



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY *at* NEW ORLEANS

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President Obama's mention of SUNO's progress confirms university's importance to community

NEW ORLEANS, LA. – Dr. Victor Ukpolo, the chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) attended President Barack Obama's October 15th Town Hall Meeting at the University of New Orleans, and is pleased that SUNO's progress remains in the national spotlight of New Orleans' recovery.

In his prepared comments, President Obama stated, "On the education front, I just visited Martin Luther King Charter School, the first school to reopen in the Ninth Ward and an inspiration for this city. We've also worked to be a better partner and free up funding that has allowed places like this university right here, the University of New Orleans and the Southern University of New Orleans to rebuild." (Source http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-in-Town-Hall-Meeting-University-of-New-Orleans/)

"The SUNO community is grateful for the continued support of President Obama and his administration. Our university received immediate attention from the White House shortly after President Obama's inauguration, which resulted in visits to SUNO by key members of the President's team, including Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan," said Chancellor Ukpolo. "The timing of on-going support from the White House bodes well for the exciting changes happening at SUNO, including the statewide expansion of our recruiting territory, thanks to offering housing (January 2010) for the first time in the University's 50-year history. We are pleased that more students from around the state, nation and the world will be able to participate in the renaissance of both SUNO and New Orleans by attending our institution."

The progress of SUNO is highlighted by the development of its facilities. Set to open in January of 2010 with 400 beds, the Student and Faculty Housing will total 700 beds along with a student activity center on the Lake Campus. Under construction, also, is SUNO's Information Technology Center on the Lake Campus; and the groundbreaking for the College of Business and Public Administration is forthcoming.

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In August, Napolitano visited SUNO to announce an additional \$32 million of aid to recover the campus. The funds will be utilized to rebuild the university's Multipurpose and New Science buildings as well as Clark Hall (Education Building) and Brown Hall (Old Science Building).

SUNO was devastated by flooding from both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita in 2005 with the Park Campus buildings receiving between four and eleven feet of floodwaters. All eleven buildings sat untouched for nearly one month after the hurricanes. For slightly more than three years, SUNO operated solely from a temporary campus comprised of modular facilities constructed by FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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