

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Why Rebuild SUNO?

Never in the history of this nation has an American city had the opportunity to completely redefine its urban landscape. However, in redefining itself, we must keep in mind the things that make us unique.

When we rebuild, there are seemingly endless suggestions on how to make things better. Better is an opportunity to rid ourselves of the things we did not like, or didn't work before. But better is more than that. Better is a chance to redefine ourselves, and that is what we must do now.

Southern University at New Orleans legacy is not one of failure, but one of overcoming odds. SUNO was born out of a necessity to afford primarily African Americans with a quality education. SUNO is a product of another chaotic age, segregation. Southern University at New Orleans is a state university, it is a Historically Black University, serving the varied needs of Louisiana, southern Mississippi, and especially the Greater New Orleans area. Its mission is that of an open enrollment institution, serving all who want access to higher education, but still sees itself as especially serving the "socio-economically disadvantaged" of Greater New Orleans. Since opening its doors in 1956, SUNO has grown and this year had an enrollment of 4,000 undergraduates.

Rebuilding SUNO is not an option but a necessity. SUNO must be rebuilt because of its uniqueness, and because of its ability to transform people. If we cannot conceive of rebuilding an institution that fosters intellectual growth, responsibility, and leadership, then what can we afford to rebuild. These are the hallmarks of a well-balanced community. If we cannot invest in growth and achievement, then what good is the currency we keep?

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add one – Why Rebuild SUNO?

SUNO is exactly what must be rebuilt in the *New* New Orleans. The hurricane laid to waste the City that Care Forgot, but its wake cannot destroy what has been poured in the mind. For many, SUNO has been a well-spring of opportunity, and a fountain of knowledge. Thousands of SUNO's graduates grace our state, our nation and the world. They are proud of their accomplishments, and of the institution that gave them the opportunity. Is this legacy one that does not deserve to return? If better means, new and improved, then we should embrace this as an opportunity – as an opportunity not to repeat the mistakes of our past. We should embrace the uniqueness of this institution and herald its return not as a possibility, but as a must. We can ill afford to remove this institution like the mold that clings to its walls. We cannot afford to discard SUNO's usefulness, as we will our ragged carpet. We must remove the veil of uncertainty that clouds our future and rebuild our new destiny.

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