

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Recognizes Monday, April 28, 2025, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 WHEREAS, HBCU graduates are exemplary public servants, scientists, doctors,
7 artists, lawyers, judges, engineers, educators, entertainers, business owners, and leaders, and
8 have distinguished themselves in numerous ways, both nationally and in the state as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

7 **Southern University Law Center** has developed an Heirs' Property Certificate
8 Program to equip participants with the basic knowledge needed to maintain ownership of
9 land that has been passed down through generations, and since 2017 has had thirteen of its
10 brightest, most service-oriented SULC students consistently honored by the White House
11 as HBCU Scholars; and

12 **Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center** has partnered
13 with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish the first USDA
14 Agricultural Science Center of Excellence for Nutrition and Diet (ASCEND) Nutrition Hub;
15 under the leadership of Chancellor-Dean Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, its Precision
16 "Agcademy" Drone Certification Program has engaged nearly 200 Louisiana students in
17 drone operations; produces Southern University Natural (SUN) Beef; and was celebrated in
18 2025 its 82nd Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show; and

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

29 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges
30 and Universities for their outstanding achievements and their numerous alumni for their

