

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

MAY 2025

## PATHWAY TO KNIGHTHOOD



ENROLLMENT



RETENTION



GRADUATION



PERSISTENCE



GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL  
STUDIES/PLACEMENT



# A MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR AMMONS

As the academic year comes to a close, I am proud to share the May 2025 edition of the Chancellor's Report. This month's report captures the energy, momentum, and purpose that continue to define Southern University at New Orleans.

This spring, SUNO has been vibrant with activity. From student outreach and academic innovation to cultural contributions and strategic partnerships, our campus community continues to embody what it means to ***"be a part of something great."***

Initiatives like the Knights Friday Out City Tour demonstrate our deep commitment to access and equity in education—meeting students where they are, introducing them to the possibilities of higher learning, and supporting their journeys toward a brighter future.

We've welcomed key partners and stakeholders, expanded experiential learning opportunities, and strengthened relationships that will shape SUNO's long-term success. Whether through professional development, student-centered dialogue, or creative engagement with New Orleans' rich culture, SUNO is not just participating in the future of higher education—we are helping lead it.

As we prepare to celebrate our graduating class and their accomplishments, I am filled with pride in all we've achieved together. Our students remain at the heart of everything we do, and their stories continue to shape the legacy of this institution.

Thank you for your continued support of Southern University at New Orleans.

Welcome to the future of SUNO.

With kind regards,  
*James H. Ammons, Jr., Ph.D.*  
*Chancellor, Southern University at New Orleans*





# *In the Know* AT SUNO

## SUNO PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL CARES

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) is proud to partner with the National CARES Mentoring Movement, founded by former Essence Editor-in-Chief Susan L. Taylor, to expand mentorship and leadership development through The HBCU Rising Program.

Launched in Fall 2024, the program has already placed SUNO students as mentors at Sarah T. Reed high school, supporting youth while developing their academic and professional skills. Founded at Clark Atlanta University in 2014, HBCU Rising focuses on mentorship, career readiness, and community engagement for underserved students.

SUNO participants receive stipends and gain access to career workshops, leadership training, and corporate mentorship. Key initiatives include Wellness Mentoring Circles, community service-learning, and internships.

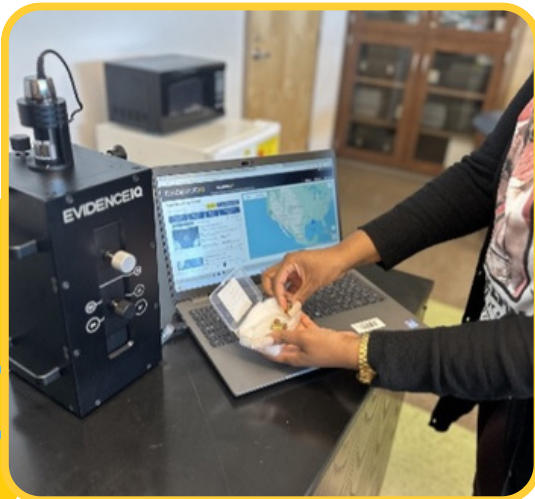
The program's successful launch at SUNO was championed by Dr. Camacia Smith-Ross, Chief of Staff, with continued support from Dean Tonya Rose and Vice Chancellor Dr. Zackeus Johnson. As SUNO's impact deepens in the New Orleans community, we will increase student, faculty, and partner participation.

Together, we are cultivating the next generation of changemakers and reaffirming SUNO's commitment to student empowerment and success.



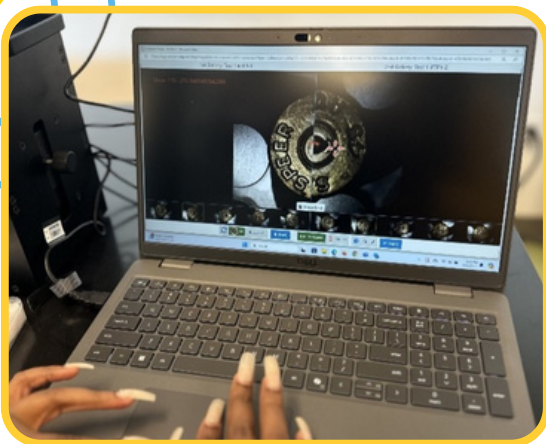
# FORENSIC SCIENCE

## FORENSIC SCIENCE FACULTY ENGAGE IN ADVANCED BALLISTIC IQ TRAINING



Faculty and staff from the Forensic Science Program—including Ms. Brooklynn Johnson, Dr. Meiko Thompson, and Ms. Tiffany Aperwhite—participated in a specialized Ballistic IQ training session led by former police officer and ballistics expert Scott McVeigh.

Ballistic IQ is a state-of-the-art portable scanning device law enforcement uses to rapidly analyze and compare cartridge casings recovered from crime scenes. The technology delivers real-time forensic intelligence, including firearm identification and optimal data entry for the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). This same technology is employed by the New Orleans Police Department Crime Lab, providing SUNO students with valuable exposure to industry-standard practices.



The CMC Grant supports this training as part of a broader initiative to enhance educational opportunities and deepen community engagement in minority-serving institutions. As a result, SUNO's Forensic Science Program will introduce a new "Introduction to Ballistics" course, complete with lecture and lab components. This course will offer students hands-on training in forensic ballistics and strengthen their qualifications for careers in forensic science.

Southern University at New Orleans is proud to be one of only 14 universities worldwide with access to Ballistic IQ technology, underscoring our commitment to providing students with cutting-edge forensic training and immersive, real-world experience.

## SUNO FORENSIC SCIENCE FEATURED AT YOUTHFORCE NOLA CAREER EXPO

Ms. Brooklynn Johnson, Interim Chair and Assistant Professor of SUNO's Forensic Science Program participated in the YouthForce NOLA and Junior Achievement Career Expo at the UNO Lakefront Arena. The event welcomed over 2,000 students from over 25 New Orleans public high schools.

Ms. Johnson introduced students to careers in forensic science, highlighting SUNO's academic pathways, the field's impact on the justice system, and her professional journey. She engaged students in discussions about college readiness, coursework, and career opportunities in forensic science.

The event reinforced SUNO's commitment to workforce development and community engagement, sparking strong interest in future campus visits and program exploration.





## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### SPRING 2025 CBA STUDENT ASSEMBLY AND TOWN HALL

The College of Business Administration (CBA) hosted its Spring 2025 Student Assembly and Town Hall, bringing together over 140 students, faculty, and staff to discuss key updates, accomplishments, and opportunities.

Dean Dr. Igwe E. Udeh and department chairs Dr. David Alijani and Dr. Yun Doo Lee shared the CBA's mission and goals, followed by insights from three guest speakers:

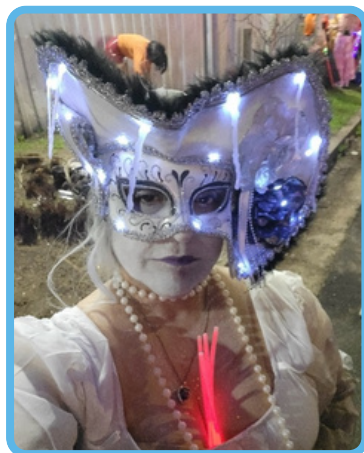
- Ms. Ambra Washington encouraged students to pursue opportunities in family-owned businesses.
- Mrs. Gwendolyn Crawford emphasized using support services and treating work with an ownership mindset.
- Mr. Omar Aziz stressed applying academic knowledge to solve real-world business challenges.

Campus support services and business student organizations also shared valuable resources and recruitment opportunities, reinforcing SUNO's commitment to student success.

## ARTS & HUMANITIES

### CELEBRATING OUR UNIQUE CULTURE

Fine Arts Professor Cynthia Ramirez embraced the spirit of Mardi Gras by actively participating in several community-centered celebrations. In addition to marching in the parades, she volunteered her artistic talents to help design and paint floats and created handmade throws for Krewe du Vieux and Krewe de Mayahuel. Her involvement highlights a strong commitment to cultural expression and artistic engagement within the community.



# BOARD OF REGENTS VISIT

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) proudly welcomed Louisiana Board of Regents members for an impactful campus visit centered on student engagement, institutional development, and academic innovation.

The visit began with a student panel discussion, where SUNO students shared their experiences, challenges, and hopes for the future. Regents engaged in thoughtful dialogue, affirming their commitment to student-centered policies and continued investment in higher education equity.

Attendees included Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed, Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education; Board Chair Misti Cordell; Vice-Chair Terry Sterling; and Regent Darren Mire. Their presence signaled strong support for SUNO's mission and its role as a vital institution within the state's higher education landscape.

Following the panel, the Regents met with SUNO's executive leadership to discuss strategic priorities, program expansion, and student success initiatives. The visit concluded with a campus tour, where guests observed recent enhancements and engaged directly with faculty and staff. This meaningful visit underscores the strong partnership between SUNO and the Louisiana Board of Regents in advancing access, opportunity, and excellence for all students.





# HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS IN HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION



Mr. John Barrilleaux represented SUNO at the River Parishes Community College Health Sciences Advisory Board meeting, strengthening collaboration between the two institutions. SUNO's Health Information Management Systems (HIMS) program has been instrumental in supporting River Parishes Community College as it prepares to launch its new Health Information Technology associate degree program.

Through this growing partnership, SUNO is helping to expand access to health sciences education across the region. The collaboration supports curriculum development, professional guidance, and future articulation opportunities, allowing students to seamlessly transition from an associate to a bachelor's degree in health information management.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Jairus Ballard demonstrates a strong commitment to academic excellence and public health through ongoing professional development in Health Information Management Systems (HIMS). He recently reviewed key chapters of Health Information Management and Technology, a foundational textbook that guides students through the HIMS program's core concepts. His efforts help ensure curriculum alignment with evolving industry standards.

Mr. Ballard also participated in the CAHIIM Future Education Model webinar and the CAHIIM Accreditation Process Conference, where he engaged with national leaders to explore innovative teaching strategies and stay current on accreditation requirements critical to maintaining program quality.

In addition, he attended the Louisiana Colorectal Cancer Roundtable Annual Meeting, collaborating with healthcare professionals to discuss statewide initiatives focused on improving cancer screening, prevention, and treatment outcomes. His involvement reflects SUNO's broader commitment to public health, education, and community impact.



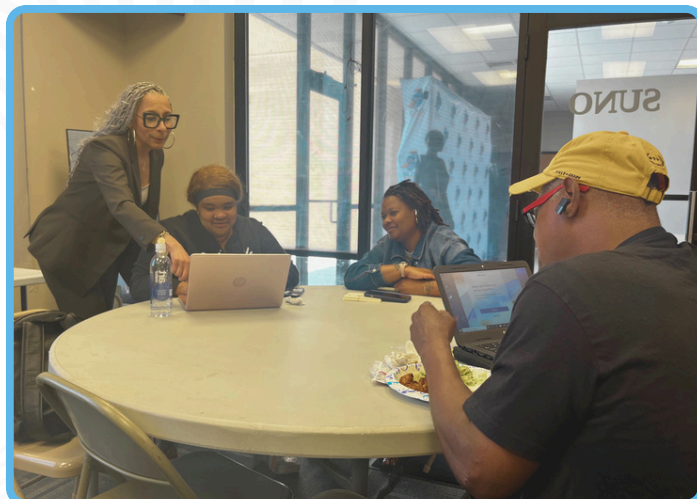
## CAREER SERVICES

### CFA SCHOLARS GAIN FINANCIAL SKILLS AT ANNUAL LUNCH & LEARN

The Office of Career Services and Professional Development hosted the annual Lunch & Learn event for Center for Financial Advancement (CFA) Scholars. The multi-day experience focused on strengthening financial literacy through interactive modules covering budgeting, saving, credit management, and basic investing.

Facilitated by Dr. Rugon and Mrs. Taplin, the sessions provided students with real-world financial strategies, group discussions, and engaging exercises designed to enhance their financial planning skills. Scholars were encouraged to reflect on their financial habits and apply practical tools for long-term success.

Participants who completed the modules were eligible to receive a stipend, reinforcing the importance of financial education and recognizing their commitment to personal development. This impactful event supported the students' academic journey and empowered them with essential knowledge to make sound financial decisions in their professional and personal lives.





## KNIGHTS FRIDAY OUT CITY TOUR

### SUNO LAUNCHES KNIGHTS FRIDAY OUT CITY TOUR TO EXPAND COLLEGE ACCESS

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) has launched the Knights Friday Out City Tour, a new outreach initiative to connect with local New Orleans high schools to expand awareness of SUNO's academic offerings and increase access to higher education.

Each Friday throughout the spring, SUNO representatives visited high schools nationwide to introduce students to the university's degree programs, campus life, and support services. The tour includes FAFSA completion assistance, helping students and families navigate the financial aid process, and removing barriers to college enrollment.

The initiative reflects SUNO's commitment to equity in education by reaching students where they are, building relationships early, and ensuring that all students—especially those from historically underserved communities—have the tools and information they need to pursue a college degree.

Through this tour, SUNO continues to expand its reach, strengthen community ties, and reaffirm its role as a catalyst for opportunity and student success across New Orleans.

#### High Schools Visited:

- Sarah T. Reed
- Warren Easton
- International High School
- St. Katherine Drexel
- New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School
- L.B. Landry



# SUNO

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