

CHANCELLOR'S Notes

June 22, 2007



HUD's Jackson releases \$74 million for hospital land

Following a meeting with Governor Blanco in Washington this week, HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson released \$74 million of CDBG funds for land acquisition and planning for the LSU/VA hospital downtown. This action allows the project to move forward.



Secretary Alphonso Jackson

Before he approves the use of the remaining \$226 million, however, Secretary Jackson wants time to thoroughly review the business plan of the new hospital. We remain confident that the business plan was well-prepared and shows true financial viability of the new university hospital.

Governor Blanco and Louisiana legislators remain committed to building a new university teaching hospital in New Orleans. The project also enjoys the support of the health care and economic development communities. In fact, several members of the New Orleans business community will travel to Washington next week to reinforce their commitment to building the LSU/VA academic medical center in downtown New Orleans. We are grateful for their vision and support for this vitally needed asset.

UH opens detox beds

University Hospital officially opened an Acute Detox Unit today. Five of the 20 beds are currently staffed.

More will open as the orientation process has been completed, with all beds expected to be



staffed by the end of the month.

The unit will provide acute medical and nursing care for adult patients to withdraw from opiates, alcohol, and sedative hypnotics. Admissions will be voluntary and by referral from a



parish substance abuse center.

This new unit is only the first step in restoring behavioral health resources to the city. Next month, University Hospital will open a Mental Health Emergency Room extension with ten bays. Thirty-three beds are expected to open on the DePaul campus later in the summer.

Essence Magazine Editorial Director to speak at LSUHSC

Susan L. Taylor, Essence Magazine Editorial Director, will make a special appearance on our campus to speak to our faculty, staff and students on July 3. She'll talk about The Essence of Hope from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in Lecture Room A of the Medical Education Building.

Ms. Taylor has been the driving force behind one of the most celebrated African American owned business success stories of the past three decades. She oversees the editorial operations of the magazine and writes the popular In the Spirit column each month.

A fourth-generation entrepreneur, Ms. Taylor was the founder of her own company before becoming ESSENCE's fashion and beauty

editor and, in 1981, its editor-in-chief. She is the author of three books. She is also a greatly sought-after speaker, delivering inspiring messages of hope and possibility.

This is an opportunity not to be missed and I look forward to seeing you there.



Susan L. Taylor