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CHANCELLOR OF SUNO.

Dr. Joseph Bouie Jr. returns to Southern University at New Orleans as Chancellor, bringing with him a distinguished legacy in education, public service, and community leadership. A proud SUNO alumnus, Dr. Bouie holds a B.A. from Southern University at New Orleans, an MSW from Tulane University, and a Ph.D. from Clark Atlanta University.

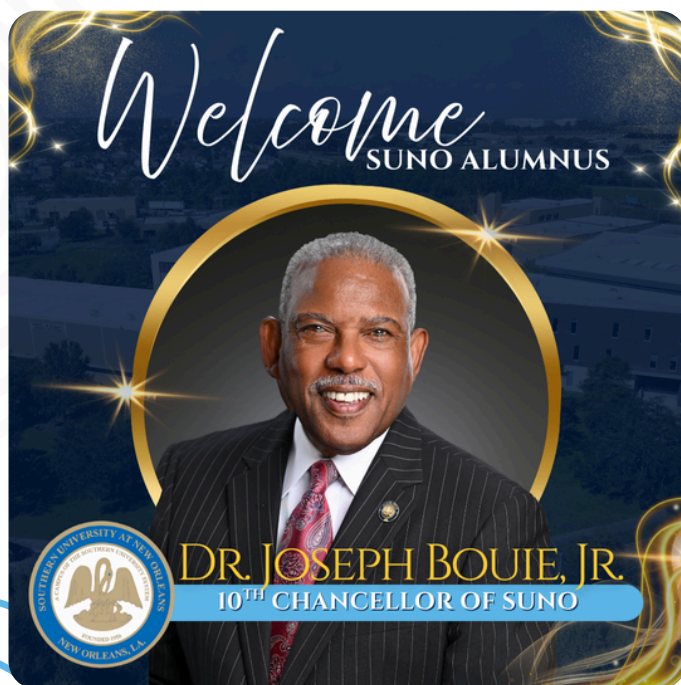
With over 40 years of experience as a Social Work educator, university administrator, and community advocate, Dr. Bouie has held leadership roles in higher education and government. His career includes previous service as SUNO's Chancellor, as well as Louisiana State Senator for District 3 and Chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. His expertise spans administration, community organization, leadership development, and substance abuse research and prevention.

Dr. Bouie's return to SUNO marks a full-circle moment in his lifelong commitment to education, equity, and service. He is dedicated to advancing SUNO's mission as a vital institution for academic excellence and cultural leadership in New Orleans.

He is married to his wife of over 45 years, Leslie P. Bouie, and is the proud father of five adult children.

His guiding motto remains:

***"Education without God makes one just a clever devil."***





# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO HBCU SUMMIT

Southern University at New Orleans proudly welcomed the California Community Colleges to HBCU Summit delegation to campus on June 26th. The visit began with engaging presentations from SUNO's Academic Affairs and Student Support teams, followed by a dynamic panel discussion featuring our esteemed deans and directors inside the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work auditorium.

Following the panel, the group enjoyed a guided tour of the Park Campus. During the bus ride from the Lake Campus, SUNO's Director of Recruitment energized the group with entertaining commentary, fun facts about New Orleans, and local dining recommendations.

A highlight of the Park Campus tour was a stop at the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art (SUNOMA). Director Erika Witt offered an inspiring and heartfelt introduction to the museum's historical artifacts, emphasizing SUNOMA's role in preserving and celebrating our cultural heritage.

The group then visited the University Center (UC), concluding their tour with a visit to the SUNO Bookstore, where many stocked up on SUNO-branded merchandise to commemorate their visit.

The summit brought together over 100 higher education professionals from California's community colleges, with the goal of enhancing transfer pathways and increasing awareness of the value of a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) education—specifically at SUNO. Through this impactful visit, SUNO successfully strengthened its connection with California institutions and reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence and student success.



## RECRUITMENT ROUNDUP

The summer season remained active at Southern University at New Orleans as the Office of Recruitment welcomed a steady stream of both large and small tour groups to campus.

Visitors included students from the Boys and Girls Club of Mississippi, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA), and local high school students and their families—each eager to learn more about SUNO's academic offerings and vibrant campus culture.

SUNO's academic programs played a vital role in these tours, serving as enthusiastic partners in showcasing the university's commitment to academic excellence and student success.





## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO)'s Student Support Services (SSS) Program received a \$2.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This federally funded program supports 300 students by offering academic coaching, tutoring, financial and economic literacy guidance, career preparation, and assistance in graduate school enrollment, and so much more.

Students from low-income families, first-generation households, and/or students with disabilities qualify for the program. Linda D. Frederick, SUNO's Executive Director for TRIO Collegiate Programs, said the program has helped many students matriculate and graduate from SUNO within four to six years. In the 2023–24 academic year, the SUNO SSS achieved a 76% persistence rate, 85% good academic standing, and a 59% six-year graduation rate.

As the TRIO grant is distributed over the next five years, SUNO and program staff look forward to continuing the intensive and hands-on services the program provides.

## EMMETT W. BASHFUL SCHOLARSHIP BASH

The Emmett W. Bashful Scholarship Gala, affectionately known as “The BASH”, is an annual fundraising event hosted by the Southern University at New Orleans Foundation, the SUNO Alumni Association, and Southern University at New Orleans.

It's named in honor of Dr. Emmett W. Bashful, SUNO's founding and longest-serving chancellor, and celebrates his legacy through support for student scholarships. The BASH will be held at the Sheraton Hotel on September 27, 2025.

You do not want to miss this celebration of our SUNO Legacies. Tickets are on sale now for \$150.00 each. You may purchase tickets from Ms. Coulon in room 312 in the Bashful Administration Building. Cash, Cashier's Check, or Money orders will be accepted.

## UPCOMING DATES

Move-In Day: August 13, 2025

New Student Orientation: August 15, 2025

Welcome Week: Aug 18-22, 2025



# ATHLETICS

Under the leadership of Director of Athletics James A. Matthews III, SUNO Athletics champions a culture of integrity, discipline, and service. As a cornerstone of the University's enrollment and retention strategy, the department creates pathways for underserved students to excel both on the field and in the classroom.

At SUNO, athletics is more than a game—it's a driver of institutional growth, student achievement, and community engagement. Throughout the year, our student-athletes have shown up in service across New Orleans, proving that athletics is not just about competition—it's the driveway to the house, the path that leads students into the heart of SUNO.

Our year-to-year accomplishments are a testament to the innovative and servant leadership of SUNO Director of Athletics, James A. Matthews III. Under his direction, SUNO Athletics has experienced significant growth and impact across multiple areas. Highlights include:

- Enrollment growth: From just 35 student-athletes in 2022 to 125 in 2024–25 — a 257% increase.
- Academic excellence: 40% of student-athletes were named to the conference honor roll.
- Retention success: SUNO Athletics maintains a 77% retention rate, far exceeding the University's eight-year average of 32% — a significant achievement considering student-athletes have only five years (10 semesters) to complete their degrees before exhausting eligibility.
- Baseball expansion: The baseball program alone enrolled 50 student-athletes.
- First broadcast sponsorship: Secured to enhance SUNO's digital presence and boost brand awareness.
- Brand partnerships in progress: Aimed at securing additional resources and support for our student-athletes.
- Increased game viewership and growing fan interest.
- Explosive social media growth: Monthly engagement jumped from 5,000 views to over 65,000.
- Ad sales milestone: Sold advertising space for the first time in program history.

These milestones reflect the transformative power of athletics at SUNO—not just in competition, but in enrollment, academic performance, branding, and student success.

**In addition to these accomplishments, we proudly celebrate our academic success, with four teams named NAIA Scholar Teams over the past two years. Men's Basketball led the way with the highest team GPA of 3.46, followed closely by Women's Basketball with a 3.22 GPA.**





# A KNIGHT'S FAREWELL

Dear Southern University System Community,

With profound admiration and deep gratitude, we extend our heartfelt farewell to Dr. James H. Ammons Jr. as he concludes his tenure as the ninth Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans and transitions gracefully into his next chapter as a distinguished faculty member in the College of Arts and Humanities.

Dr. Ammons has served not only as a leader but as a beacon of wisdom, vision, and steady resolve during a transformative era in SUNO's history. With grace, intellect, and unwavering purpose, he guided our institution through challenges and triumphs—strengthening academic rigor, expanding student success initiatives, and positioning SUNO for a bold and promising future.

As we mark the close of his chancellorship, we find comfort in knowing that his journey with SUNO is far from over. In the classroom, where his passion for truth, dialogue, and human progress thrives, Dr. Ammons will continue to inspire, educate, and uplift. His legacy will live not only in the policies he shaped, but in the lives he touches each day.

Dr. Ammons, your service has been transformational and your dedication unmatched. You have given this institution your brilliance, your integrity, and your heart. SUNO is stronger, more resilient, and better prepared for the future because of your leadership. The impact of your tenure will echo for generations to come.

We send you forward with our deepest appreciation and warmest wishes—for continued success, for personal fulfillment, and for the immeasurable joy that comes from mentoring and shaping the next generation.

At SUNO, you are—and always will be—a part of something great.

With gratitude and respect,

*Knight Nation*

*Southern University at New Orleans*



# SUNO

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