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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Xavier and other HBCUs partner with IBM to create cybersecurity leadership center

New Orleans, La- Today, Xavier University and several other Historically Black Colleges and Univeristies (HBCUs) announced that they will work with IBM (NYSE: IBM) to establish virtual Cybersecurity Leadership Centers to prepare students for cybersecurity careers. This resource complements the technology and cybersecurity coursework that students already receive from Xavier's computer science program. The other participating HBCUs in the initiative include North Carolina A&T State University, Clark Atlanta University, Morgan State University, South Carolina State University, and the Southern University System.

Participant universities will have access to a customized, multi-year cybersecurity experience with IBM, including cybersecurity curricula, cloud access, and an immersive learning experience to expand HBCUs' capacity to develop top talent in the cybersecurity sector.

"Xavier is excited to partner with IBM to expand the opportunities offered to our talented students," said **Dr. Anne McCall, provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs at Xavier University of Louisiana.** "At Xavier, we are responsible for cultivating the talents of the next generation, and cybersecurity is an industry of the future. This partnership will help our nation meet the growing need for skilled professionals in the cyberspace workforce."

HBCUs' faculty and students will have an opportunity to benefit from IBM Security's Command Center, through which they can experience a highly realistic, simulated cyberattack, designed to prepare them and train them on response techniques. Moreover, HBCUs' faculty will have access to consultation sessions with IBM technical personnel on cybersecurity. IBM will also provide faculty and students with no-cost access to multiple SaaS IBM Cloud environments to hone their skills.

IBM will develop for each HBCU a customized IBM Security Learning Academy portal – an IBM client offering – including courses designed to help the university enhance its cybersecurity education portfolio. In addition, IBM will continue to give access to IBM Academic Programs.

This collaboration underscore IBM's focus on providing STEM job training to traditionally underrepresented communities as part of its commitment to skill 30 million people worldwide by 2030 to create equitable, inclusive economic opportunities while also addressing a longstanding STEM job skills shortage impacting the business community.

In 2021, IBM Chairman and CEO Arvind Krishna pledged for IBM to partner with HBCUs to establish Cybersecurity Leadership Centers, with the goal of building a more diverse U.S. cyber workforce. As a result, IBM is announcing the first six of more than 20 Cybersecurity Leadership Centers planned.

"We believe that the most promising job candidates for today's demanding careers will come from communities that may have been historically overlooked or excluded due to outdated hiring policies and old-fashioned credentialling," said Justina Nixon-Saintil, Vice President, IBM Corporate Social Responsibility and ESG. "That's why we're uniting the public, private, and not-for-sector sectors to cultivate STEM talent from underrepresented communities to address the world's most critical challenges."

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About Xavier University of Louisiana

Being America's only historically Black and Catholic University is only the first among many distinctions that have set Xavier University of Louisiana apart for more than nine decades. Despite its relatively small size, Xavier is a nationally recognized leader in STEM and the health sciences, producing more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Its College of Pharmacy is among the top producers of African American pharmacists.

Its liberal arts-based programs in such areas as art, business, education, psychology, and political science – as well as recent additions in bioinformatics, data science, neuroscience, crime and social justice, and jazz studies – offer students an unbeatable combination of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities, and life experiences. The winning Xavier formula to provide students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls.

For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit us online at www.xula.edu or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. To book interviews and/or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, education, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications, and the arts, contact Regi Reyes at (504) 520-5240 or rreyes@xula.edu.

About IBM Education

As part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, IBM's education portfolio takes a personalized, diverse, and deep approach to STEM career readiness. IBM's pro bono programs range from education and support for teens at public schools and universities, to career readiness resources for aspiring professionals and job seekers. IBM believes that education is best achieved through the collaboration of the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors.

In May 2021, IBM extended its Global University Programs to 40 HBCUs, giving them no-charge access to computing software, courseware, tutorials, fellowships, and guest lecturers. And in September 2020, IBM announced the investment of $100 million in assets, technology and resources to HBCUs.