

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, April 9, 2024, as Southern University Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, Louisiana is home to the nation's only Historically Black College and University System, the Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) College System, which is uniquely positioned as an exemplar with a profound commitment to research and student success; and

WHEREAS, this year Southern University and A&M College System's Board of Supervisors is celebrating fifty years of service to the students, faculty, staff, and the community surrounding the system's five campuses in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, through shared governance, leadership, and a diverse system of unique institutions, the mission of the Southern University and A&M College System is to deliver affordable world-class education, and transformational public service to the state of Louisiana, the nation, and the world; and

WHEREAS, Southern University and A&M College (SUBR) is a Carnegie Research 2 institution and was recently awarded a grant from the Biden-Harris Administration to aid 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 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

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.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE