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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Supporting Rising Stars: The Entrepreneurship Institute at Xavier University of Louisiana to host HBCU Entrepreneurs Summit

New Orleans – Xavier University of Louisiana has long been a beacon of innovation and progress, shaping the education landscape for nearly a century. Multitudes of its distinguished and talented alums have carried forward the university’s mission to promote a more just and humane society through their success and impacts on the global society. Seeking to continue to develop the aspirations and skills of Xavier students while offering the opportunity for an expanded network, the [Entrepreneurship Institute](#) at Xavier University of Louisiana is thrilled to unveil Rising Stars: HBCU Entrepreneurship Summit in partnership with [Entrepreneurship For Everyone](#). Set to take place from March 8-10, 2024, on Xavier’s vibrant campus, this summit aims to provide an unparalleled interdisciplinary entrepreneurship experience. Open to XULA students, alums, faculty, staff, and the wider Historically Black College and University (HBCU) community, the event offers invaluable resources, opportunities, and support to empower the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders.

“Xavier and HBCU students are talented innovators, creators and entrepreneurs, and our goal for this conference is to connect them with the resources that will assist them as they conceptualize, launch and grow their businesses,” said **Mark Quinn, Conrad N. Hilton Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship and Assistant Professor at Xavier University of Louisiana**.

Recognizing the importance of creating strong connections between HBCUs, their surrounding areas and local minority-owned businesses, as well as fostering mutually beneficial collaborations that uplift individuals, the HBCU ecosystem and these communities, the summit is open to anyone interested in learning about entrepreneurship.

The Rising Stars: HBCU Entrepreneurship Summit will be the fourth event in a series hosted at different destinations throughout the network of 107 HBCUs in 20 U.S. states, Washington, DC, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Many Xavier alums will attend as dynamic speakers and potential mentors, including: [Kwame Terra](#) ('15 & '22), MPH, founder & CEO of bEHR Health Systems; [Chandra Teddleton](#) ('05), director of project management at the New Orleans Business Alliance; Sinnidra Taylor ('09), executive director of Friends of Codey’s NOLA, owner/operator of Crazy Waffle Bar, LLC, and Owner of Infinity Educational Advantage, LLC; and [Naomi Winston](#) ('21), who recently gained national recognition on [CBS News](#) for her diversity-driven coloring books and supportive publishing cooperative, The Creative Representation Empire.

Beyond HBCU students, alums, faculty and staff, participants will also include greater New Orleans area high school students and teachers, local government officials, minority business owners and the extended entrepreneurial ecosystem. See the full agenda for the event [here](#).

The event program will include a balanced mix of presentations, panel discussions, workshops, activities promoting peer-to-peer networking and knowledge exchange, showcases of student and local minority-owned businesses, and feature Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (ESOs), Government representatives, and business services providers. Topics for exploration will be interdisciplinary entrepreneurship, including but not limited to arts, health, social entrepreneurship, STEM and women in business leadership. The summit will include engaging and interactive panel discussions and workshops covering biotech, black entrepreneurship, dorm room CEOs, equity unleashed, intellectual property, international trade and working with the government. Food, fun, music, and opportunities for serendipitous conversations and connections are awaiting attendees.

For more information and opportunities to support our efforts, visit [here](#).



Entrepreneurship can take your financial, personal, and professional growth to new heights!

Find out how at the

**RISING STARS:
HBCU ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SUMMIT**

March 8-10, 2024



Entrepreneurship Institute
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

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About Xavier University of Louisiana

On the cusp of celebrating its first 100 years of service, Xavier University of Louisiana remains America's only historically Black and Catholic University and is ranked among the top HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) in the nation. Recognized as a national leader in STEM and health sciences, Xavier has historically produced more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Additionally, Xavier's College of Pharmacy is among the country's top producers of African American pharmacists.

Established almost a century ago in 1925 by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African Americans and Native Americans to receive a quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in nearly every industry, including the arts, sciences, business, education, pharmacy, and political science. More recent additions in STEM-based master's programs and undergraduate options in robotics, bioinformatics, engineering, data science, neuroscience, and genetics, have provided Xavier students (3,181 students) an unbeatable experience of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities, and life experiences. Xavier students collaborate with world-renowned faculty and experts in their fields to produce award-winning research and notable work. The winning Xavier formula provides students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls, developing all who choose to learn at the institution into the next generation of leaders and agents of positive change. Blessed with a mission to promote a more just and humane society, Xavier is leading the way to a brighter future for all. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit www.XULA.edu or contact the Marketing and Communications Department at (504) 520-5425 or XULANews@XULA.edu.