The Importance and Significance of Louisiana HBCUs
Black History Month

Data News Weekly Focuses on the Importance and Significance of Louisiana Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Cover Story

Data News Weekly, in our role as The People’s Paper in Commemoration with of Black History Month, is doing a 4-part series on the history and legacy of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU’s) in New Orleans and the State of Louisiana. Our 4-Part Series focus on the Southern University System, Xavier University and Dillard University. It will highlight the schools, their rich history, educations they offer distinguished graduates and their impact on the community of New Orleans and the nation. We believe that spotlighting these beacons on Black Excellence is important in an age where the relevance of these great institutions is of pressing importance. They have been and are where many movements of African-American uplift have taken place. Additionally, they have given opportunities to countless African- Americans.

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.
Southern University of Louisiana

What began as a dream more than 136 years ago is today a living legacy of determination, commitment, and success. The Southern University and A&M College System is the only Historically Black University System in the United States.

Southern University is a Historically Black University with a main campus located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Originally founded in 1880 in New Orleans as Southern University in New Orleans, it began its mission of providing post-secondary education for African-Americans with 12 students and 5 faculty members. In 1889, the school's name was changed to Southern University, and in 1892 it was recognized as a land grant college. In 1912 the school awarded its first baccalaureate degree, and in 1914 the campus was moved to the State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

The Southern University System also includes another four-year campus in New Orleans, a two-year campus in Shreveport, and a law school in Baton Rouge. The four campuses were united as a system in 1975 by the state legislature, creating the largest Historically Black University in the United States.

Xavier University of Louisiana

Over its nine-decade history Xavier University is recognized as a national leader in the sciences and the liberal arts. It also carries the distinction as being the only Historically Black and Catholic University in the United States.

In a survey of students conducted for The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings, based on students’ opinions on how well their college or university is preparing them for their career, Xavier received the highest score of any school in the South – indeed, it received the highest score of any of the more than 1,000 schools that were included in the 2017 W3/THES rankings.

- Ranked #1 in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees to African-American students in the biological and biomedical sciences, the physical sciences, and physics.
- Ranked #1 in the nation in the number of African-American graduates who go on to complete medical school.
- Among the nation’s top four colleges of pharmacy in graduating African-Americans with Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D) degrees.
- Ranked #1 in the nation in the number of African-American graduates in science.
- Ranked #1 in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees in chemistry.
- U.S. News “Best Colleges” Guide – 2018 rates Xavier as the #1 “best master’s programs but few doctoral programs.
- College Consensus, a unique college ratings website that aggregates publisher rankings and student reviews, ranks Xavier as the nation’s #2 HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in its newly released publication, Best HBCUs for 2018. It also ranks Xavier as #5 among all Louisiana colleges.

Dillard University

Celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year Dillard University has a rich heritage of producing leaders that have gone on to lead not only Louisiana but all of America. This year they will be celebrating 150 years of being a beacon light of Black Excellence.

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) has continued since its opening in 1956 as a leader producing many talented African-Americans who have gone on to lead the City in many fields of endeavor. Today it continues in the spirit of this legacy in the fight for justice, equality and opportunities for all.

Ph.D. in science and engineering disciplines.
- The Department of Physics is #1 in the nation for awarding African-Americans baccalaureate degrees in physics and the physical sciences, according to the latest report from the American Institute of Physics (AIP). Xavier is consistently ranked by the American Chemical Society as one of the top 25 universities in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees in chemistry.

We at Data News Weekly look forward to bringing you this series on HBCU’s in Louisiana in the Month of February as we celebrate Black History Month.
In Honor of Black History Month, Honor the Black and White Soldiers Who Fought to Defeat Slavery

Leon A. Waters
Chairperson of the Louisiana Museum of African-American History; Manager of Hidden History Tours, www.HiddenHistory.us

Africans played a very important role in the victory over the slave holders and the defeat of the Confederacy. Just before and after the war broke out (1861), thousands of enslaved Africans from New Orleans, Louisiana across the South deserted the plantations and fought as maroons (runaway slaves) against the slave masters. Many made it to St. James A.M.E. Baptist Church on N. Roman Street that served as a Union recruiting station. Over 200,000 Black men fought in the Union Army; up to 28,000 former enslaved came from New Orleans and Louisiana. They were in the vanguard of some of the decisive battles of the war. Several regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops participated in the defeat inflicted on General Robert E. Lee’s army in Virginia. Black troops of the 25 Corp were among the first Union troops to liberate the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia, on April 2, 1865 that later led to the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox, VA. on April 9, 1865.

In Louisiana, African troops were decisive in defeating the Confederate forces. The Confederate forces were already weakened from within by the mutiny of Confederate troops at Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip in Plaquemines Parish (April 1862) and by the desertion of thousands of Johnny Rebs in the face of the armada of Union ships led by Admiral Farragut who captured New Orleans on April 26, 1862. **

At Port Hudson, eight African regiments including the famous 1st and 2nd Native Guards liberated themselves well. The latter two regiments made over five heroic and daring sorties up difficult terrain to capture Confederate positions. In these assaults, the African troops displayed unmatched heroism and courage in the face of sharp fire from entrenched enemy positions. On one charge they nearly carried the enemy’s position and were thrown back only at the last moment. In the battle of May 27, 1863, Captain Andree Cailloux, a Black soldier of the 1st Louisiana Native Guards, displayed enormous courage and calm under fire. After being shot and seriously wounded he struggled to his feet and led his men in another bold assault. He was then hit again, yet found the fortitude to continue. A third time he was shot; this time it was fatal. He died a glorious death for the cause of freedom. And for this he has become a great martyr for the anti-slavery cause and for self-determination of the African-American nation.

The 1st Louisiana Native Guard (USA) was one of the first all-Black regiments to fight in the Union Army during the American Civil War.

The Union Army was pursuing a just and democratic objective. This is why we should honor the Civil War. After the Civil War, the U.S. government passed into the hands of the monopoly millionaire class. The government, then, began to...
Local High School Students Examine Injustice in the U.S.

By Kotey Thomas
Data News weekly
Contributor

High school scholars were given an opportunity to speak out against social justice and inequality at the Criminal Justice Symposium of Scholars organized by the Bard Early College in New Orleans Program on January 26, 2019, at Dillard University’s Professional School Building. The symposium also brought experts who work on social justice issues from various disciplines like environmental, criminal, and arts-based, to educate young people about these issues.

“I wanted to be able to organize something like this to give them the opportunity to not only engage with that bridge between an academic self and activist self, but also to reassert the significance of their own voices,” said Imani Sheppard, an Assistant Professor of Medical Humanities at Bard College in New York, and the coordinator of the event.

Sheppard said that seeing young people engage issues about social injustice, early on, inspires hope for a more equitable future. “I would hope that it reassures listeners that all is not lost, and that there is a potential for positive upward movement within the community starting with these students who often don’t have a voice,” she said.

The event’s speakers hoped that such forums, outside the classroom, can help future leaders see how social and political structures lead to forms of oppression.

“Policies that pass in our neighborhood are based upon those who govern,” said Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes, the Keynote Speaker, who is the Director of Strategic Neighborhood Development for the Claiborne Corridor Cultural Innovation District. She illustrated that those in power control how neighborhoods are developed around socio-economic status; putting those in lower class neighborhoods at a societal disadvantage.

“If you live in Gert town…Tuere Burns, the Executive Director of BarNone. Her non-profit organization was founded to provide people affected by incarceration with opportunities for entrepreneurship and success. “If you have not been to any of the local schools here, go visit. And you’ll see. You’ll see tape on the floor, you’ll see the way the children are handled and not respected,” Burns said.

After working for 25 years in social justice campaigns around the prison industrial complex, Burns explained that the system profits off of inequality. “[It] makes a ton of money off of our people, poor people, and especially our boys,” Burns said.

Social justice advocates from the National Association of Multicultural Education, discuss the impact of racism and religion on minority communities affected by the police, on Jan. 26, 2019. (Photos by Kotey Thomas)

For many students coming from these neighborhoods, especially African-Americans, the school-to-prison pipeline is institutionalized through urban school culture, said Tuere Burns, the Executive Director of BarNone. Her non-profit organization was founded to provide people affected by incarceration with opportunities for entrepreneurship and success. “If you have not been to any of the local schools here, go visit. And you’ll see. You’ll see tape on the floor, you’ll see the way the children are handled and not respected,” Burns said.

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Social justice advocates from the National Association of Multicultural Education examined how different groups in the community, both academic and faith-based, could intervene in forms of oppression, particularly when it comes to policing. Students said the experience opened their eyes to become more aware of how subtle injustices can be.

“You are not to be so blind with patriotism that you cannot face reality,” said Ron Triggs of International High School of New Orleans who was the first student of the Bard Early College in New Orleans Program to present his research.

Due to power dynamics, we refuse to challenge the systems,” Triggs said.

In identifying forms of systemic oppression, the students outlined in their presentations that this was the first step to breaking decades of inequality within the African-American community.

“Getting out of a cycle of destruction often takes a lot of resources and is even harder when your own education system is trying to destroy you,” Triggs added.

The organizers said they hope such critical learning, outside the classroom, would prepare high school students for facing the challenges of today, long after they graduate. “Deprogramming. I feel that is what we are working towards,” Sheppard said. “Deprogramming students from what they feel is normal and what they have accepted as normal,” she said.
2019 French Quarter Festival
Announces Music Lineup

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

French Quarter Festivals, Inc. proudly announces the music lineup for the French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron, which takes place April 11-14, 2019. A full schedule will be revealed in March.

French Quarter Festival is consistently voted ‘local favorite’ while attracting a tremendous out-of-town audience. The appeal is the authenticity: attendees experience a broad range of Louisiana artists from a variety of genres. In 2019 the free festival will feature music from more than 250 acts on 23 stages throughout the historic French Quarter. The Chevron Stage, a longtime Cajun/Zydeco destination, will expand its Evening Concert Series programming to showcase more genres with headliners George Porter, Jr. & The Runnin’ Pardners, Jon Cleary, Flow Tribe, and Rockin’ Dopsie. Other headliners include 2019 fest debut Galactic, Bill Summers & JazzAlla, Brass-A-Holics, Big Chief Bo Dollis, Jr. & the Wild Magnolias, Grammy-winner Irma Thomas, Cyril Neville, Jon Cleary, Erica Falls, Little Freddie King, and Grammy-nominated and Billboard Top 20 Recording Group Water Seed, and more.

Visit www.frenchquarterfest.org for more information about music, food, and special events.

Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People’s Paper, is hiring in our New Orleans Office.

Sales Manager/Retail Ad Manager

About the Job

Data News Weekly Newspaper is the leading African American media company in New Orleans, publishing a weekly newspaper. Additionally, its website under ladatanews.com is the most read Black website in the region.

We are currently seeking a strong leader to proactively manage broad aspects of the advertising division. You will be working in a positive team-oriented atmosphere which has a modern press, leading website and award-winning newspaper.

Responsibilities include but not limited to:
- Prospect and develop sales leads for print and digital product lines
- Drive online and cross platform advertising sales
- Identify, create strategies, develop influential contacts, and help close new digital products
- Increase overall revenue opportunities in both print and online
- Develop a team sales atmosphere

Our ideal candidate will possess the following education, skills and experience:
- Minimum 5 years print and digital sales and manager experience
- Self-starter, capable of executing within all phases of sales cycle
- Strong relationship building and client service background
- Strong organizational, communication and presentation skills
- Team player and leader
- Understanding of Analytics and ad serving technology
- Strong motivational skills
- Recruit talent

Our company provides a competitive salary, and an environment that encourages personal and professional growth. We are an equal opportunity employer.

If you are interested in a rewarding career, email a cover letter and resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net or mail to: Data News Weekly, c/o Terry Jones, Publisher, 3501 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans LA 70125
New Orleanians came to celebrate the life of the beloved longtime St. Augustine Pastor Divine Word Father Jerome LeDoux at St. Augustine Church. Father LeDoux who passed on January 7, 2019, served as Pastor of St. Augustine in New Orleans from 1990-2006. In his retirement, he lived at St. Augustine Seminary and then at Holy Ghost Church in Opelousas from 2016 until his death.

The Memorial Mass was followed by a celebration of life from noon to 4 p.m. with a second-line winding through the Tremé.
City Council Continues to Put Housing First

At its January 24th meeting, the New Orleans City Council unanimously voted to create an ordinance that would guarantee the creation of affordable housing in line with a Smart Housing Mix. Out of the HousingNOLA planning process, one of the most significant recommendations eventually became the Smart Housing Mix. That process, which began in 2014, led to the 10 Year Strategy and Implementation Plan and annual report cards which document the State of Housing in New Orleans. The Smart Housing Mix is a citywide strategy to create more Affordable Housing that is fair and feasible by requiring that new development, adaptive reuse projects, and rehabilitation projects include at least 10% affordable units in areas where it’s almost impossible to find Affordable Housing. Developers would have the option to pay a fee, build affordable units off-site, preserve a building or dedicate alternative land if they do not wish to reserve units below market rate. A standard, unified package of incentives would be offered to developers to accompany the Smart Housing Mix requirements, and require minimum terms of affordability.

Opponents of the Smart Housing Mix seem to believe the Capitalistic Market will readjust on its own but history has shown us that this is not the case. If you believe the market will “fix itself,” you believe this market will suddenly begin magically producing homes and apartments that are affordable when this hasn’t happened despite current mismatch. In 2018, 50% of all households were cost burdened—paying more than 30% of their gross income on housing. That means that more than half the people of New Orleans, cannot afford to live here. The costs to rent or buy is disconnected from what the people of New Orleans earn. For housing to be affordable and accessible, it is imperative that the Smart Housing Mix is used in central and transit-oriented development neighborhoods. As the neighborhoods of New Orleans grow and gentrify, the areas around job centers grow more expensive to live. Unfortunately, when preferred areas of the city become too expensive to live, people with limited means are forced to move further from their jobs. The need for affordable, mixed housing developments near job centers with adequate public transportation is crucial.

We can longer simply offer incentives and hope for the best. That’s why HousingNOLA and our advocacy partner the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA) had the support of a broad coalition of advocates, professionals, community leaders and developers, including non-profit home builders and for profit business leaders when working with city officials to craft the Smart Housing Mix. Two-dozen individuals showed up to support the Smart Housing Mix and only three people registered their objection in person. The council listened and voted began a process that would make Affordable Housing a definitive and not an option. That day the council also voted to advance two additional projects that would also create Affordable Housing opportunities. We can only hope that this council continues to make decisions that Put Housing First.

Andreanecia Morris
Executive Director,
HousingNOLA

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I believe there is a perception (right or wrong) in our faith that our suffering is an integral part of God's plan to ready us for the struggle of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Many believe that suffering in some ways is a prerequisite for strengthening one's spiritual muscle. I think it is more akin to gaining testimony than anything else. We all know how hard it is to respect the opinion of someone who has led the so-called charmed life, or, someone who was born with the proverbial silver spoon in a cavity-free mouth. It's hard, if not impossible, to listen to someone talk with authority about things they've never seen or places they've never been. My belief is that God teaches in a manner few of us will ever truly understand. I honestly believe that when He chooses you, when it's your time, He has a unique way of communicating who's really in charge. And believe it or not, it ain't you.

When God is actually talking to you, I believe you know it. It may not be something you or I want to hear but, "No discipline seems at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:11. We are all in training to fight in God's war as far as I'm concerned. Whether being forged in a fiery furnace or stuck in a talsip of perceived despair and hopelessness, each one of us is being battle tested in anticipation that one day, we will be called to arms. This struggle, these experiences, they bring about wisdom; a spiritual wisdom that from a spiritual perspective must be shared. It must be. Otherwise, God keeps you in a perpetual classroom where life constantly gives you a new place to go to the bathroom. You haven't learned anything so life keeps kicking your…well, you get the picture.

When you finally realize the one thing you're going through is not without a purpose. The most important message of the day is to understand who Jesus has suffered the most for. "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12. Our job then is to recognize and represent; recognize that the hell we're going through is not without purpose. The most important message of the day is to understand who Jesus has suffered the most for. "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12.

May God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington & Publisher of Dallas Weekly. You can reach out to James by email: jawil@dallasweekly.com

NNPA Presents Lifetime Achievement Award to Rosetta Miller Perry, Tennessee Tribune Publisher

Each year at its Mid-Winter Conference, the National Newspaper Publishers Association recognizes a publisher who has been a member for 30 or more years, whose legacy encourages and inspires the new generation of Black Press publishers This year, the 2019 NNPA Publisher Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is Mrs Rosetta M Perry, CEO/Publisher of The Tennessee Tribune, in Nashville Mrs Perry’s lifetime of accomplishments were recognized at the 2019 NNPA Publisher Lifetime Achievement Award Black Tie Dinner, held on January 25, 2019 at the Hilton Orlando Hotel. Pictured left to right are Data Newsmaker’s Publisher, Terry Jones, Tennessee Tribune Publisher and recipient, Rosetta Miller-Perry, NNPA President, Dr Benjamin Chavis, Compassion & Choice Marketing Director, Brandi Alexander, NNPA Chairman, Dorothy Leavell (Photo courtesy of Mark Mahoney, Dream In Color Photography).
Even though we’re so far south, New Orleans can see dangerous winter weather. Extreme cold, dense fog, and even ice & snow storms are possible during the winter months. Dangers from these weather conditions include unsafe roads, cold-related illness, fires, and power outages. When there’s a winter weather risk in New Orleans, the National Weather Service issues alerts. Sign up to receive emergency alerts at www.nola.gov.

• Freeze Warning: Air temperature is expected to be 32 degrees F or lower for a significant amount of time
• Hard Freeze Warning: Air temperature is expected to be 25 degrees F or lower for long enough to freeze water pipes
• Dense Fog Advisory: Wide-spread or localized fog reduces visibility to 1/4 mile or less
• Winter Storm Warning: A mix of wintry precipitation (freezing rain or snow) is happening or is about to happen
• Ice Storm Warning: Heavy freezing rain is happening or is about to happen

Here are tips to keep you, your family and your pets safe during the cold days to come:

During Extreme Cold
• Stay warm
• Stay inside in heat during extreme cold.
• If you are homeless, seek shelter. During extreme cold, the city-wide freeze plan will offer free shelter for homeless residents.
• If you have to go outside, wear layers, a hat & gloves and carry a cell phone.
• Check on neighbors, children, the elderly & chronically ill to make sure they are okay.
• Bring pets inside.
• Know the signs of cold-related illness
• See a doctor immediately or go to the emergency room if you or someone you know has these symptoms:

Signs Of Hypothermia
• Shivering or fumbling hands
• Exhaustion or drowsiness
• Confusion or memory loss
• Shurred speech
• Bright red, cold skin or very low energy in infants

Signs Of Frostbite
• Redness or pain in any skin area
• White or grayish-yellow skin area
• Skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
• Numbness

Practice Fire Safety & Prepare Your Home
• Never leave space heaters unattended.
• Never use a stove or an oven to heat your home.
• Check your smoke & carbon monoxide detectors to be sure they are working. Get free smoke detectors or batteries installed by the New Orleans Fire Department.
• Have a fire extinguisher and know how to use it.
• Protect your water pipes from damage. Trickle a very thin (spaghetti sized) stream of water in a faucet farthest from your water meter. Make sure to turn it off once the temperature raises up above 32 degrees.

Learn more winter preparedness tips by visiting http://ready.nola.gov/winter/
Angela Davis has been reoffered an award from an Alabama Civil Rights Museum after it sparked controversy for rescinding the honor this month.

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute released a statement on Friday announcing its decision to reaffirm Davis as the recipient of its 2018 Fred L. Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award.

Davis was personally invited to accept the award, the institute said, adding that it “respects her privacy and timing in whatever her response may ultimately be.”

“Dr. Angela Davis, a daughter of Birmingham, is highly regarded throughout the world as a human rights activist,” BCRI President and CEO Andrea L. Taylor said in the statement, citing Davis’ “significance in the movement for human rights, her involvement in raising issues of feminism, as well as her leadership in the campaign against mass incarceration.”

The institute announced in September that Davis would receive the award, after a board meeting on Sept. 18.

In early January the BCRI announced that it was canceling a gala planned for February and rescinding the honor for Davis, saying she “unfortunately does not meet all of the criteria on which the award is based,” The Associated Press reported.

The decision to rescind the award sparked outrage on social media and condemnation from organizers and other groups, including the social justice organization Jewish Voice for Peace, which launched a petition in support of Davis this month.

The BCRI said its board voted 9-2 on Jan. 4th to rescind the award “based on new input from the community.” The board issued an apology on Jan. 14th.

“Immediately after that public apology, in keeping with its commitment to learning from its mistakes and in order to stay true to the BCRI’s founding mission, the Board voted to reaffirm Dr. Davis as the recipient,” the BCRI said in a statement.

The Annual Award pays tribute to the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, a civil rights activist who died in 2011 at 89.

The institute sparked outrage after it rescinded an award to the longtime civil rights activist, with speculation it was due to her activism for Palestinian rights.

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If you earned $55,000 or less in 2018, you may qualify for an extra tax refund worth thousands called the Earned Income Tax Credit. Visit a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site for free, professional tax help and get the full refund you deserve. Call 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment throughout the filing season, or visit us on Super Tax Day:

Saturday, February 2
Xavier University Convocation Center
7910 Stroelitz Street in New Orleans
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For more information, visit entergy.com/freetaxhelp.
Spanish-speaking volunteers on-site.

What to Bring:
- Valid photo ID for you and your spouse if filing jointly.
- Income documents including W-2s and 1099s.
- Social Security cards for everyone claimed.
- Previous tax returns (if any).
- Health Insurance Marketplace Statement, Form 1095-A.
- For direct deposit: checking and savings account numbers (canceled or voided check).