



Southern University and A&M College

## CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

to the

Southern University Board of Supervisors

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*"We Are Southern"*

Report No. 6

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## Human Jukebox Top Performer During Rose Bowl Parade

Southern University's renowned marching band, the Human Jukebox, performed during the 131st Rose Bowl Parade.

The *Pasadena Star-News* listed the performance in its "Top 5 Moments" from the parade. While in Los Angeles, the band also performed during halftime at the Lakers game.

These were not the only stops in Los Angeles. The Jukebox performed at the historic First A.M.E Church in South Los Angeles before squeezing in a halftime performance at the Los Angeles Lakers

game. They made the journey, in part, through the help of American Airlines.

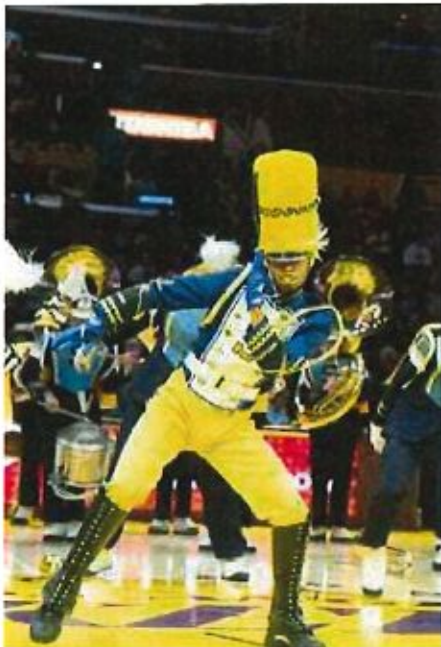
After agreeing to participate earlier in 2019, the band encountered an issue with the original travel plans. They turned to American Airlines, which helped facilitate their travel by discounting fares and waiving fees for checked bags and instruments.

Southern University is one of several historically black colleges and universities that American Airlines partners with

to recruit undergraduate and graduate students for careers with the airline. According to Christopher Yee, a reporter for the *Pasadena Star-News* and *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, "the standout band was Southern University's "Human Jukebox" marching band, which wowed those in attendance with its power and precision in playing a local favorite tune "I Love LA" by Randy Newman.

The last time Southern University performed in the Rose Bowl Parade was in 1980.





Human Jukebox at LA Lakers game



Dancing Dolls spending time in Los Angeles with President-Chancellor Ray Belton and his wife, Norma



SU Dancing Dolls at LA Lakers game



Alumni Director Derrick Warren and Band Director Kedric Taylor with SU Alumni at First A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles

## Walmart Strengthens Partnership, Brings Team to Campus

On February 4, Southern University and A&M College celebrated Walmart day on the campus as part of the company's effort to be more intentional about how they engage Southern University and other HBCUs.

During the visit, faculty and staff engaged with Walmart representatives and were provided with a first-hand view of

Walmart, and some of the skill sets that they have to leverage. In addition, the representatives shared with the campus community some of the technology the company uses.

Walmart is a retail corporation with more than 4,000 stores and 200 distribution centers across the U.S. The event was at the Valdry Center for Philanthropy.



## QEP Plan Focuses on Undergraduate Students First-year Experience and Student Success

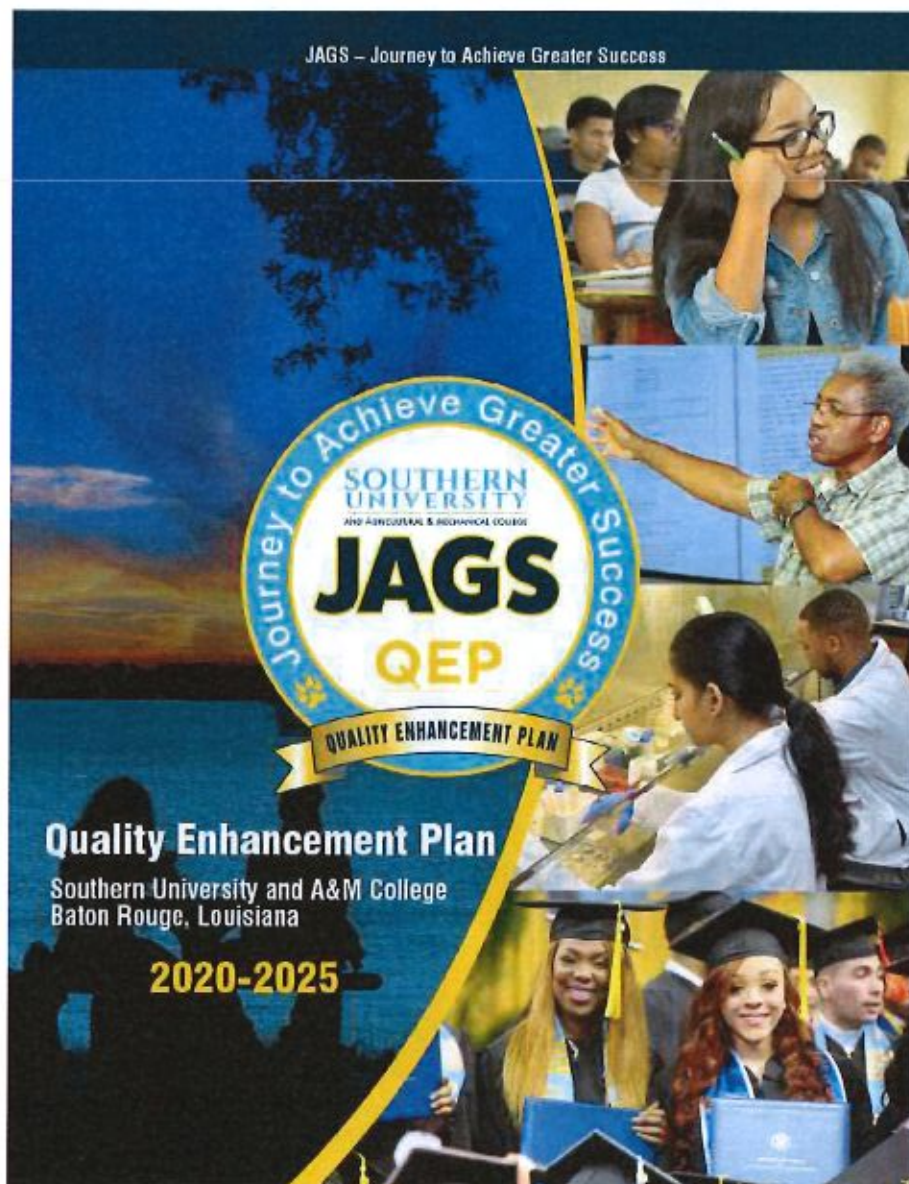
Southern University and A&M College recently submitted its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC). The plan focuses on the first-year experience of undergraduate students and how the university can work collectively to improve student success.

The effort was led by Bijoy K. Sahoo, interim executive vice chancellor and senior associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the QEP committee, chaired by Rachel Vincent-Pinley, interim mathematics program leader for the Department of Mathematics and Physics. Members of the QEP team include: Zackeus D. Johnson, executive director of the First and Second-Year Experience; Francesca Mellieon-Williams, associate professor; April Toadvine, instructor; Resheedah Jenkins, assistant professor; and Latrina Collins, executive director of the Center for Student Success.

In the spring of 2017, Southern University and A&M College began a broad-based process of planning for the Quality Enhancement Plan. The initial activities included review of institutional data and communication with stakeholders including faculty, students, administrative representatives, and the Board of Supervisors for input concerning potential topics.

The ongoing processes revealed common themes that centered on the first year experience of undergraduate students. During the fall semester of 2018, the university became aware of a disproportionate number of students who were likely to be placed on academic probation. These students, as further analyses of institutional data suggested, were not passing select general education courses.

As a result, the Southern University and



A&M College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) was identified to focus on the first-year experience of undergraduate students and more specifically to address student success in English, mathematics, and biology gateway courses.

The objectives of the SU QEP, "JAGS – Journey to Achieve Greater Success," will be achieved through student success in three gateway courses and through student

learning outcomes aligned with SU General Education Program of Excellence (GEPE). "We encourage the Southern University community and its stakeholders to embrace this new innovative plan which will provide support to positively transform our students, how they learn and perform, in their Journey to Achieve Greater Success!," said Ray L. Belton, Chancellor of Southern University and A&M College.

## ON CAMPUS....



### New Pergolas Installed on Bluff

Students are enjoying new pergolas, complete with USB charging ports, as part of The Home Depot: 2019 Retool Your School Program project to beautify the Bluff.

Since 2009, The Home Depot's Retool Your School Campus Improvement Grant Program has invested more than \$2 million dollars to update, upgrade, and uplift HBCU campuses. Southern University was selected based on the number of votes received from its campus, supporters and friends.



### Gov. Edwards Pledges Continued Support During Visit

Governor John Bel Edwards offers well-wishes and continued support to Southern during its first System Board meeting of the new year.

Edwards also gave an update on two major construction projects on the Baton Rouge campus. The bridge construction

and drainage management plan at the back of the campus are slated to continue with an end date slated for December of this year. Renovations to the academic building, Fisher Hall, will commence this year, with a \$6.5 million commitment.

Edwards praised Southern for consistently producing well-rounded professionals that are part of the workforce in the state and beyond while reflecting on his personal experience,

"While I am not an alumnus, I feel like I'm a product of SU," he said. "Half of teachers who taught me were educated at SU. It's the people you've educated who gave me the opportunities to do the things that I do. This is why it is important more than ever to invest in all levels of education."

### Professor Taylor Honored as Role Model by The Links, Inc.

Cheryl Taylor, associate professor of nursing and chairperson of the Graduate Nursing programs at Southern University and A&M College, was honored as a role model during the 14th Annual New Orleans Style Jazz Brunch by the Baton Rouge Chapter of The Links, Inc.



The Links, Inc. honored her for providing the leadership for graduate nursing programs at Southern university. Dr. Taylor teaches Ph.D.-level research and health policy courses and chairs dissertations committees focused on chronic health conditions.

Judge Freddie Pitcher, Jr., the first African American elected to a judgeship in Baton Rouge, was also honored as a role model. Judge Pitcher earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Southern University and his juris doctor from the Southern University School of Law.

### School of Education Hosts Mardi Gras Gala

The School of Education at Southern University recently hosted its Inaugural Mardi Gras Gala on Saturday, January 25, 2020. The gala was planned as a fundraiser to help ensure that academic success of students and faculty at Southern University.

It was a night of celebration and fun as supporters sought to expand and build capacity for the School of Education.



## ON CAMPUS....



### Travel Supervisor Honored by Board of Supervisor

University Travel Supervisor of 20 years, Linda Wilkins, received the "Above and Beyond Award" at the January Board of Supervisors Meeting. With a staff of two, Ms. Wilkins spends countless and extended hours to ensure Southern University travelers are taken care of when they travel.

### Valdry Center to Host Program for Social Entrepreneurs

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Over a 24-month period, a cohort of four social entrepreneurs will be provided with office space and a host

of resources that will be beneficial in turning their ideas into tangible outcomes that mutually benefit the entrepreneur and the demographic they serve.

These fellows will live on campus, attend Valdry Center seminars, take courses, and receive targeted assistance. Each Social Entrepreneur Fellow will receive a modest stipend in addition to having their living expenses, and tuition and fees covered.

The Center will also pursue financial capital to invest in those graduating from the program with a viable idea that would live well beyond the experience.

Only two fellows will be selected for the first cohort. The candidates will be Southern University students, live on campus and have completed between 30 and 70 hours. In addition, the students must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 grading scale.

### Convocation Prepares Faculty to Implement QEP

Southern University had its 2020 Spring Faculty Convocation in January to bring administrators, faculty, and various units together to discuss effective ways to carry out the university's mission, strategic goals, and initiatives outlined in the University's new Quality Enhancement Plan.

During the Convocation, participants were provided with a Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) Update. Latrina Collins, executive director of the Center for Student Success, provided an update and overview regarding Navigate, technology that helps keep students abreast of their academic progress.

The convocation focused on the University's Quality Enhancement Plan titled *JAGS: Journey to Achieve Greater Success*. Dr. Roberta Mathews, Senior Fellow for Foundations of Excellence at the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education, was the special guest during the convocation.

According to Bijoy K. Sahoo, interim executive vice chancellor/senior associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, Mathews will be working with our faculty and campus over the next three years to enhance teaching and learning related to gateway courses. Mathews participated in a panel discussion with Rachel Vicent-Finley, chair of the QEP Committee; Collins; Instructor April Toadvinc; Assistant Professor Rashceda Jenkins; and Zackeus Johnson, executive director of the First-Year and Second-Year Experience.

During the Convocation, nearly 250 faculty were in attendance.

