

Halima Leak Francis honored with Spirit of Tulane Award

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Halima Leak Francis receives the Spirit of Tulane Award in recognition of her service and dedication to the university community. (Photo by Andrea Steudlein)

Tulane President Michael Fitts presented the Spirit of Tulane Award to Halima Leak Francis, PhD, director of Tulane SoPA's [John Lewis Public Administration program](#) on Monday, Sept. 8. The award recognizes university employees who embody Tulane's values through generosity, leadership, and service to the community.

Leak Francis served as Vice Chair of the University Senate during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years, becoming the first SoPA faculty member to hold the position.

According to the award's call for nominees, recipients are characterized by an extraordinary generosity, giving their time and abilities beyond general job

requirements in support of the university's mission. Evidenced by interactions with colleagues, students and community, these individuals are motivated by the difference they make at Tulane and in the greater communities of which Tulane is part.

Her leadership and commitment to fostering collaboration and service reflects the very spirit this award was created to celebrate.