

S O P A

SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT
ACADEMIC YEAR IN REVIEW
JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



I'm excited to share our 2022-2023 Year in Review with you, as we wrap up one academic year and get ready to launch another. While all our achievements and accomplishments wouldn't fit into a short brochure, this Year in Review represents the full spectrum of why we do our work and what makes the Tulane School of Professional Advancement notable.

It was a year of truly remarkable achievements at SoPA in terms of the quality and relevance of our curriculum in areas such as legal studies, information technology and public administration, some of which are profiled on the following pages. We were able to secure important sources of funding, both public and private, to carry out our access work and to meet local and regional workforce challenges. And not least, we continued to bond together as an academic community in various ways, including through service. Most importantly, we are so proud of the achievements of our students and alumni, as exemplified by those you'll see in these pages. We like to say that we've had a hand in their extraordinary success!

On each page you'll learn what we're doing to strengthen student success and you'll be introduced to other amazing things that SoPA creates as a result of those efforts.

Thanks for everything you do to help us create this incredible academic community. We look forward to another year of success!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suri Duitch".

Suri Duitch, Dean and Vice President
for Academic Innovation

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



At Tulane SoPA we do much more than award degrees and certificates. We provide a space for students, faculty and staff to actualize the change they want to see in the world. In this 2022-2023 Year in Review, we highlight these spaces and outline all that Tulane SoPA creates.

Keep up with news from the Tulane School of Professional Advancement by visiting sopa.tulane.edu/news and by following [@TulaneSoPA](https://twitter.com/TulaneSoPA) on social media.

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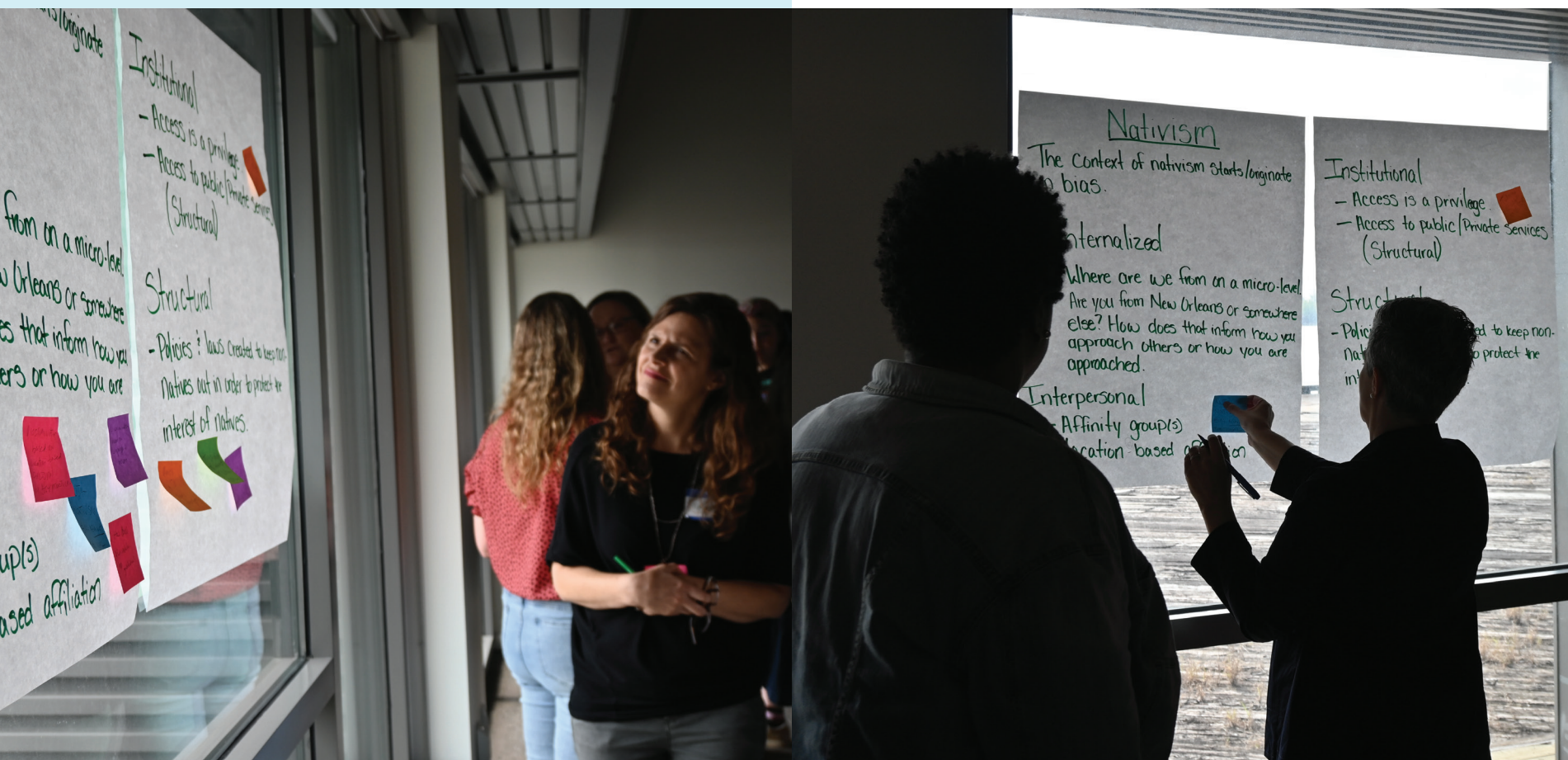
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...A SENSE OF BELONGING



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION RETREAT

Tulane SoPA's team of more than 60 faculty and staff gathered Wednesday, May 17, 2023, to explore techniques useful in navigating sensitive topics with thoughtfulness and respect. Under the 2023 theme, *The Culture and Values of SoPA*, faculty and staff, laid special focus on their crucial role in creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for both students and colleagues. «



...OPEN MINDS

JOHN LEWIS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM DEDICATION

The public administration program at Tulane SoPA now carries with it the name and legacy of the late U.S. Congressman John Lewis. A dedication ceremony was held Tuesday, October 4, 2022 on the Uptown campus. Members of the Tulane and New Orleans community celebrated the announcement alongside representatives of the John and Lillian Miles Lewis Foundation and former Attorney General Eric Holder, who spoke about his personal relationship with Lewis. <<



WATCH THE
DEDICATION VIDEO

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM RESIDENCY

The Annual Public Administration Program Residency was held June 1-3, 2023 marking the culmination of curriculum for students in Tulane SoPA’s Master of Public Administration degree program. Students assembled on the Uptown campus in New Orleans for three days of in-person networking, learning, and dialogue centered around the year’s theme: *Defining and Advancing Public Value.* <<





...EMPOWERED EDUCATORS

\$10 MILLION SEED GRANT TO EDUCATE LOCAL TEACHERS

The U.S. Department of Education's Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Grant Program awarded more than \$10 million in federal funding to the Tulane University School of Professional Advancement, which serves as lead recipient and partner with New Schools for New Orleans, Xavier University of Louisiana's Norman C. Francis Teacher Residency, Reach University and The New Teacher Project's teachNOLA. The funding will expand and enhance teacher recruitment efforts in New Orleans.

The "NOLA SEED" program aims to recruit and develop 552 highly effective, culturally competent, certified educators to be placed in New Orleans public schools. Students approved for grant benefits must commit to two years in a New Orleans school. ⌞



This grant provides a much-needed boost in support for aspiring teachers as well as experienced teachers looking to advance in their career.

— Suri Dutch, Dean and Vice President for Academic Innovation

IT BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM EARNS ABET ACCREDITATION

The Bachelor of Science degree program in Information Technology was accredited in the fall of 2022 by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET. ABET is the leading global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology.

ABET accreditation assures that programs meet standards to produce graduates ready to enter critical technical fields leading the way in innovation and emerging technologies and anticipating the welfare and safety needs of the public. <<



It has always been our goal to create and offer Information Technology Programs that are not only fully applied and structured to deliver industry-ready technical skills, but also coursework that meets the highest academic standards.

— Ralph Russo, Program Director,
Senior Professor of Practice, Information Technology



Computing
Accreditation
Commission



...ACCREDITED PROGRAMS



\$120,000

PROVIDED TO SOPA STUDENTS THIS YEAR
THROUGH GENEROUS ENDOWMENTS



**BRIAN AND JILL ROWE
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

For SoPA students who are
U.S. military veterans or on
active duty

HARRAH'S SCHOLARSHIP

For SoPA students in ethnic
minority groups

**OSHER RE-ENTRY
SCHOLARSHIPS**

For adult students re-entering
higher education

**THE ELMO AND MARGARET
ALLEN WALTZER SCHOLARSHIP**

For high-achieving part-
time SoPA students

**AAUW FELLOWSHIPS
AND GRANTS**

For women scholars pursuing
academic work and innovative
community projects to
empower women and girls

**LOUIS E. BARRILLEAUX
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ALPHA
SIGMA LAMBDA MEMBERS**

For members of Alpha Sigma
Lambda, the national honor society
for part-time college students

**JAMES MONAGHAN AND
ALANA BISHOP MONAGHAN
SCHOLARSHIP**

For SoPA students with a
declared major or minor in
Homeland Security Studies

**TIDEWATER/THOMAS J.
ASSAD SCHOLARSHIP**

For meritorious part-time,
undergraduate SoPA students
majoring or minoring in
Humanities or English

**PHI THETA KAPPA
SCHOLARSHIP**

For members of Phi Theta
Kappa national honor
society in good standing at
the time of graduation

Support our students by visiting giving.tulane.edu.

GRAD FACTS

Class of 2023

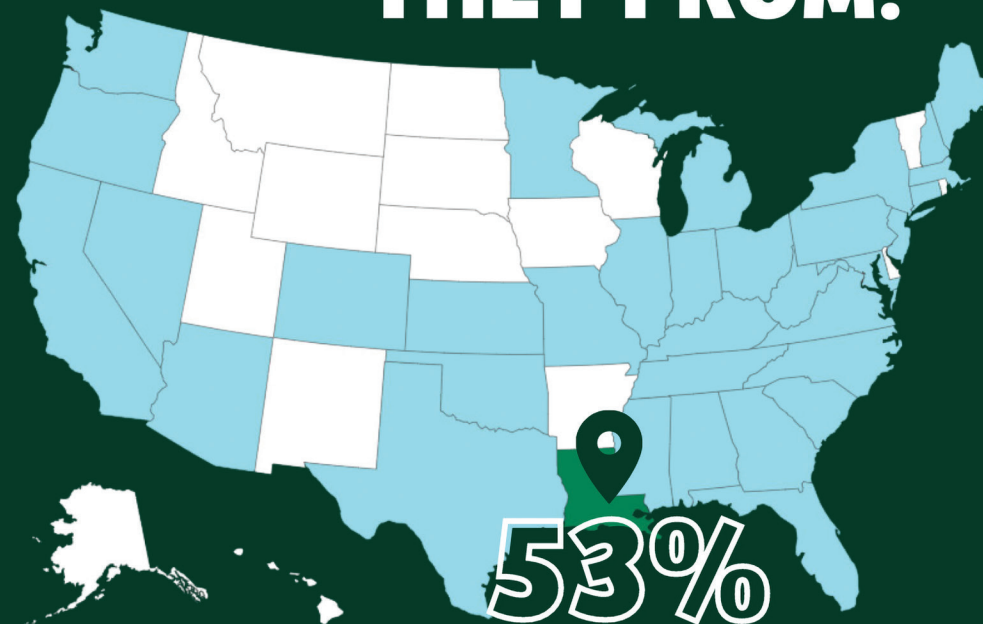
270

DEGREES
EARNED

191

CERTIFICATES
AWARDED

WHERE ARE THEY FROM?



53%

OF GRADS ARE
FROM LOUISIANA

FURTHEST FROM HOME

SON SERVERA,
SPAIN

5,100+

MILES FROM TULANE

76

YEARS

AGE OF OLDEST
GRADUATE

50

STUDENT
ATHLETES



GROW DAT SERVICE DAY

Faculty and staff took time away from the office for team building and community service, Friday, Nov. 4, 2022 at Grow Dat Youth Farm in New Orleans City Park. The mission of Grow Dat Youth Farm is to nurture a diverse group of young leaders through the meaningful work of growing food. <<



...SERVICE-ORIENTED LEADERS



FACULTY CONVOCATION



Our distinguished faculty awards are given to faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding classroom dedication and performance. This year we had nearly 50 faculty members who were nominated by students, with several faculty members receiving multiple nominations.

— Ilianna Kwaske, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
Senior Professor of Practice

Emily Vokes Award

Robyn Ice, JD – General Legal Studies
Business and Leadership Studies

John Percy Dyer Award

Flint Mitchell, PhD – Public Administration
Jason Lorino, MPS – Information Technology

Distinguished Faculty Award

Tamar Gregorian, PhD – Media + Design
Corey Guerra, MFA – Media + Design
Leanne Howell, JD – General Legal Studies
Claudia Kheel, MA – Humanities and Social Sciences
Brian McNamara, JD – Public Administration
Trung Nguyen, PhD – PreK-12 Education
Sam Scandaliato, MBA – Business and Leadership Studies
Irina Tereschenko, MA - Kinesiology
Joe Toth, MPS – Information Technology
Michael Wallace, EdD – Emergency and Security Studies

...A PLATFORM
FOR EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING

NEW ORLEANS BOOK FESTIVAL

The second annual New Orleans Book Festival, held March 9-11, 2023 on Tulane's Uptown campus, featured several SoPA faculty.

Dean Suri Duitch, PhD, moderated a conversation with Public Administration faculty member, Froswa' Booker-Drew, PhD, during a discussion titled, *A Frank Conversation About Philanthropy, Community and Race*.

Michael Wallace, EdD, director of SoPA's Emergency and Security Studies Program and Senior Professor of Practice, moderated a panel titled, *A Call to Arms: Advancing Healthcare to Veterans*. The panel featured Emergency and Security Studies alumnus Chris Cox, Tulane School of Medicine Assistant Professor of Sports Medicine Dr. Greg Stewart, and former Green Beret and NFL player Nate Boyer. <>



...CONVERSATION STARTERS



NATIONAL STUDENT ADVERTISING COMPETITION

The student advertising team from the Media + Design Program ranked second overall during their first year competing in the National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) in April.

NSAC is the premier college advertising competition that provides more than 2,000 college students the real-world experience of creating a strategic advertising, marketing, and media campaign for a corporate client. <<



LOCAL AND NATIONAL ADDY® AWARDS

Tulane SoPA's Media + Design students earned an impressive combination of 25 awards during the 2023 Advertising Club of New Orleans' ADDY® Award Program, including Best of Show, Overall Best of Show, Runner-up, Judge's Pick, as well as a combination of Gold and Silver ADDY® Awards.

SoPA students have advanced to compete at the district and national level for several years where they compete against as well, competing against programs in the 7th District of the American Advertising Federation (AAF).

Media + Design Program Director Rebecca Carr was also honored with the prestigious AAF Educator of the Year Award. <<

SOPA PLAYS VITAL ROLE IN ALUM’S JOURNEY FROM PRISON TO JD

At age 19 Calvin Duncan was accused and wrongly convicted of murder, sentenced to life imprisonment, served 28.5 years in state prison, and was ultimately released and exonerated with the help of Innocence Project New Orleans.

After his release, he turned to Tulane SoPA where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in General Legal Studies in 2019 followed by a law degree from Lewis and Clark Law School in 2023.

Despite the injustice committed against him, Duncan says he carries no resentment toward the American judicial system. Instead, he is grateful for his opportunities and feels “called to help all those still behind bars.”

“As a student, Calvin was driven and focused on his goal of attending law school,” said Suri Duitch, Dean of Tulane SoPA. “Calvin fit well into our student population, which is filled with adult learners seeking to grow professionally and to improve their communities.” <<

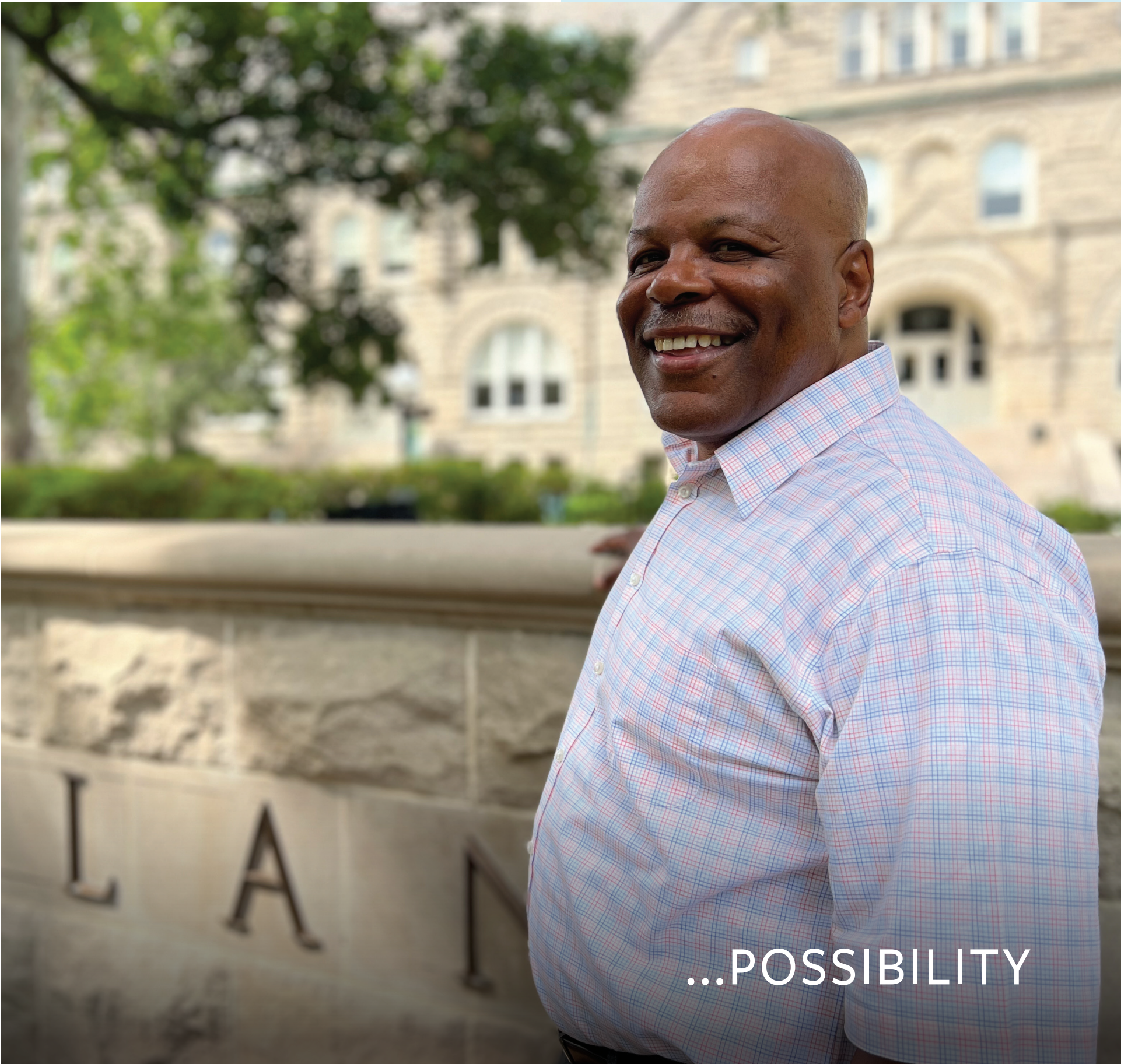


I wish that more local young people knew about the opportunities at Tulane. Those young people need hope and Tulane can be that hope.

— Calvin Duncan, JD, SoPA ‘19



READ MORE
ABOUT CALVIN



...POSSIBILITY



CHAMPION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

AJ Durand, graduate and student speaker for the 2023 SoPA Diploma Ceremony, shared this:

“I must offer an important reminder to everyone here today. There is evidence of trans and gender-variant people existing throughout human history in every culture on every continent. In many cultures, we’ve even been revered as spiritual leaders. We are not a threat. We are a gift. We have always relied on each other to survive. We have always made it work as a community, and we are never going away. So if you or your family has been affected by the news lately, please know that there is a vast, strong and angry network of experienced elders who are ready to embrace you, to help you and love you. I promise you do not have to hold this by yourself. I know this because I am living proof.”

Durand earned a Bachelor of Arts in Digital Design with an Interactive UX/UI Concentration from SoPA and is a media content developer for SoPA’s Learning Design and Development team. <<



ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Khamani “Gigi” Williamson decided to pursue a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Tulane SoPA’s John Lewis Public Administration Program in 2021 after witnessing the displacement of minorities when several low-income housing facilities were demolished in her hometown of Norfolk, Virginia.

During her time at SoPA Williamson formed a track record of leadership and advocacy as evidenced by her receipt of the exclusive Tulane 34 award presented annually to some of Tulane University’s most outstanding graduates.

This fall, Williamson will begin her doctoral studies in policy studies with a focus in regional community development policy and entrepreneurship at Clemson University. <<



FIRST-GENERATION GRADUATE

Victor Calero-Hernandez, SoPA graduate and first-generation college student, set his goal of attending Tulane after learning he would be moving from Colombia to the United States.

The accomplishment of that goal is what led him to the honor of being named the 2023 recipient of the Dr. Gisela Spieker Prize for exemplary first-generation college graduates.

“I wanted to go to the best school near my family in New Orleans,” he said. “It ended up working out, and here I am.”

Calero-Hernandez earned a bachelor’s degree in exercise science through Tulane SoPA’s Kinesiology program and plans to pursue a master’s degree in neuroscience and subsequent doctorate degree.

His interests in motor learning can be attributed to his adolescent experience with severe scoliosis. <<



SCHOLAR AND NFL DRAFT PICK

Tyjae Spears, third round Tennessee Titans draft pick and 2023 Tulane SoPA Kinesiology Program graduate, had an impressive reason for missing commencement. Tulane SoPA’s diploma ceremony date collided with his rookie debut at spring training camp.



Instead of foregoing the opportunity to celebrate his academic achievement, Spears found a solution for his absence by requesting to have his parents accept his degree on his behalf.

“I’m a first-generation college graduate so it was an important moment for me to have my mom and my dad walk across the stage to receive my diploma,” said Spears. “That was the real highlight of my year because I know it’s the first time they’ve ever walked across a college stage.” <<

Start your journey by visiting sopa.tulane.edu/apply.



...RELEVANT NEW DEGREES

ONLINE MASTER OF EDUCATION

Designed to help future education leaders improve the equitability and inclusivity of teaching practices within their communities, the MEd program embraces New Orleans as a learning laboratory of different approaches and outcomes. The program offers real-world relevant courses and applied learning opportunities. The modality of the MEd program empowers students who are currently teaching or working in other capacities to earn their degrees while remaining in the workforce. <<

MASTER OF TEACHING

The Master of Teaching (MAT) degree will help develop more certified teachers for Louisiana schools. Eligible students who enroll in the new MAT degree can receive a full tuition scholarship plus a \$5,000 stipend when they commit to teaching in Orleans parish for three years after earning the degree.

Tulane SoPA is a lead recipient of the U.S. Department of Education's (USDOE) Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Grant Program, which aims to recruit and develop the next generation of certified educators. <<

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

The Bachelor of Science in Organizational Behavior and Management Studies offers students a solid understanding of organizational behavior and management. Through this program, students enhance their communication and analytical skills, while also deepening their knowledge of organizational behavior and essential business systems. This knowledge equips them to effectively handle economic, financial, legal, and ethical challenges when managing various business entities. <<

HUMAN RESOURCES

The curriculum of the Bachelor of Arts in Human Resources is aligned with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) curricular templates and Competency Model, with courses that will enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to forecast, plan, recruit, compensate, appraise, and otherwise develop human resources within business organizations, all in compliance with applicable laws and ethical guidelines. On completion of the degree, qualifying may seek SHRM certification, a highly valued credential in the human resources profession. <<

FACULTY EXPERTS IN THE NEWS

Tulane SoPA is known for having faculty who practice what they teach. These subject-matter experts are a valued part of the university's brand and often appear on local and national news outlets. <>



Forbes



LAVENDER AND UMOJA CELEBRATIONS

At Tulane SoPA, we are committed to maintaining a culture of acceptance. We work closely with the Carolyn Barber-Pierre Center for Intercultural Life to ensure that our students are kept informed of opportunities available for full and part-time students at Tulane University.

As a result of this effort, many of our 2023 graduates attended the Lavender Graduation,

which highlights the academic accomplishments of students of color, LGBTQ+ identified students and their allies. Black-identifying graduates from across the university participated in the Umoja Graduation, a cultural achievement ceremony that also serves as an induction to the Black Alumni Network of Tulane University (BANTU). Pictured below are SoPA graduates donning the stoles presented during each celebration. <<





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