



PRESS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:
DARREN SMITH, JR.
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
DSMITH01@SUNO.EDU | 504-617-5458

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2026

Southern University at New Orleans Announces Dr. Patrice Sentino as Dean of the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work

NEW ORLEANS, LA — Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Patrice Sentino as Dean of the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work. A two-time alumna of SUNO, Dr. Sentino brings an extraordinary record of leadership in higher education, behavioral health, civic engagement, and social justice, making her uniquely positioned to lead one of the University's most impactful academic units.

A native of Chicago and a longtime resident of New Orleans, Dr. Sentino earned both her Bachelor of Science in Substance Abuse Counseling and her Master of Social Work from SUNO. She holds a Doctor of Social Work from the University of Tennessee and a Doctor of Education in Educational Psychology and Technology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Dr. Sentino currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Center for Hope Children and Family Services, a community-based organization she founded in 2008. The agency provides holistic behavioral and mental health services to children, adolescents, and adults affected by HIV, homelessness, trauma, and maternal mental health disparities. A licensed clinical social worker and board-approved clinical supervisor (LCSW-BACS), Dr. Sentino is widely recognized for her advocacy in health equity, culturally responsive care, and juvenile justice reform.

An accomplished scholar and educator, Dr. Sentino is an Associate Professor at SUNO and has taught at leading institutions nationwide, including the University of Southern California, Columbia University, and Simmons University. Her academic work spans social policy, clinical practice, human behavior, research methods, and child welfare. A published researcher, her scholarship focuses on trauma-informed care, mental health disparities, youth development, and systems-level reform. She has also served as a principal investigator and grant administrator for multiple federally funded initiatives centered on youth leadership, domestic violence prevention, and workforce development.

Beyond academia, Dr. Sentino is deeply engaged in public service. She is an elected member of the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee, where she supports local party leadership and voter engagement initiatives, and she serves on the City of New Orleans Ethics Review Board, along with numerous civic and professional organizations.

Dr. Sentino's appointment represents a powerful full-circle moment for SUNO. Founded on the pillars of Advocacy, Empowerment, and Transformation, the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work now welcomes one of its own graduates—whose career and service exemplify those values—as its dean.

"I am honored to be named Dean of the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work—my academic home—and to lead a school that shaped my foundation and continues to transform communities across Louisiana and beyond," said Dr. Sentino. "My vision is to elevate SUNO as a national leader in culturally responsive social work education, grounded in innovation, equity, and community voice."

Dr. Sentino is also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, where she continues her lifelong commitment to service, scholarship, and sisterhood.

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.

Southern University at New Orleans | 6400 SUNO Knights Drive | New Orleans, LA 70126 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!