

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



FREE COPY

Crescent City Meet The Crown

Data Zone Page 4

January 28 - February 3, 2023 57th Year Volume 40 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Dillard University's New President

Dr. Rochelle Ford

A Vision for the Future



Page 2



Newsmaker

Xavier University and Ochsner Health Partner to Create College of Medicine

Page 6

National News

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. Named National Co-Chair of No Labels



Page 7

Dillard University's New President Dr. Rochelle Ford

A Vision for the Future



Dr. Rochelle Ford is the new President of Dillard University. She plans to build on its rich legacy of Black Excellence and high achievement.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

An Eye on Visionary Leadership

Since 1869 Dillard University has produced leaders in many fields of endeavor. In 2022, it named Dr. Rochelle Ford as its eighth President, who is now charged with being the steward of this great legacy. On the eve of her investiture, Data News Weekly had the opportunity to speak with her about her vision for this great institution of learning.

In a reflective moment she states, "I am thinking about our past and our legacy of excellence; the seven previous presidents their staffs and faculty. The impact of this great university that is cultivating leaders and meeting the needs of society. I want to honor that past, but with an eye on the future and unlimited possibilities. We have hit the ground running and have already made a major impact to keep making Dillard even better. I am excited about showcasing our vision for the future."

Building a "Communiversality"

Dr. Ford is taking a holistic approach to build what she calls a "Communiversality" where the institution partners with the stakeholders to make Dillard University a place that makes a positive impact across the entire community.

"Dillard is activating on our commitment to cultivate leaders who live ethically and act courageously to make the work a better place. That means we have to become a Communiversality, and we cannot do it alone. We must work with others in the city, state, region, and nation to be community partners."

Continuing she says, "We are about to break ground on our first official living learning center serving the community. We will have student housing, with some faculty and staff housing, and that learning can extend beyond the classroom. Also, we will serve the community through this facility."

Specifically, Dr. Ford's long-term impact vision focuses on six key areas: Mental and Physi-

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Newsmaker	6
Data Zone	4	National News	7

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher		Production
Edwin Buggage	Edwin Buggage	Pubinator.com
Editor		Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Tracee Dundas	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	DNW Staff Writer	datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur		@gmail.com
Accounting	Stacy M. Brown	Distribution
		by Terrence Lee

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Dr. Ford believes that it will take all stakeholders to make her vision for Dillard University a success.



Dillard University President Dr. Rochelle Ford sharing a moment with former Xavier University President and Icon in the field of education, Dr. Norman C. Francis.

cal Health, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development, Sustainability and Innovation, Broadband, Cyber and Digital Communications, Food Equity, Safe and Equitable Community.

Also, Dillard is adding a Master's in Nursing Program to its already great slate of programs and has plans to expand its graduate school offerings.

Nurturing Black Male Excellence

In a city and nation where so many Black males are falling through the cracks, and where their full potential is being unrealized. Additionally, Dr. Ford is being intentional in making sure that Dillard University is a place where Black males can prosper.

"Everything we do involves Black male students. We just endowed a scholarship to help graduates of St. Augustine have full scholarships to come to Dillard. We are also in conversation with Son of a Saint to do similar types of things. Further, all our summer programs have gender equity, so we are intentional in young males being part of our summer and weekend programming."

Dillard continues to make history and move forward where they have expanded their sports programs that's also increased male enrollment.

"We also are making sure that we increase our male enrollment and we have just established our first baseball team and that brought 39 young men that we would not have otherwise had and let me tell you they have completed the most community service on our campus as a collective group. I think we can continue through athletics but continue to have that kind of impact. Also, the Greek fraternities on

campus all of them brought in new members building on their legacy."

Leadership that Inspires the Next Generation

In recent years we have seen the emergence of females in leadership. Dr. Ford is committed to using her post to inspire the next generation of leaders.

"I hope when young women see me, they will be inspired that they can achieve it and I also want young men to feel the same way. I want people to be inspired and I hope I can demonstrate through my actions that I am committed to cultivating others as leaders. We are launching this spring a series called Cultivating Leadership, it will bring local, state, and national leaders to campus to share their stories and what their leadership journey has been."

Loving New Orleans and All it Has to Offer

New Orleans is of course an incredible city, and Dr. Ford is acclimating herself and enjoying all things Crescent City.

"This is the most amazing city to work in, the people are so friendly, warm, and embracing. I love how connected Dillard is throughout the city. When I see people, they say things to me like my mom went to Dillard or I grew up in Gentilly."

Continuing she says with a light-hearted laugh, "I love the food, with everything sauce and fried, I have love it too much. The music has been amazing, from the church choirs, I have heard to the jazz musicians who play at receptions and even the kids with their hand-made instruments and drums; it is energizing and I am looking forward to my first Mardi Gras and Essence Fest."



Dr. Ford is dedicated to building young leaders who can go out into the world to make an impact in the community.

Making an Impact Will Require a Commitment from All of Us

To achieve her bold mission Dr. Ford will need partners.

"I feel all of us have to activate our commitment to cultivate leaders and that means our communities are tied to talking to our young people about attending college to help advocate for us and we need talent to maximize on this goal. Further, we're going to be starting our construction projects, and I need folks who want to bid on contracts and be my partner as we are building our living learning facilities."

"Finally, it is going to take partners to be able to activate our commitment to mental health, economic development and we are going to need partners. We need people who want to invest in Dillard because it has a high return on investment. Our ultimate goal in building a "Community" is asking our partners to help students elevate themselves and be not only assets to New Orleans, but the nation and the world.

Dillard University Inauguration Weekend Schedule is from Friday, January 27th through the 29th. To find out more information about the many great events go to dillard.edu



Crescent City Meet The Crown



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

The highly anticipated 71st Miss Universe Pageant which featured 84 delegates from around the globe vying for the title of Miss Universe was recently held in New Orleans. The Crescent City was buzzing with international beauties days leading up to the culmination of the 70th Miss Universe, Harnaaz Sandhu, crowning her successor.

Data Zone,
Continued on page 5.



Tracee Dundas, Joycie Mederick, Abigayle Lewis, Sarah Bitter, Debbie Ales, Kylie McCann, Amaya Kincaid, Tiaundra Davis and Dr. Courtney Hammonds.



Free, professional tax return help

Powered by Entergy

Saturday, February 4
Multiple locations in New Orleans
9 AM - 2 PM

You deserve every dollar of your tax refund. Our team of IRS-certified volunteers will help with the entire process – from identifying all available credits to submitting your paperwork.

Find out what documents to bring and more details at [entergy.com/freetaxhelp](https://www.entergy.com/freetaxhelp).



VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is an IRS program that offers free tax preparation services for low-to-moderate income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speakers through various partner organizations. Learn more at [irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers](https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers).

A message from Entergy Corporation ©2023 Entergy Services, LLC. All Rights Reserved. • E-122201

Data Zone, Continued from page 4.

“The City of New Orleans and the Miss Universe Organization share common values of celebrating inclusion, culture and the empowerment of women,” said Mayor LaToya Cantrell as she welcomed the global queens at an exclusive VIP Reception. “Hosting this event demonstrates the significant global impact an international city like New Orleans has on the world’s tourism and cultural stages. We are honored to host the 71st Annual Miss Universe Pageant and show people around the globe why New Orleans is the best in the world at executing major events, festivals, conferences, and conventions with a culture that is absolutely unmatched.”

One of the week’s festivities included “Crescent City Meets the Crown;” a meet and greet with pageant and fashion industry professionals. The event was hosted by New Orleans Fashion Week at the picturesque Virgin Hotels Dreamboat Room. The fashion panel included Joycie Mederick, a former model, pageant queen and Director of Miss Saint Luca Pageant; Dr. Courtney A. Hammonds, “The Dean

Data Zone, Continued on page 6.



Crescent City Meets the Crown Panelist: Tracee Dundas, Moderator, Joycie Mererick, Dr. Courtney Hammonds, Designer Debbie Ales.



Miss Greece with Arnold Baker and Tracee Dundas.



R'Bonney Nola Gabriel, newly crowned Miss Universe, and Tracee Dundas.



Miss France and Mayor LaToya Cantrell.



Off-White, bodycon dress, with lace racer style halter top and fitted bodice.



Gold, two-piece sequins skirt set with ostrich detail on hem.



Blush pink, corset style top with long sleeves and fitted bodice.



White, silk-like full-length gown with drop shoulders, high split, and choker.



Multi color sequins, matching bustier and short set with train.

CARE IS

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana

Programs and services to enjoy
at our **Community Wellness
and Opportunity Center!**

All images are used under license for illustrative purposes only. Any individual depicted is a model.

Offerings include:

- Fitness classes, healthy eating tips, and weight loss support
- On-site health education and screenings
- Help to connect with community resources
- Internet-ready computer labs and help to build a resume

Location:

Gentilly Shopping Center,
3155 Gentilly Boulevard,
New Orleans, LA 70122

Hours:

Mondays – Fridays: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Our center is open to all!
We hope to see you soon.**

Please visit www.careforla.com.



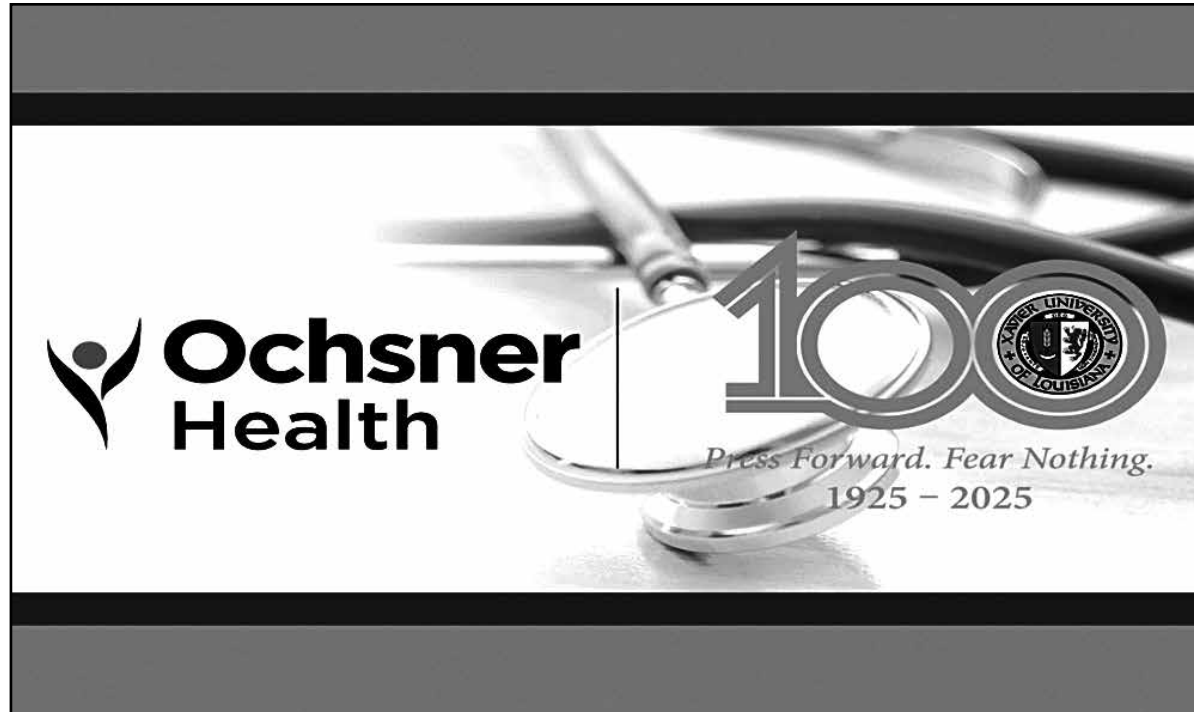
Xavier University of Louisiana and Ochsner Health Partner to Create College of Medicine and Pursue Health and Educational Equity

Data News Staff Edited Report

New Orleans, La. – Xavier University of Louisiana and Ochsner Health announced an agreement to establish a joint College of Medicine. The two institutions will create a strong physician pipeline that addresses longstanding inequities within the nation's Health Care System and builds the health care workforce of the future. By anchoring their partnership with a College of Medicine, Xavier and Ochsner affirm their legacy of advancing health care excellence and education for the next generation, bringing new opportunities to marginalized populations in Louisiana and the United States.

To launch the College of Medicine, Ochsner and Xavier will form a nonprofit corporation, create a new curriculum and use facilities, personnel, and administrative processes of both institutions. The new College of Medicine will be governed by a Board of Directors nominated by Ochsner and Xavier, with each institution appointing an equal number of directors.

This initiative builds on a long-standing partnership between Ochsner and Xavier that dates to the early 1980s, when Ochsner and Xavier's College of Pharmacy came together to offer more clinical training sites for pharmacy students. Xavier's College of Pharmacy is



the oldest in Louisiana and has for years been among the top in the nation in producing African American graduates with Doctor of Pharmacy degrees.

"Our work with Ochsner and other partners who we hold close to their hearts, a vision of healing a broken world, is a testament to Xavier's mission to promote a more just and humane society," said Dr. Reynold Verret, President of Xavier University of Louisiana. "Xavier was bestowed that mission by our founders St. Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacra-

ment almost a century ago. Our dedication to preparing more Black health care professionals in our fight against health inequity is our answer to the call of our nation's critical need and makes their legacy proud."

"Ochsner has a long and rich history of excellence in medical education, and we are honored to continue our work with Xavier to improve the health of our state and region," said Pete November, CEO of Ochsner Health. "The Xavier medical students will get outstanding clinical training in our Integrated

Health Care System, and this significant expansion of our partnership with Xavier demonstrates our commitment to training the next generation of health care providers to solve the critical shortage of physicians in the United States and meet the needs of the diverse communities we serve."

Closing the National and Local Workforce Gap

For decades, Xavier University of Louisiana has produced more African American students and stu-

dents of color who achieve medical degrees and doctorates in the Health Sciences than any other higher education institution in the nation. Ochsner, the largest Academic Health Care System in Louisiana, has a long history of training medical students, residents, and fellows. Ochsner is invested in excellent health care, workforce development and education of communities throughout the Gulf South. The institutions are uniquely positioned to co-lead efforts in closing the health care workforce gap.

Research shows an urgent need for an HBCU College of Medicine now, as demand for doctors is expected to grow. Louisiana is projected to rank third nationally for a shortage of physicians by 2030, according to a Human Resources for Health Analysis. Representation of African Americans within medicine lags, as they comprise 5% of the nation's physicians – although Black and African American populations account for 13% of U.S. residents. A new College of Medicine with Xavier, a high-ranking HBCU, and Ochsner, a high-performing Academic Health System with experience in training medical students, will result in representation among medical practitioners with excellent health care training, which is critical to bettering health outcomes by increasing quality of care, access, and patient trust in their health care providers.

Data Zone

Data Zone, Continued from page 5.

of Fashion", Upscale Magazine Fashion Editor and longtime supporter of NOFW; and Debbie Ales, New Orleans Fashion Designer who specialize in pageantry gowns and is a NOFW Alumni Designer. The conversation provided insight into the pageantry world, the training process which goes into preparing a girl for the role of representing her country as queen, as well as a fashion presentation of Designer Debbie Ales Collection fit for a queen.

The weeklong event concluded with R'Bonney Nola Gabriel, Miss USA, a 28-year-old from Texas being crowned as the 71st Miss Universe.



Purple, iridescent, full-length gown with chiffon overlay cummerbund, shoulder bow and drape.



Tangerine, full-length gown with sequin applique, chiffon drop shoulders and chiffon pleats.



Champagne, sequins halter top, black sequins pants with tulle train.



Red, full-length gown with silver sequins applique on top, and multi-layered skirt with split.



Blush tone, neoprene, long sleeve jumpsuit with ostrich feather detail.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. Named National Co-Chair of No Labels

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

No Labels, a nonprofit think tank that describes itself as a national movement of Democrats, Republicans, and independents working to solve the country's most complex problems, has named Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. as its national co-chair.

The formal announcement occurred during a Zoom news conference on January 22nd.

It included welcome messages from Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Joe Manchin (D-West Virginia), and former Maryland Republican Gov. Larry Hogan, among others.

Recording star Deborah Cox opened the introductory news conference by performing a spirited song about No Labels, who created the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus and an allied Senate group that led passage of some of the most important legislation of recent years, including the CHIPS Act, a gun safety bill, and a rewrite of the Electoral Count Act in 2022.

Voiceovers were woven in of former U.S. Presidents from John F. Kennedy to Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama.

The organization then played a tribute video that included Dr. Chavis' family and his legendary career as a civil rights leader.

"As the new co-chair of No Labels, I'm proud to continue to be the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association on the 196th anniversary of the Black Press of America," Dr. Chavis stated. "Working with former Sen. Joseph Lieberman and former Gov. Larry Hogan as co-chairs, I believe this will lift up the Black Press of



Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., President and CEO of NNPA.

America and elevate its visibility in the American mainstream politics, business, economics, and public policy that will affect the quality of life in the communities in which we serve."

Dr. Chavis continued.

"As a veteran of the civil rights movement, during the last six decades, I've learned a few things about the importance of people working together across lines of race, ethnicity, language, geography, and the things that divide us. I want to work on things that unite us as Americans. I believe No Labels offers that opportunity but also that responsibility to move forward."

Lieberman, a former U.S. Senator from Connecticut, who changed parties in 2006 and is now an Independent, said No Labels is fortunate

to have Dr. Chavis on board.

"Based on his history as a civil rights leader and the kind of person he is, I'm thrilled. Dr. Chavis has always been a bridge-builder and will bring civility, which is sorely needed in our government and our country," Lieberman asserted.

Hogan, who served two terms as Maryland governor, also congratulated Dr. Chavis.

"I'm thrilled to congratulate Dr. Chavis and welcome him to No Labels. I know Dr. Chavis will be a great addition to the leadership team of No Labels," Hogan stated.

"He shares our commitment to bringing people together to achieve common sense solutions for all Americans. Having worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Chavis knows what it means to fight for

freedom and respect for all Americans, and that's exactly what No Labels stand for," Hogan concluded.

Manchin, the conservative-leaning Democrat, said he got involved with No Labels more than 12 years ago because the organization works to unite America.

"We're still working to unite this country," Manchin declared.

"What we've done in the last two years in a bipartisan way because of No Labels has been [major].

"So I'm thrilled to have the experience of Dr. Chavis and the wealth of knowledge he's gained over the years that he'll share with us to help make us a more perfect union."

In welcoming Dr. Chavis, Collins, Maine's longest-serving Senator, lent her voice.

"As a highly respected civil rights leader, his service alongside Sen. Lieberman and Gov. Hogan will help move our organization and nation forward," Collins insisted.

"Dr. Chavis has dedicated his life to championing equality and encouraging our nation to live up to its ideals. He believes in American unity, democracy, and opportunity for all."

Dr. Chavis said his life's work had taught him that if everyone works together, divisions can be overcome.

"And when we overcome divisions, we make progress," he insisted.

"I believe we need to restore bipartisanship in the American Congress. We need to restore bipartisanship at the state legislative level.

"We need to restore bipartisanship at the local and municipal level. Americans today are worn out with all the divisions and looking for a way forward. No Labels offer that way forward."

DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to
place your classified ad.

Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to
hear from you!

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net

This space can be
yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421

This space can be yours for only \$80

CALL NOW!!!

504-821-7421

follow us on

twitter 

@DataNewsWeek

ladatanews.com - The People's Website



**WHEN IT COMES TO
MAKING PLANS
YOU'RE THE BEST**

**MAKE A PLAN
TO PROTECT YOU AND
YOUR LOVED ONES FROM
A NATURAL DISASTER**

✓ **Sign up**
for local weather and
emergency alerts

✓ **Prepare**
an emergency kit

✓ **Make**
a family
communications plan

Get started at ready.gov/plan

