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**Data**

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*"The People's Paper"*



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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# ICE

## COMES TO NEW ORLEANS

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# ICE Comes to New Orleans

## *The Alarming Expansion of “Swamp Sweep”*



ICE officials arrived in New Orleans as part of Swamp Sweep. Their presence is drawing public attention as residents have noted increased federal activity in local neighborhoods that have the greatest impact on immigrant communities.

**Edwin Buggage**  
**Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly**

As you move around the Crescent City, you may notice an increased presence of ICE agents operating under a new enforcement initiative called “Swamp Sweep.” While maintaining public safety is essential,

this recent action by the Trump Administration should set off alarm bells for anyone who genuinely cares about community well-being, justice, and human dignity. In a city shaped by culture, migration, and resilience, such a policy, rooted in fear and xenophobia, poses a direct threat to everything that makes New Orleans unique.

New Orleans has always been a place of refuge. Since its founding more than three centuries ago, generations of immigrants from Europe, Latin America, Vietnam, the Caribbean, and enslaved Africans have contributed to the city’s identity. Their collective traditions and labor have shaped our neighborhoods, cuisine, music, economy, and the spirit of welcome that

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defines who we are.

ICE's "Swamp Sweep," however, introduces something very different: intimidation, surveillance, and an atmosphere of fear that tears at the social fabric of our city. It remains to be seen whether this increased presence will enhance public safety. More likely, it will drive families into the shadows and discourage residents from reporting crimes, seeking health-care, or engaging with civic institutions. This shortsighted policy could have the opposite of its intended effect, ultimately making everyone less safe.

These concerns are not hypothetical. Across the country, ICE operations, regardless of what they are called, have destabilized communities, separated families, and traumatized children. "Swamp Sweep" represents yet another iteration of an old strategy: using fear to enforce a political agenda at the expense of working-class immigrant families.

And make no mistake, these families are essential to New Orleans. They rebuild homes after storms, care for the elderly, and sustain the



New Orleans Police Chief Anne Kirkpatrick highlighted the significant drop in citywide crime in 2025, crediting targeted reforms and strong community partnerships. Public safety advocates note that the arrival of ICE in the city could complicate efforts by creating fear and distrust in vulnerable communities.

hospitality and tourism industries that define the region. Writ large, they are not a threat to this community but are a vital part of it.

ICE, on the other hand, brings

a documented pattern of racial profiling, wrongful detentions, and abuses inside detention facilities. Expanding its reach in a majority-Black city with a long history of

state surveillance and systemic inequity is not only unwise it is also potentially harmful. "Swamp Sweep" risks creating a climate of fear layered over existing chal-

lenges, from economic instability to ongoing post-disaster recovery.

Admittedly, addressing crime and the broader immigration challenges in the United States is necessary. However, what New Orleans needs is investment, not intrusion. We need resources for education, Affordable Housing, healthcare, and job creation, not militarized raids. Safety, here and across the nation, comes from stability, opportunity, and trust, not from federal agents sweeping through neighborhoods under titles like "Swamp Sweep."

As ICE implements this operation, it is crucial for residents, leaders, and institutions to monitor its effects and consider how enforcement efforts align with the city's values, needs, and long-term well-being. New Orleans is a place built on humanity, culture, and resilience. Whatever unfolds in the coming months, the city must remain thoughtful, informed, and committed to supporting the people who call it home, because the strength of New Orleans has always rested on those who live, work, and build their lives here.

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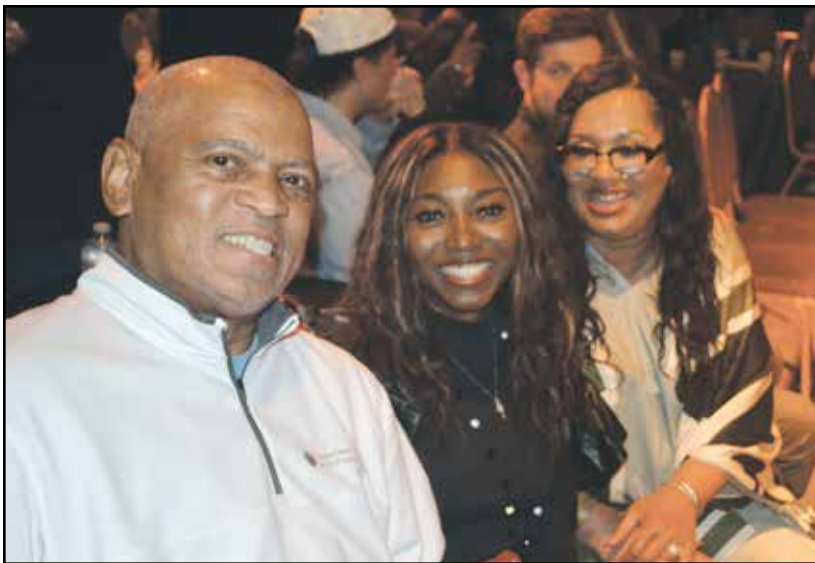


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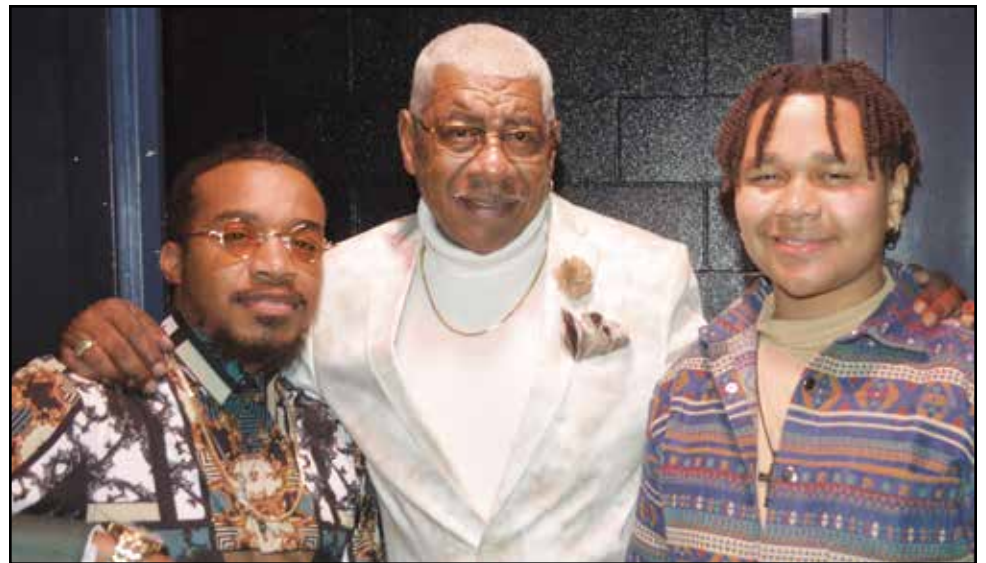
All Strings Attached is comprised of a father and sons' trio of Violinists began as a group in 2021. Proud father, World-Renowned Jazz Violinist Michael Ward with sons Shaun now age 37 and Cortes now age 15 to showcase the rich-unique musical heritage of the Ward family's Legacy as Violinist. The guys put on an electrifying Bayou Classic After-Party Concert at Café Istanbul. It wasn't just another show – It was a celebration of culture energy and sound infused with R&B, Funk, Soul, Jazz and Hip-Hop – all powered by live strings. The tight-knit father and sons' trio strive to bridge the gap between OLD & NEW as three Violinists in one bloodline united under one groove. Data News Weekly was there to experience the group's high-energy performances and the ultimate post-Bayou Classic vibe.... What a Celebration. Since joining their father as a group, they've performed at Jazz Fest, and various other events, including their Family Annual Concern "Christmas with the Wards".



(L to R) Shaun Ward, Cortes Ward, Ruffin Jackson, and Michael Ward.



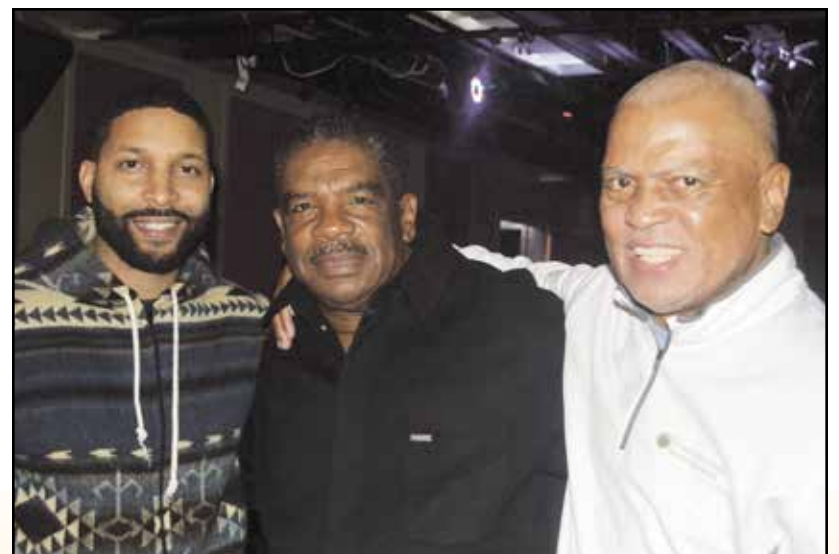
(L to R) Allen Semien, Gail Perry, and Caroline Adams



(L to R) Shaun Ward, Michael Ward and Cortes Ward



Shaun Ward (Michael's oldest son)



(L to R) John Rodriguez, Tony Clayton and Allen Semien.

Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events.





World-Renowned Jazz Violinist, Michael Ward.



(L to R) Shaun Ward, Cortes Ward, Ruffin Jackson, Michael Ward.



Cortes Ward, Michael's youngest son, he attends The Ellis Marsalis Center for Music since he was six years old.



Susan Eddington and guest.

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# Daphney Young Among Those Honored at the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

**Glenda Bell**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

The National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. announced its newest class of inductees, and among the honorees, Daphney Young emerged as a standout figure whose lifelong commitment to service and empowerment earned her recognition in the Community Service Category. As the Foundation celebrated its 40th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia, Young's induction highlighted her remarkable legacy of leadership, advocacy, and intergenerational impact.

The ceremony, held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta and hosted by Journalists Monica Pearson and Kevin Frazier, honored graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) who made significant contributions across a range of professional fields. Each year, the Foundation recognized these distinguished alumni not only to celebrate their achievements but also to uplift the enduring strength and national importance of HBCUs. In this class, Daphney Young's



Daphney Young was presented with her award by Dr. Monique Guillory, President of Dillard University, and Quentin L. Roach, Chairman of the Board for the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame.

contributions reflected the very essence of the Hall of Fame's Mission.

A 1993 Honors Graduate of Dillard University, Young built a career centered on service, literacy, and community advancement. As a Senior Program Specialist with AARP, she championed initiatives supporting adults aged 50 and older, ensuring aging populations, particularly in underserved communities, had access to essential resources, advocacy, and engagement opportunities. Her work blended policy

awareness, community organizing, and a deep commitment to uplifting seniors.

Her impact extended significantly to youth empowerment as well. As Co-Founder of Le Sanctuary, Inc., Young helped lead efforts that provided more than \$50,000 in scholarships to young women pursuing higher education. Through mentorship, literacy programming, and leadership development, she created pathways for Black girls to excel academically and personally.



Daphney Young, a 1993 honors graduate of Dillard University, was honored at the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony for her contributions to community empowerment and education.

Her work with schools, faith-based organizations, and community groups consistently reinforced education as a foundation for self-determination.

Young's contributions drew recognition from major institutions, including Coca-Cola's Salute to Sisterhood Awards and the YWCA. These honors underscored her unwavering dedication to community service and her role as a model of sustained engagement and compassion. Her values, rooted in faith, ed-

ucation, and a commitment to building stronger communities, aligned seamlessly with the Hall of Fame Foundation's Mission to elevate the Legacy of HBCUs and the alumni who exemplify excellence.

While the class included distinguished honorees such as Stephen A. Smith in Entertainment, Dr. Richard Barnett in Athletics, Latica Archie-Oliver in Business, Dr. Juliet King in Education, and other trailblazers across fields including science, medicine, government, and the arts, Young's induction was especially notable for its focus on service. Her life's work embodied the core purpose of HBCUs: preparing individuals not only for professional success but also for transformative leadership and community uplift.

As the Foundation reflected on four decades of honoring HBCU Excellence, Daphney Young's induction stood as a testament to the enduring power of service-driven leadership. Her journey, shaped by the values instilled at Dillard University, continued to inspire those dedicated to education, empowerment, and strengthening communities across the nation.

## State & Local News

### Mackenzie Scott Donates Nearly \$60 Million to Xavier and Dillard Universities, Continuing Major Support for Louisiana Nonprofits

**Benjamin Bates**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Louisiana's Philanthropic Landscape received a major boost this holiday season as Billionaire Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott announced nearly \$60 million in new donations to two of New Orleans' Historically Significant Institutions of Higher Education. The gifts, \$38 million to Xavier University of Louisiana and \$19 million to Dillard University, continue Scott's sweeping commitment to supporting HBCUs and community-based organizations across the country.

The announcement comes just after the Thanksgiving and Bayou Classic Weekend, offering both campuses and the wider community another reason to celebrate. Xavier, the nation's only Catholic



Mackenzie Scott's transformative gifts to Xavier University and Dillard University highlight the critical role of philanthropy in strengthening HBCUs. Her donations provide vital support for scholarships, academic expansion, and long-term institutional growth, helping ensure these historic New Orleans universities continue uplifting generations of Black scholars and community leaders.

HBCU, described the contribution as transformational, strengthening its ability to expand academic pro-

grams, increase scholarship support, and invest in long-term institutional growth. Dillard University

echoed similar sentiments, noting that the unrestricted nature of Scott's donation will accelerate its strategic initiatives, faculty development, and student success efforts.

These latest gifts push Scott's total contributions to Louisiana organizations to nearly \$240 million since 2020. Her donations in the state now span almost 50 institutions, including universities, nonprofits, social-service providers, arts organizations, and community-based groups working to address systemic inequities.

Scott's approach to Philanthropy is notable for its speed, scale, and trust-based model. Unlike traditional grantmaking processes that often require lengthy proposals and reporting, Scott does not solicit applications. Instead, her Team Research Organizations privately and awards unrestricted funding directly, allowing recipients to de-

termine the most effective ways to use the resources. This flexibility enables nonprofits and educational institutions to strengthen core operations, invest in expansion, build endowments, support emergency needs, or innovate without restrictive guidelines.

Local leaders say Scott's donations continue to have a ripple effect across the region, especially during a time when many institutions face rising costs and increased demand for services. For Xavier and Dillard, two pillars of Black Higher Education and workforce leadership in the city, the impact will be both immediate and long-lasting.

As Louisiana reflects on a weekend rooted in tradition, gratitude, and community, Scott's contributions stand out as a powerful reminder of how Strategic Philanthropy can reshape futures and expand opportunities across generations.



# Black College Students Keep Gun Violence at the Forefront for Lawmakers

**Deon Arnold**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor  
Photos courtesy  
Youth Changers  
Summit

Black College Students convened in Washington, D.C. as part of the 2025 Young Black Changemaker Summits, organized by Students Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety, to raise awareness for the number one killer of young people ages 18-25 in America, which is Gun Violence, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Gun Violence outranks car accidents and drug overdoses as the primary source of youth death in America in 2025. For Black youth gun deaths is 18-times higher than White children and teens according to the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions.

For Natrina Roper, the Student Organizing Associate for Everytown, the significance of the 2025 Summit is to continue to keep pressure on lawmakers, regardless of the political climate in the country on this issue. This is only the second Changemaker Summit ever held, and the path from idea to reality was neither linear nor guaranteed.

"Seven years ago this was just an idea. Doing it in 2025 feels even more necessary because the current administration has reversed some of the progress we've made in the Gun Violence Prevention Movement," Roper said.

Currently Gun Violence Legislation at a federal level has stalled under President Donald Trump, and Roper emphasizes that the true strength of the movement continues to come from the ground up.

"Every grassroots effort this country has ever seen has been powered by youth," Roper said. "When you get impassioned and energetic young people working toward a common goal, especially young Black youth, there's nothing that can't be done."



Students from Xavier, TSU, Howard, Morehouse, and Grambling pose during a workshop at the Youth Changers Summit in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 15, 2025.

ing that can't be done."

Roper pointed out that programs to address Gun Violence must also root out the inequalities that create the conditions for crimes.

"You have to know how things like SNAP benefits and employment rates affect Gun Violence. You take that knowledge to lawmakers and force them to make change; and if they refuse, you vote them out," Roper said.

Student leadership is important on this issue as schools both K-12 and colleges also are experiencing a continued uptick in Gun Violence. In 2025, school and college campus shootings were up from the previous year, with each year prior setting new records. A total of some 70 school shooting incidents occurred in 2025 through November, according to Everytown for Gun Safety.

"The main goal was creating a safe space where people could share their stories," said Andrea Celia Asalia who has worked to coordinate the summit since its conception. "We built it in a space where folks felt comfortable, using

the language and culture of young people to talk about Gun Violence."

One of the summit's major insights is the dual nature of Gun Violence: what's highly visible - mass shootings, versus what is systemic and often invisible in communities of color.

"We talk about the Gun Violence people see on the news, and the Systemic Violence we don't always see that disproportionately impacts Black and Brown communities," Asalia said.

Alyssa Robinson, a student at Valencia College, in Orlando, FL, said she attended the summit to deepen her understanding of Gun Violence within her own community.

"I wanted to understand more about how guns get distributed and strengthen my knowledge on Gun Violence in Orlando," she said. "We need to educate African Americans on lock boxes, so accidental gun deaths aren't a trend anymore."

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