

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY SENATORS DUPLESSIS, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BASS, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CLOUD, CONNICK, EDMONDS, FESI, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HODGES, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MIZELL, MORRIS, PRESSLY, PRICE, REESE, SELTERS, STINE, TALBOT, WHEAT AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Monday, April 28, 2025, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, Louisiana is proud to be home to eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Dillard University, Grambling State University, Southern University and A&M College, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Southern University Law Center, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University Shreveport, and Xavier University of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is also home to the nation's only HBCU System, the Southern University System, comprised of five campuses that serve as pillars of higher learning and community engagement: Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University Shreveport, the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Baton Rouge, and the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, it would be remiss to not welcome Dr. Monique Guillory as the ninth president of Dillard University; and

WHEREAS, since their establishment 189 years ago, HBCUs have continued to build a legacy of excellence, achievement, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs work diligently to promote their institutions' rich histories and continue to create new pathways towards educational excellence; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs play a crucial role in contributing to the economy and workforce, aligning their academic programs with the needs of industry while ensuring HBCU graduates meet the demands of the job market; and

WHEREAS, HBCU graduates are exemplary public servants, scientists, doctors, artists, lawyers, judges, engineers, educators, entertainers, business owners, and leaders, and

have distinguished themselves in numerous ways, both nationally and in the state as follows:

Dillard University fuels the state and regional economy by producing leaders in healthcare, STEM, education, business, and the arts - many of whom remain in Louisiana to work and serve in their communities; is recognized for its 98% medical school acceptance rate among pre-med graduates - one of the highest in the country; and is home to the Ray Charles Program in African American Material Culture and the Institute of Jazz and Cultural Arts, amplifying its role as a steward of Black cultural preservation.

Grambling State University, with nearly 125 years of excellence in action, continues to lead through innovation and impact; establishing Louisiana's first PhD program in Criminology and Justice Administration; becoming the first and only HBCU with a campus-based Digital Library; earning recognition as a CASE Standards Contributor; ranking among the Top 20 HBCUs in the nation and as the Best in Louisiana for economic and social mobility; and achieving record-breaking growth in alumni giving, corporate partnerships, investor retention, endowed scholarships, and student scholarship awards.

Southern University and A&M College, celebrating 145 years of service, is the flagship of the system and the leading producer of Black graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and boasts the top-ranked nursing program in the nation according to Nurses.org.

Southern University at New Orleans plays a critical role in expanding access to higher education in the Greater New Orleans area, most notably through the graduation of its first cohort of nursing students and the planned groundbreaking of a new state-of-the-art nursing building as well as its new data science degree; and reestablishing its evening and weekend college to better provide for the adult learners SUNO proudly serves.

Southern University Shreveport has established the Aerospace Technology Center as the region's premier training hub for aviation technicians, addressing a critical industry need through a program uniquely positioned to prepare students for high-wage careers; and provides a Mobile Health Unit that delivers critical preventive care, screenings, and dental services to underserved communities across Northwest Louisiana while providing Allied Health and Nursing students with hands-on clinical training.

Southern University Law Center has developed an Heirs' Property Certificate

Program to equip participants with the basic knowledge needed to maintain ownership of land that has been passed down through generations, and since 2017 has had thirteen of its brightest, most service-oriented SULC students consistently honored by the White House as HBCU Scholars.

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center has partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish the first USDA Agricultural Science Center of Excellence for Nutrition and Diet (ASCEND) Nutrition Hub; under the leadership of Chancellor-Dean Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, its Precision "Agcademy" Drone Certification Program has engaged nearly 200 Louisiana students in drone operations; produces Southern University Natural (SUN) Beef; and was celebrated in 2025 its 82nd Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show.

Xavier University of Louisiana, celebrating a century of excellence, is a national leader in producing African American Doctor of Pharmacy graduates and Black students who complete medical school, leading to 10.1 percent of first-year medical students in Louisiana identifying as Black or African American, well above the national average and is developing the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine in partnership with Ochsner Health, which is set to become the fifth historically Black medical school in U.S. history and the only one in the Gulf South; accomplished academic achievements and community impact that remain a source of pride; and contributes significantly to the cultural and economic vitality of New Orleans, generating jobs, attracting investment, and fueling innovation in the region; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges and Universities for their outstanding achievements and their numerous alumni for their contributions to their local communities, the state, and the world.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Monday, April 28, 2025, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE