



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Southern University at New Orleans Crowned 2026 HBCUAC Men's Basketball Tournament Champions**

**NEW ORLEANS, LA** — The Southern University at New Orleans Men's Basketball Team has claimed the 2026 HBCUAC Men's Basketball Tournament Championship Title, bringing the trophy back to New Orleans for the first time since 2012 and marking a historic return to the top of the conference.

With resilience, discipline, and relentless determination, the Knights powered through the tournament bracket to secure the championship. The victory ends a 14-year championship drought and reestablishes SUNO as a dominant force within the conference.

"This championship represents the heart, grit, and unity of our student-athletes," said Chancellor Joseph Bouie, Jr. "To bring this title back to SUNO for the first time since 2012 speaks volumes about the growth of our program and the dedication of our players and coaches. The entire SUNO family celebrates this extraordinary accomplishment."

Throughout the tournament, the Knights showcased balanced scoring, defensive intensity, and composure under pressure. Their championship run was fueled by strong leadership from the coaching staff and standout performances from key players who rose to the occasion when it mattered most.

Head Coach and Athletic Director James Matthews praised the team's perseverance. "This group believed in each other from day one. They committed to the process, trusted the system, and earned this title through hard work and sacrifice. Restoring this championship legacy means everything to see the smiles on these young men's faces."

The championship not only highlights athletic achievement but also underscores SUNO's mission of developing well-rounded student-leaders prepared to excel in every arena. The Knights' victory brings pride to alumni, students, faculty, staff, and supporters across the region.

For more information about SUNO Athletics, visit [www.suno.edu](http://www.suno.edu)



***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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