

Contact: Diana Hernandez (504) 520-5120

Xavier University Announces 67 New Leadership, Faculty and Staff Appointments

New Orleans LA [Xavier University of Louisiana](#) introduced 67 new staff and faculty for the 2018-19 school year including three major appointments during the annual semester-opening fall Faculty/Staff Institute.

Xavier University President Reynold Verret, PhD. announced that Patrice Bell-Mercadel, who joined Xavier University as Chief Marketing and Communications Officer in Fall 2017, has been appointed Chief of Staff for the university. She will be charged with advancing long-term future vision. She will maintain oversight of the Marketing and Communications function.

Verret announced a second appointment to his Cabinet. Curtis Wright joined Xavier University in August as Vice President of Student Affairs. V.P. Wright will guide student affairs into the future to meet the

Verret also announced the appointment of an academic leader in Dr. Camellia Okpodu. As the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dean Okpodu is integral to creating an environment that embraces and expands the Arts and joins it to the STEM programs in an effort to create graduates who are capable of making real impacts throughout all corners of the world.

Additional new staff and faculty were also announced. They are

Department of English Dr. Jimmy Worthy, Assistant Professor

Department of Languages Dr. Carmen Cosme, Visiting Assistant Professor

Department of Mass Communications Dr. Rachel L. Grant, Assistant Professor

Department of Physics and Computer Science Dr. Shafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor; and Dr. Nawa Raj Pokhrel, Assistant Professor

Department of Psychology Dr. Erika Perez, Assistant Professor

Department of Public Health Sciences Dr. Amy Thierry, Assistant Professor; and Julie Hagan, Internship Practicum Coordinator

Department of Speech Pathology Dr. Celeste Parker, Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology Dr. Charity Clay, Assistant Professor

Division of Education and Counseling Dr. Jimmy Caldwell, Assistant Professor; Shatiqua Mosby-Wilson, Assistant Professor; and Tonia Muse Baker and Daphine Barnes (Site Mentors)

Graduate Program Office Ryann Handy, Graduate Recruiter/Enrollment

Information Technology Center Kanetra Tillotson, Sr. Applications Programmer

Office of Admissions Ę Jazmane Brown, Assistant VP, Enrollment Management/Director of Admissions

Office of Athletics Administration Ę Dyneisha Jackson, Intramurals; and Yhann Plummer, Head Coach, Track and Field /Cross Country

Office of Auxiliary Services Monique Augustine-Fleury, Event/AES Marketing Specialist

Office of Campus Police Ę Jenard Blaine, Lissette Bolton, Rochella Iglus, Shelby Llopis, Jeremy Oden, and Willic

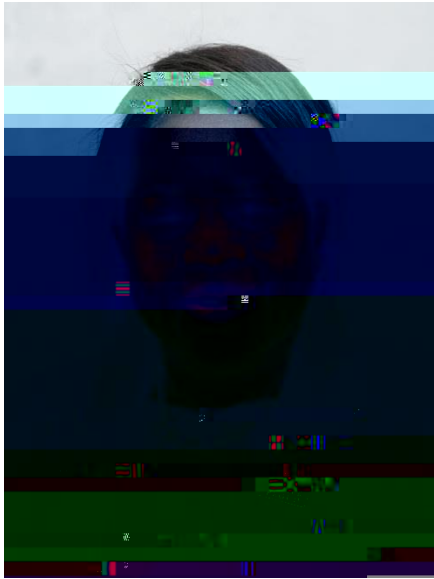
FY [jg f U f D C Z W] Marynaomi Galatas, Administrative Assistant

University Library Ashaki Harron, Library Associate; and Kayla Siddell, Assistant Librarian

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About Xavier University of Louisiana

Xavier was recently ranked as the [College Consensus](#), a unique college ratings website that aggregates publisher rankings and student reviews, in its newly released publication, *Best HBCUs for 2018*. Xavier was also among the four colleges selected by Beyonce and her [BeyGood Foundation](#) as the recipient of a Homecoming Scholars Scholarship Award announced after her much lauded performance at Coachella, while actor and comedian Kevin Hart has joined forces with UNCF and KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) to help 18 more KIPP students earn a college degree three of whom were Xavier students.



Dr. Camellia Okpodu
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Curtis Wright
Vice President of Student Affairs