



# XAVIER

UNIVERSITY *of* LOUISIANA

Contact: Janella Newsome (504) 520-5120 or Richard Tucker (520) 520-5435



*Members of the University of Antillés (Guadeloupe and Martinique) delegation visit with Xavier University of Louisiana administrators during a tour of the campus. The two schools have entered into an academic collaboration agreement.*

## **XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA PARTNERS ABROAD**

New Orleans LA - It is official. Xavier University of Louisiana has partnered with the University of Antillés (Guadeloupe and Martinique). Talks, initiated in the fall of 2015 by the French Consulate of New Orleans, have come to fruition sealing an academic collaboration with Xavier's faculty and students.

The universities entered into a memorandum of understanding a year later. Last week, the new Rector of Antillés-Guadeloupe, Dr. Camile Galap and his faculty toured the campus and

met with Xavier's President, Dr. C. Reynold Verret and Provost, Dr. Ann McCall to advance their agenda.

"I think it's a great opportunity for us to do some work together and clearly their enthusiasm about Xavier shows we are not just a treasure to ourselves," said Verret.

"We share a lot in common in terms of academia, origin, customs, roots, and particularly history," said Galap. "If we know where we came from then we have a better idea of where we're going together."

The French speaking representatives said they felt at home while in the company of the president and provost because both spoke French fluently. Their discussion centered around the universities pursuing joint projects in many areas across the curriculum, including some collaborations with the Xavier Library and Archives, the Division of Education, and the Department of Languages.

There is also the 2018 spring student exchange initiative. A minimum of two students from each institution will study at the other for one semester. Student selection for the exchange will begin in the fall of 2017.

"This partnership is right in line with our mission as it gives multiple opportunities for students to study, to intern, and to do research," said Torian Lee, Xavier's Director of the Center for Intercultural and International Programs. "It brings international students to the classroom at Xavier and vice versa," he said.

During their campus tour, delegates also met with other XU administrators, professors, and students, while admiring the art exhibit in the administration building and observing the designs of the newer buildings, specifically pharmacy(Qatar) and the Convocation Center.

It is outreach efforts like this partnership worldwide and in the U.S. that has catapulted Xavier and its formidable reputation into the household of many. Moving forward, Verret and Lee said they plan to stay the course.

It was five months ago (Oct. 20, 2016) when Verret and Baylor University Interim President David Garland, Ph.D., signed a partnership agreement, creating a tunnel of opportunity for students to experience new environments that create an awareness of different institutional and cultural perspectives.

Lee and Verret agree that the university is heading in the right direction when it comes to exposing Xavier students to every opportunity to study abroad and in the U.S.

###