



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUNO Vice Chancellor Dr. Bree E. Cook Selected for Prestigious Millennium Leadership Initiative Cohort

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) proudly announces that Dr. Bree E. Cook, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, has been selected as one of just 31 higher education leaders nationwide to participate in the 2026 Millennium Leadership Initiative (MLI) Cohort, a premier leadership development program designed to prepare senior administrators for executive leadership roles in higher education.

Sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Millennium Leadership Initiative identifies and develops talented leaders from colleges and universities across the country who demonstrate exceptional potential to serve as future presidents and chancellors.

Dr. Cook joins a distinguished group of academic leaders selected through a competitive national process. Throughout the program, participants will engage in intensive leadership training, mentorship, and professional development opportunities focused on advancing institutional excellence and student success.

“Being selected for the Millennium Leadership Initiative is both an honor and a tremendous opportunity for growth,” said Dr. Bree E. Cook. “I am excited to learn alongside some of the nation's most talented higher education leaders and bring back innovative ideas and strategies that will further strengthen SUNO's commitment to academic excellence, student achievement, and community impact. This experience will not only enhance my own leadership journey but also contribute to the continued advancement of our university.”

SUNO Chancellor Dr. Joseph Bouie, Jr. praised Dr. Cook's selection, noting that it reflects both her leadership and the university's ongoing commitment to excellence.

“Dr. Cook's selection to the Millennium Leadership Initiative is a testament to her dedication, vision, and unwavering commitment to student success,” said Bouie. “We are proud to see her recognized among the nation's emerging higher education leaders and look forward to the positive impact this experience will have on SUNO and the students we serve.”

As Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Cook oversees the university's academic enterprise, advancing initiatives that support student success, faculty development, academic innovation, and institutional growth. Her selection further elevates SUNO's presence among leading institutions committed to developing the next generation of higher education leadership.

The Millennium Leadership Initiative has served as a launching pad for numerous college and university presidents, chancellors, and senior executives, making it one of the most respected leadership development programs in higher education.

About The American Association of State Colleges and Universities

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) is a Washington, D.C.-based higher education association that represents the sector of over 500 regional public colleges, universities, and systems whose members share a learning- and teaching-centered culture, a historic commitment to serving today's students, and a dedication to research and creativity that advances their regions' economic progress and cultural development. These are institutions delivering America's promise.

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About Southern University at New Orleans:

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), founded in 1956, is a public historically black university committed to providing quality educational opportunities for the diverse populations of the Greater New Orleans region. As part of the Southern University System, SUNO offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for personal and professional success.

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