

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. Joseph Bouie Jr. appointed chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — During its monthly meeting today, the Southern University System Board of Supervisors announced the appointment of Joseph Bouie Jr. as the new chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO). Bouie currently serves as Louisiana State Senator for District 3 in New Orleans and brings decades of experience as a higher education leader, public servant, and community advocate. His appointment as chancellor of SUNO is effective August 1.

Southern University System President Dennis J. Shields expressed enthusiasm for Bouie's appointment while extending appreciation to outgoing Chancellor James H. Ammons Jr. for his transformative leadership. Ammons has served as the chancellor of SUNO since January 2021. He will be a tenured professor at the University after his term ends on July 31.

"Dr. Ammons has led SUNO with great distinction and care, positioning the University for growth and long-term sustainability," Shields said. "During his tenure, SUNO launched innovative new academic programs in nursing, cybersecurity, data science, and other high-demand fields. He oversaw the return of the SUNO Knights athletic program and the establishment of the SUNO Museum of Art, and the re-establishment of the Evening and Weekend College that expanded access for working adults. We are grateful for his vision, leadership, and unwavering dedication." During the meeting, Board Chairman Tony Clayton echoed Shields' sentiments, applauding the smooth transfer of leadership.

"On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, we all thank you for keeping SUNO afloat and navigating the ship during tough times," Clayton said to Ammons, who received a standing ovation.

Bouie's return to SUNO marks a full-circle moment in a distinguished career that began at the University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology. He later completed his Master of Social Work from Tulane University and a Ph.D. in administration and planning from Clark Atlanta University. A retired professor of social work and former chancellor of SUNO, Bouie has dedicated over 40 years to higher education and community service, with expertise in administration, substance abuse research, and community organization.

"I am pleased to welcome Dr. Bouie back to SUNO as its next chancellor," Shields said. "He is a proven leader whose academic, administrative, and legislative experience make him uniquely qualified to guide SUNO into the next chapter. His deep roots in the SUNO community and lifelong commitment to public service will

be invaluable as we continue to build on the university's momentum."

Bouie brings to the role a unique blend of academic, administrative, and legislative experience. As a State Senator and former State Representative for District 97, he has been a strong advocate for equitable education funding, social justice, and health equity. He is also a former chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and has served on numerous state and national boards.

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your vote of confidence and this opportunity afforded me," Bouie said to the Board and President Shields. "I look forward to continuing to work with you, Chancellor Ammons, to advance SUNO." "SUNO raised me — actually, it saved my life," he continued. "The legacy of this institution is critical to not only this region but to the nation. I am grateful to have this opportunity to work with the SUNO family."

A native of New Orleans and lifelong public servant, Bouie is guided by a philosophy rooted in purpose and faith. His leadership is expected to further strengthen SUNO's role as a critical institution for academic excellence and community empowerment in the region.

Bouie is married to Leslie P. Bouie, and they are the parents of five adult children.

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About the Southern University System

The Southern University System was created in 1974 by constitutional mandate, which fashioned it into the nation's only historically Black 1890 Land-Grant University System. Presently, the System is composed of five institutions: Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (est. 1880), Southern University Law Center (est. 1947), Southern University at New Orleans (est. 1956), Southern University at Shreveport (est. 1964), and the Southern University Cooperative Extension Program (est. 1972), which became the fifth component of the System in 2001 and is now named Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Learn more at www.sus.edu.

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ATTACHED: Joseph Bouie Jr. delivers remarks at the Southern University System Board of Supervisors meeting following his appointment as chancellor of SUNO. He is joined by his granddaughter, Naomi Bouie, and his son, Joseph Bouie III.

Credit: Elbred Malone III/Southern University at New Orleans

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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