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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Xavier University of Louisiana President Reynold Verret Appoints Chief of Staff

New Orleans, LA -- Xavier University of Louisiana announced that Patrice Bell-Mercadel will assume the role of Chief of Staff for the University. Patrice joined Xavier as Chief Marketing and Communications Officer in September 2017 and will maintain oversight of the university's marketing and communications efforts as Chief of Staff.

"Ms. Bell-Mercadel brings with her over 30 years of effective leadership and public service strategy experience. She will continue to elevate Xavier University's profile and assist in the execution of my *Vision 20/20: Xavier Learns Forward*," said Xavier President C. Reynold Verret.

"With a world-class faculty and administration that sets a global standard for academic excellence, Xavier University is among the most respected universities in the world. It is an honor to be given the opportunity to continue to be a servant leader at this unique institution that is the only historically Black, Catholic University in the nation, and a top performing Historically Black College and University," said Bell-Mercadel.

Previously, Bell-Mercadel served in a variety of leadership roles with local, regional, and national entities. Her highly successful experiences in marketing, branding, government relations, project management and strategic communications are essential to advancing Xavier University's priorities in her new position as Chief of Staff. Bell-Mercadel earned a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication with a minor in English from the University of New Orleans.



Patrice Bell-Mercadel, Chief of Staff
Xavier University of Louisiana

About Xavier University of Louisiana

Xavier was recently ranked as the nation's #2 HBCU (Historically Black College and University) by [College Consensus](#), a unique college ratings website that aggregates publisher rankings and student reviews. 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.

This is just the latest in national accolades Xavier has received among the best universities of the nation. Also, Xavier 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."

At Xavier *eXcellence awaits yoU*. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana visit us online at www.xula.edu 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 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sD4mb-jYZC8>. To book interviews about our recent accomplishments and/or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, education, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications and the arts, contact Diana Hernandez at (504) 520-5120 or dhernan1@xula.edu.

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