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Xavier University Panels to Address Pressing Issues of Blacks in New Orleans

New Orleans LA – In a weekly series of forums beginning 6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 22nd, the <u>African</u> <u>American Diaspora Studies program</u> at <u>Xavier University of Louisiana</u> will address some of today's most pressing issues for Black people in New Orleans as part of its *State of Black America* series.

The *State of Black America* series will bring together panels of thinkers and doers who live the Xavier University mission of promoting "a more just and humane society". Xavier has long served as a leader in highlighting progressive solutions to the oppression that afflicts the black community of New Orleans.

All of the events are free and open to the public.

The complete schedule includes:

Thursday, March 22: State of Black Men/Boys in New Orleans/America

Location: Xavier Qatar Pharmacy Pavilion Auditorium 107 | 1 Drexel Dr., at the end of Short St. Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.) Keynote: Lloyd Dennis Panelists: Torrence Taylor and Jeff Benjamin

Thursday, April 5: State of Black Women/Girls in New Orleans/America

Location: Xavier Convocation Annex Room 111 | 7910 Stroelitz St. Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.) Keynote: Nia Weeks Panelists: Dr. Rashida Govan and Dr. Shantoyia Jones

Thursday, April 12: State of Black Love and Relationships

Location: Xavier Convocation Annex Room 111 | 7910 Stroelitz St. Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.) Panelists: Minister Willie Muhammad, Dr. Tia Smith, and Dr. Dana Labat

Thursday, April 19: State of Black America in New Orleans

Location: Xavier Convocation Annex Room 111 | 7910 Stroelitz St. Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.) Keynote: Dr. Silas Lee Panelists: Oliver Thomas and Alanah Odoms Hebert, Esq.

-30-

About Xavier University of Louisiana

XULA students *Leave Ready* to serve, lead, and care for their communities. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana visit us online at <u>www.xula.edu</u> or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. Take a moment to learn more about how Xavier is preparing students for the future at <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD4mb-jYZC8</u>.

Once again, Xavier University of Louisiana received national accolades as one of the best universities in the country. Most notably, XULA is ranked as the best value among southern regional colleges and universities in the 2018 edition of "Best Colleges" by the U.S. News Media Group. Xavier also ranked No.1 in its grouping, heading the list of only 15 schools that qualified for the Southern Region category listed under "Great Schools, Great Prices."