SLS 24RS-1664 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR FIELDS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Designates Tuesday, April 9, 2024, as Southern University Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To designate Tuesday, April 9, 2024, as Southern University Day at the Louisiana State
3	Capitol.
4	WHEREAS, Louisiana is home to the nation's only Historically Black College and
5	University System, the Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M)
6	College System, which is uniquely positioned as an exemplar with a profound commitment
7	to research and student success; and
8	WHEREAS, this year Southern University and A&M College System's Board of
9	Supervisors is celebrating fifty years of service to the students, faculty, staff, and the
10	community surrounding the system's five campuses in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and
11	Shreveport; and
12	WHEREAS, through shared governance, leadership, and a diverse system of unique
13	institutions, the mission of the Southern University and A&M College System is to deliver
14	affordable world-class education, and transformational public service to the state of
15	Louisiana, the nation, and the world; and
16	WHEREAS, Southern University and A&M College (SUBR) is a Carnegie Research
17	2 institution and was recently awarded a grant from the Biden-Harris Administration to aid
18	in the pursuit of the Carnegie Research 1 high research activity designation; the university

has also received a joint award from NASA for their combined work with Boeing on

NASA's Space Launch System rocket; and, the university's John B. Cade Library has been

officially designated as a national Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) to serve

the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Southern University at New Orleans, located on what is now known as SUNO Knights Drive (formerly part of Press Drive), continues to expand its technology efforts and service to the community as it uses part of a \$3 million grant to aid in providing internet access to the city of New Orleans during natural disasters, and formalized an articulation agreement for the Cybersecurity Degree Pathway with Delegado Community College to train future cybersecurity practitioners for workforce demands in the field of information technology; and

WHEREAS, Southern University Shreveport (SUSLA) celebrates fifty-six years of providing an excellent, accessible educational experience to students and programming for its surrounding community, and has acquired a New Mobile Health Unit which will travel across parts of northwest Louisiana providing quality health and dental screenings to underserved populations, thus bringing healthcare to communities that otherwise may not receive these services while building the capacity of the minority healthcare workforce through their Allied Health & Nursing division to support the development of a workforce that is equipped to address health disparities and engage in meaningful community work; and

WHEREAS, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SU Ag Center), which has expanded its statewide reach from thirty-five to forty-eight parishes, has been awarded the first USDA Agricultural Science Center of Excellence for Nutrition and Diet (ASCEND) Pilot Nutrition Hub, and celebrates its 81st Annual Livestock and Poultry Show as the only 1890 Land-Grant University that continues this tradition of providing youth throughout the state an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and skills; and

WHEREAS, Southern University Law Center (SULC), a highly ranked legal education institution, thrives on providing access and opportunity to the community through fostering partnerships with government and nonprofit organizations to bring transformative

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resources, such as granting expungements to justice-impacted individuals, and has prospered within the Esports industry by hosting regional and national tournaments in the newly established Esports Innovation Lab; and

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WHEREAS, under the guided leadership of Dennis J. Shields, the Southern University and A&M College System continues its longstanding commitment to providing quality education and cultivating capable individuals to become respected leaders, emphasizing active engagement with all stakeholders, investment in the institution's personnel, and a dedication to transparency and accountability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Tuesday, April 9, 2024, as Southern University Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dennis J. Shields, the president of the Southern University System and chancellor of the Southern University and A&M College.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

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