On January 21, 2014, Governor Bobby Jindal joined leaders from higher education systems across Louisiana to announce a funding increase of $141.5 million for higher education institutions for the next fiscal year. This funding includes a new higher education workforce incentive initiative of $40 million that will better prepare Louisiana students to compete in the global economy. Also known as the Workforce Innovation for a Stronger Economy (WISE) Plan, the incentive is specifically targeted to advance Louisiana to national competitiveness. This plan seeks to strategically align new investments in higher education with the workforce needs of high demand areas such as computer science, education, engineering, finance and accounting, healthcare and industrial production. The WISE Plan also calls for a stronger partnership with Louisiana's business and industry leaders through an industry matching program that will spur private investment in public universities and colleges statewide.

Each University/College has been allocated a portion of the $40 million in the WISE fund. In order to receive the funds the institution is required to develop a strategic plan and match 20% of their allocation in industry contributions. Grambling has been allocated $414,074. So far, we have exceeded our required 20% match by raising $136,200 from various donors. On Thursday, October 23, 2014, I will present our strategic WISE plan to the ULS board for approval. Our plan included the use of WISE funds and industry contributions to offer scholarships to students in high demand fields such as engineering, computer science and accounting, and support existing faculty, attract new faculty in these high demand areas, and support the development of the GSU Workforce Development Center and Center for Excellence in Cyber security.

**41st Annual Bayou Classic——2 for $20**

We know who who will break the tie at the Bayou Classic 20/20 match up but did you know… you and a friend can come witness it for ONLY $20? In October ONLY! Purchase 2 #BayouClassic2020 tickets for $20!! The game is November 29, 2014 at 1:30pm in New Orleans, LA. Click Here & Enter promo code 2FOR20!

**Student Becomes Youngest to Run for Council**

Legacy Square——Tiger Brick Giving Campaign

It is not too late to order your brick, that will commemorate your time at Grambling College and/or Grambling State University. Legacy Square starts from the circle around the newest centerpiece of the GSU campus, "Eddie the Fighting Tiger." These historic bricks will eventually replace sidewalks in the square… more info.

Win Bayou Classic Tickets!!!

Participate in #SpiritThursdays by dressing in full Grambling attire for a chance to win tickets! For more information about the 2014 Bayou Classic… click here.

Grambling State University is not only academically preparing future lawyers, teachers and medical professionals, but prospective politicians as well. Stavinoha Bradley is currently vying for the position of city councilman in the upcoming city elections. At age 22, if elected Bradley will be the youngest person ever to be elected for a position in the city of Grambling. The Houston native currently serves as the President of Student Council of Organizational Presidents. In this role, he is the liaison among student organizations and the Student Government Organization. With a love for policy and people, Bradley has been a strong student advocate for policy enforcement and implementation. With his campaign slogan, "Bradley for Growth" he intends to execute business development, community enhancement and awareness, a rise in student enrollment and growth throughout the university community.
Showcasing Gramblinites who shine.

Questions, additions or comments? Contact mediarelations@gram.edu or call 318-274-2866.

Giving back is your best gift, donations accepted here.

Everson Walls Gives the Gift of Life

Everson Walls' success at Grambling State had him thinking he could take his football life even further. He went undrafted in 1981, but was not ready to give up. Walls not only made the Dallas Cowboys team, he added to the legend of the Cowboys' scouting department by leading not just the Cowboys, not just all rookies, but the entire NFL in interceptions in his rookie season.

One of Walls' best friends on the Dallas Cowboys was running back Ron Springs. Their friendship continued and grew over the years following their NFL careers. Eventually, Springs would develop adult-onset Diabetes, which would rage out of control and ultimately claim his life. In 2007, Springs needed a kidney transplant. If he did not receive a kidney, he would die. Everson Walls stepped forward and donated a kidney to his friend….

Everson Walls (r) Ron Springs (l)

Designed by: Jessica Wright, Graduate Student

Thurgood Marshall College Fund/ Coca Cola HBCU First Generation Scholarship

(l to r) TyKei Matthews, Candice Williams, Reality Suarez, Victoria Brown, Chiara Dellihoue

Five Grambling State University students were selected to receive the TMCF-Coca Cola HBCU First Generation Scholarship. The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) awards over 100 first-generation scholarships each year. TMCF scholarships are merit and need-based. The scholarship application process is highly competitive and most awards are limited to students attending TMCF member schools. Grambling State University is proud and congratulates Victoria Brown, Tykei Matthews, Reality Suarez, Chiara Dellihoue, and Candice Williams for applying and receiving the prestigious award. The scholarship assists to fill student's critical urgent need in financial aid, helping to ensure that students remain in school to receive a quality education. The scholarship also rewards strong academic performance encouraging students to maintain and improve their academic skills due to the strict criteria necessary to receive and maintain the scholarship. TMCF scholarship recipients are awarded annually to students meeting the TMCF eligibility criteria. Awards are made each semester and are based on a verification process designed to ensure that academic expectations are being met and that there is an unmet financial need.