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Xavier Welcomes Deborah H. Telman as Commencement Speaker for College of Pharmacy and Graduate Programs Ceremony

New Orleans – On Saturday, May 11, 2024, Xavier University of Louisiana will host a morning commencement ceremony for its College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Graduate Programs and College of Pharmacy (COP) Programs. On the cusp of celebrating its centennial in 2025, Xavier proudly welcomes Ms. Deborah H. Telman, J.D., as the keynote speaker for the 2025 graduates of the CAS Graduate Programs and COP during the university's 97th commencement. Ms. Telman, a visionary advocate for health equity, currently serves as Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and General Counsel with Gilead Sciences, Inc., a global bio-pharmacy company and a frequent partner of Xavier in initiatives to improve health outcomes for the underserved.

Like many Xavierites, Telman was a first-generation college student in her family. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania before earning her Juris Doctorate from Boston University School of Law. Throughout her more than 25-year career, she has held increasingly advanced positions with several Fortune 500 companies, including Johnson Controls, Boeing, Abbott Laboratories, Sorrento Therapeutics, and Morgan Stanley, before joining the Gilead team in 2022. PR Weekly Magazine also named her a "Top 30 Health Influencer" in 2022. Her dedication to furthering health equity exemplifies the values of Saint Katharine Drexel and Xavier's mission. Telman encourages this year's graduates to use their voices and 'who' they are to speak truth to power to affect change.

"In many settings, I'm the only woman...the only person of color...the only Black person. When you're the 'only' person, you have to start being really comfortable speaking the truth," said **Executive Vice President Telman**. "Otherwise, the skills you should bring to the table, the value you can bring, will not be present because you're holding back."

Xavier's Baccalaureate Mass will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024, followed by the University Honors and Awards Ceremony. To get more information about the scheduling of these events, visit www.xula.edu/commencement. Xavier's Spring 2024 commencement ceremonies are ticketed and not open to the public. The event will be livestreamed on Xavier's commencement homepage and the university's YouTube channel.

Xavier University of Louisiana congratulates its 2024 graduates and wishes them every success imaginable as they go on to improve the world!

XAVIER UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

2024 Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 11 ♦ 8 AM

XAVIER UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION CENTER

Deborah H. Telman, J.D.

Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and
General Counsel with Gilead Sciences, Inc.

*College of Pharmacy & Graduate Programs
Ceremony Commencement Speaker*



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About Xavier University of Louisiana

Xavier University of Louisiana, America's only historically Black and Catholic University, is ranked among the top three HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) in the nation. Recognized as a national leader in STEM and health sciences, Xavier produces more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Additionally, Xavier's College of Pharmacy is also among the top producers of African American pharmacists in the country.

Established in 1925 by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African Americans and Native Americans to receive quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in art, business, education, biological sciences, chemistry, pharmacy and political science. More recent additions in robotics, bioinformatics, engineering, data science, neuroscience and genetics, in addition to new STEM-based master's programs, have provided Xavier students (3,419 students) an unbeatable combination of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities and life experiences. Xavier students collaborate with world-renowned faculty, who are experts in their fields, to produce award-winning research and notable work. The winning Xavier formula provides students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls, thereby facilitating a more just and humane society for all. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit us online at www.XULA.edu or at (504) 520-5214 or XULANews@XULA.edu.