

Office of the Chancellor
Southern University at New Orleans

James H. Ammons, Jr., Ph.D.
Chancellor



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July 16, 2025

Dear SUNO Community,

It is with profound sorrow and reverence that I share the heartbreaking news of the passing of Dr. Kimberley Paige, Director of Counseling & Psychological Services, who transitioned on July 15, 2025.

Since joining Southern University at New Orleans in 2022, Dr. Paige emerged as a beacon of strength, empathy, and visionary leadership. In a remarkably short time, she reshaped the mental health landscape of our campus with unwavering dedication and brilliance. Her efforts culminated in the transformation and grand reopening of SUNO's Counseling Center in Fall 2024, an unprecedented milestone in the university's history. This newly imagined, state-of-the-art facility stands as a testament to her legacy: one of healing, resilience, and holistic student support.

Dr. Paige was more than a counselor or director, she was a transformative force. Her tireless pursuit of excellence, recently crowned by her earning a doctoral degree from the University of New Orleans, reflects her commitment to lifelong learning and service. She poured her heart into the lives of our students, faculty, and staff, creating spaces of affirmation, dignity, and hope. Her presence was magnetic, her grace profound, and her impact, immeasurable.

In the wake of this unimaginable loss, we find strength in unity. Let us honor Dr. Paige by continuing the work she so passionately championed, uplifting one another, caring deeply, and showing up for our community in bold and compassionate ways.

To support our campus during this period of mourning:

- Dr. ValaRay Irvin of the Southern University Baton Rouge Counseling Center has graciously extended support to SUNO students and employees. Visit [SUBR Counseling Staff](#) for assistance.
- BetterMynd, our virtual mental health platform, offers all SUS employees access to three (3) free individual counseling sessions and 24/7 crisis support. Register at www.BetterMynd.com using your Southern University System email credentials.

Memorial service details will be shared as they are finalized. In the meantime, I encourage each of us to lean into the strength of our community and embody the spirit Dr. Paige so beautifully lived, a spirit of love, care, and perseverance.

We will endure. We will uplift. We will rise, because at SUNO, we are not simply a campus, we are a family. And in our family, champions do not fall, they rise again, together. Please hold Dr. Paige's family, friends, and loved ones in your hearts and prayers during this deeply difficult time.

With resilience and remembrance,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James H. Ammons".

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