



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY *at* NEW ORLEANS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

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New Orleans Mayor-Elect Mitch Landrieu to serve as SUNO's Commencement Speaker

NEW ORLEANS, LA—Mitch Landrieu, Mayor-Elect for the City of New Orleans, will serve as speaker for Southern University at New Orleans' 2010 Commencement, Saturday, May 8th, 4 p.m. at the UNO Lakefront Arena. Landrieu, currently Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana for a second consecutive term, won the February 6th mayoral primary election with more than 60% of the vote.

“SUNO is honored to have Mayor-Elect Landrieu to serve as our commencement speaker. He recognizes the important role that our institution plays in shaping this community, and SUNO is committed to working with him to realize his vision for New Orleans. I am confident that he will inspire our graduates and others in attendance to continue searching for ways to make our great city better,” said Victor Ukpolo, Ph.D., SUNO's chancellor.

As part of his creative and entrepreneurial style of governing as Lt. Governor, Landrieu launched the Cultural Economy Initiative. This initiative is designed to create jobs through Louisiana's unique culture - our food, music, arts, film and architecture. Louisiana's cultural economy employs more than 140,000 Louisianans. As Lt. Governor, Landrieu set forth objectives and action plans for the economic growth of Louisiana's cultural industries.

He has managed a significant investment in state parks of more than \$35 million - building new cabins, camp sites, and other public facilities. Today, Louisiana has one of the greatest state park systems in the country, contributing to our quality of life and Louisiana's rural economies. Landrieu also launched an innovative new initiative called the Louisiana Outdoor Outreach Program, which gets at-risk kids into state parks to learn valuable skills and experience the outdoors.

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Landrieu serves as a member of the Unified Command Group in the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. He has experience with emergencies on local, state and national levels of government. Landrieu has served as a key member of this leadership group during hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Gustav. During Hurricane Gustav, Landrieu was part of the leadership team that managed the largest evacuation in Louisiana history and the largest medical evacuation in U.S. history. During Hurricane Katrina, Landrieu traveled to impacted regions by boat to communicate with local leadership when all other means of communications had failed, and also joined Wildlife and Fisheries agents on search and rescue missions. During Hurricane Rita, Landrieu worked closely with local leadership to evacuate hospitals and nursing homes in the Lake Charles region.

As Lt. Governor, Landrieu is responsible for tourism, the state's second largest industry. Immediately after hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged southeast and southwest Louisiana, Landrieu brought together industry leaders and national experts to develop a strategic plan, Louisiana Rebirth. As a result of this initiative, the tourism industry is speaking with one voice and hitting the marks established in the strategic plan.

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