



XULA Contact: Regi Reyes
(504) 520-5240 | rreyes@xula.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A New International Exchanges Milestone: Xavier Hosts Taiwanese Delegation, Signs Collaborative Agreement to Support Education

New Orleans, La. -- Xavier University of Louisiana, which has long educated its students to assume leadership roles in a global society, has deepened its international connections through an education-focused collaboration with Taiwan. On Monday October 24, 2022, the University hosted a top delegation by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Houston and signed an agreement of collaboration with National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), a preeminent public institution in Taiwan. TECO and Xavier jointly hosted the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony with NCKU virtually.

“Xavier has existed to prepare changemakers instilled with its mission to promote a more just and humane society wherever they are called,” said **Dr. Reynold Verret, President of Xavier University of Louisiana**. “Our collaboration with NCKU and relationship with TECO will further exchange and learning for the students and scholars of our universities. Across distance and time zones, we are grateful to join in this endeavor and together journey to heal the world.”

President Verret, who will travel to Taiwan in 2022 through coordination with TECO to visit the Ministry of Education, NCKU, Fu Jen Catholic University, and other organizations, is looking forward to Xavier’s further international collaboration with Taiwan and beyond.

President Verret and Xavier’s Vice President and Chief of Staff Patrice Bell welcomed the TECO delegation, which included Director-General Robert Fu-Wen Lo, TECO Director of Education Andrea Yang, and TECO Director Jerry Chang. Dr. Anne McCall, Provost of Xavier University, introduced the delegation to the University’s illustrious academic prowess and history. Provost McCall was a signatory along with NCKU Executive Vice President and Professor Fong-Chin Su.

Executive Vice President Su expressed great enthusiasm about collaborating with Xavier’s College of Arts and Sciences and College of Pharmacy. Director Yang discussed the Huayu BEST Program, an exciting opportunity for Xavier to establish a Chinese language center on campus in Fall 2023 and provide support for Xavier students studying in Taiwan.

Other Xavier officials who attended the meeting and campus ceremony included Dr. Anderson Sunda-Meya, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Professor of Spanish and the Head of the Languages Department, Dr. Elizabeth Rousselle; Mr. Timothy Ambrose, Jr., Presidential Fellow; and Administrative Specialist of the Office of the President Trenell Smith.

After the Xavier-NCKU ceremony, President Verret and VP Bell accompanied the TECO delegation to meet with New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell ('97) to witness the signing of an agreement between New Orleans and Tainan (South Taiwan), a coastal city with an urban population of over 800,000.

Xavier's international outreach with higher education institutions in Taiwan demonstrates the University's commitment to fostering a supportive academic environment for students.



###

About Xavier University of Louisiana

Xavier University of Louisiana, America's only historically Black and Catholic University, is ranked among the top three HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) in the nation. Recognized as a national leader in STEM and health sciences, Xavier produces 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 also among the top producers of African American pharmacists in the country.

Established in 1925, by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African American and Native Americans to receive quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in art, business, education, biological sciences, chemistry, pharmacy and political science. More recent additions in robotics, bioinformatics, engineering, data science, neuroscience and genetics, in addition to new STEM-based master's programs, have provided Xavier students (2815 undergraduates and 787 graduates) an unbeatable combination of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities and life experiences. Xavier students collaborate with world-renowned faculty, who are experts in their fields, to produce award-winning research and notable work. The winning Xavier formula is to provide students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect

and feeds their souls, thereby facilitating a more just and humane society for all. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit us online at www.xula.edu or contact Regi Reyes at (504) 520-5240 or rreyes@xula.edu.

About National Cheng Kung University (NCKU)

Founded in 1931, "Pursuit of truth through exhaustive reasoning" is her moto. NCKU has nine colleges, 43 undergraduate programs, and 35 independent graduate institutes. Famous for its extraordinary research achievements, in 2016, in 16 disciplines the number of NCKU papers cited in 10 years was among the top 1% of research institutes worldwide and #2 in Taiwan. Among her alumni, 14 have been elected members of the Academia Sinica, the national academy in Taiwan, and over 80 of NCKU alumni or associates are serving or have served as higher education presidents in Taiwan and worldwide. More information about NCKU can be found via <https://web.ncku.edu.tw/index.php?Lang=en>.