

TIGER HAPPENINGS

"Where everybody is somebody."



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President Larkin Attends Gov. Edwards' Inauguration

Grambling State University President Willie Larkin and his wife, Vivian Larkin, represented Grambling State University by attending the inauguration and inaugural ball of new Governor John Bel Edwards on Jan. 11 in Baton Rouge.



Vivian Larkin and President Willie Larkin attend the inauguration of Governor John Bel Edwards.

"Attending the multiple events during the Governor's Inauguration was awesome," Larkin said. "Although the pageantry and pomp and circumstance were breathtaking, I was even more moved by the authenticity of Governor John Bel Edwards' words."

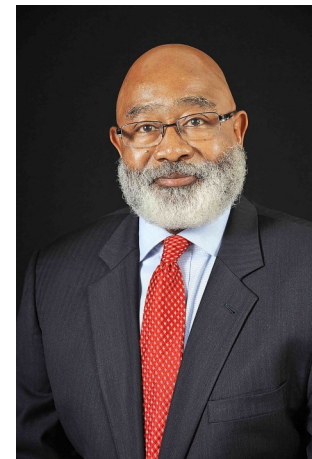
Gov. Edwards has made higher education in Louisiana one of his top priorities, and President Larkin is hopeful that Gov. Edwards will lead the state into a brighter future for higher education.

"This new leadership in our state is great, and his positive optimism gives us all hope for a brighter future. Most of all, as Grambling State University's president, I listened keenly to what the Governor's plans are for HBCUs in the state. At this point, I am hopeful that the Governor sees the value of Grambling in the State of Louisiana's grand future. After all, education is the key to growth and prosperity," President Larkin said.

Grambling Lab Schools Approved for Charter School

The Louisiana Department of Education has approved a recommendation to convert Grambling's three laboratory schools into a single Type 2 charter school system. This decision means that the laboratory schools are no longer in danger of closing and will open in August as the Grambling Laboratory Charter School for k-12 students. The new school system will fall under the direction of the Grambling High Foundation Board of Directors.

"The school is now truly a community school. The Grambling High Foundation (GHF) Board of Directors (BOD) will now have responsibility for the school. The GHF BOD are members of the Grambling community and have a personal, vested interest in the health and success of the school," Grambling High Foundation President Gordan Ford said. [\(read more\)](#)



Willie D. Larkin, Ph.D.
President

President's Corner

Student recruitment is crucial to the survival of today's public and private colleges and universities, and Grambling State University is no exception. To secure Grambling's continued success as an iconic Historically Black College and University (HBCU) for our future sons and daughters, we need to reach a recruitment goal of 5,500 students on campus for the 2016-2017 academic year. This cannot be done via our Admissions Office alone. Everyone at Grambling needs to be a part of this effort, so we are asking for your help. [\(read more\)](#)



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Grambling State University Designated as Military and Veteran Friendly Campus

Grambling State University has been recognized for creating a supportive environment for veteran and military students. The campus was designated a Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus to assist veterans in selecting which Louisiana higher education institution best fits their needs.

"Grambling State University is proud to be named a Military and Veteran Friendly Campus," President Willie Larkin said. "Through its inception, Grambling has served the needs of military service members and veterans. In addition, the university has and continues to create supportive social catalytic spaces for all students. Being named a Military and Veterans Friendly Campus shows the university's commitment to our service members."



With over two million veterans returning from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, it is important that Louisiana's two and four-year schools support military men and women by helping them get a quality education. In order to seek a Governor's designation, state schools must offer admissions policies and academic and student support services tailored to military and veteran students signifying their willingness to assist service men and women in meeting their educational goals.

Some of the criteria for receiving the designation include specialized orientation sessions, application fee waivers, readmission policies after returning from deployment, priority class scheduling, veteran-specific courses, career workshops and adoption of the veterans' articulation transfer process.

GSU Professor Joins Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

A Grambling State University professor is getting a chance to make his mark on Louisiana education. Governor John Bel Edwards appointed Lurie Thomason, Jr., an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice, to Louisiana's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Thomason was sworn in as a member of BESE on Jan. 12.

"I always wanted to be a secondary or elementary school teacher, and I guess this is just affirmation from God that I need to work in that area," Thomason said. "I have been in higher education, but my heart has always been with the secondary and elementary school teachers."

BESE is an 11-member panel that sets policies for about 720,000 public school students in Louisiana, including academic standards, teacher evaluations and grades. Thomason is excited to explore issues to help the students in Louisiana.



Lurie Thomason

"We want to look at educating historically disadvantaged students better in the public schools, look at finding more scholarships for needy students, programs that can get parents more involved in [\(read more\)](#)

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Jazmine Boyd Named SWAC Basketball Player of the Week Two Weeks in a Row

Jazmine Boyd, a freshman at Grambling State University, has been recognized by the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) as the Women's Basketball Player of the Week for her athletic performance during the week of Dec. 30-Jan 5 and as Co-Player of the Week during the week of Jan. 6-12.

"It feels great. When I first came to Grambling, things were a little rough, and I never really thought I'd be getting recognized like I am," she said.

Boyd, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, tallied a career-high 27 points in the 89-69 victory over defending SWAC women's basketball champion, Alabama State. During the game, she went 9-for-12 in shooting, 2-for-4 in three-point range and was perfect from the free throw line (7-for-7). In the win over Alabama A&M, Boyd led the Lady Tigers with 16 points and four rebounds. Once again with a nearly perfect performance, she made 5-of-6 shots from the field while netting her only three-point attempt and going 5-for-5 at the line.

Boyd was named Co-Player of the Week after earning a career-best 34 points in the Grambling State win over Alcorn State. She accounted for five rebounds and went 10-for-14 in the field, 5-for-6 in three-point range and 9-for-11 at the line. Boyd's recent performances have helped push the Lady Tigers to become the leading scoring offense in the conference with 988 points (an average of 65.9 per game).



Jazmine Boyd

GSU Students Win \$5,000 Lexus Verses and Flow Scholarship

Two Grambling State University students, Jimmitriv Roberson and LaTerra Smith, have been awarded a \$5,000 scholarship in recognition of their community leadership and academic excellence from the Lexus Verses and Flow Scholarship.

"I honestly cannot explain how I felt about winning the scholarship, but to best describe my feelings, I was overjoyed and pleasingly surprised!" Roberson said. "I never thought that I would be chosen to receive such an esteemed award. I am so thankful and grateful to be a recipient of the Lexus Verses and Flow Scholarship, to represent GSU, and to help me to continue to further my education."



Jimmitriv Roberson



LaTerra Smith

Roberson, of Arcadia, Louisiana, is a junior majoring in biological sciences. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Triveria Roberson. She is currently vice president of the sophomore class and chair of the Hospitality committee on the Favrot Student Union Board. After graduating from Grambling, she plans to attend medical school and become a family doctor. ([read more](#))

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Grambling Opens Acts of Faith Exhibit at Dunbar Gallery



Cheryl Sutton shows off one of the pieces from the Acts of Faith Exhibit, which will feature selections from the Sutton Collection of African-American Art Jan. 11-Feb. 25 in Dunbar Hall at Grambling State University. Photo courtesy of The Ruston Daily Leader.

Grambling State University will host an exhibition of selected works from the Sutton Collection of American & African American Art. The exhibition deals with investigations of faith and spirituality in modern, post-modern and contemporary art.

The exhibition includes works by Grambling alumnus Frank Kelley, Jr., Drék Davis, GSU assistant professor of art, Elizabeth Catlett, Willie Birch, Jacob Lawrence, Benny Andrews, Michael Harris, Stefanie Jackson, Don Cincone and Vitus Shell. Associated events include a collector's talk by Cheryl Sutton (*ART ON PURPOSE: Creating a Lasting Legacy*), Conversations with the Artists and several studio visits.

The exhibition will be on display from Jan. 11–Feb. 25 in the Dunbar Art Gallery located at the intersection of Sandle and Hutchinson Streets in Grambling. The public is invited to visit with the artist at a reception on Thursday, Jan. 28, from 4:30-6 p.m. Gallery hours are from 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m.–noon Friday. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 318-274-2274.

Coach Ellis Wins Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce 2015 Robert E. Russ Award

Coach Wilbert Ellis has been named the recipient of the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce 2015 Robert E. Russ Award, to be presented at the Chamber's Awards Banquet on Jan. 22.

"Out of all the awards I have received, this award really touched me," Coach Ellis said. "It's very special. I have received a lot of awards, but whenever your hometown community honors you, it means so much to you."

Ellis was selected out of eight nominees. The award is the highest honor given by the Chamber for community advancement.

"There absolutely could not be a finer selection for the Russ Award than Coach Ellis," said Chamber Chair-Elect Cathi Cox-Boniol. "When you think about an individual who has dedicated their life to enhancing not only their community but the people in it, the name Wilbert Ellis has to come to mind. I can assure you there are countless folks in Lincoln Parish whose lives have been directly impacted by this man, and he has contributed significantly to their quality of life. And that in turn has impacted us all. A legendary baseball coach whose name can be seen on everything from [\(read more\)](#)



Wilbert Ellis

Giving back is your best gift, [donations accepted here.](#)

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