

Hosted by:



DILLARD
UNIVERSITY

Southeast Louisiana Council ~ Scouting America

Whitney M. Young, Jr. Gala

Thursday, July 31, 2025 - Reception 6:00 – Dinner and Program 7:00

Dillard University, Lucien Pavilion /Professional Schools & Sciences Bldg. (PSB Atrium)



Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award Honoree – Mr. Marcus V. Brown, Executive VP and General Counsel of Entergy - Marcus V. Brown is executive vice president and general counsel of Entergy Corporation, where he oversees the company's legal, ethics and compliance, corporate communications, external affairs, corporate security, and governance functions. He serves as chief legal counsel to the chair and CEO, board of directors, and senior leadership, while leading a team of approximately 75 attorneys across 10 jurisdictional offices and six practice groups.

Since joining Entergy in 1995 from the New Orleans-based Stone Pigman law firm, Brown has held several leadership roles, including vice president, deputy general counsel, senior vice president, and general counsel. In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike, he led efforts to recover over \$500 million in insurance proceeds critical to rebuilding Entergy's electric and gas infrastructure. Promoting sustainable business practices that balance environmental, social, governance, and economic objectives, Brown has been instrumental in advancing Entergy's growth strategy.

A champion of community service, Brown launched a 2012 initiative that significantly expanded Entergy's pro bono legal efforts, resulting in more than 22,000 hours of service by 2024. Under his leadership, Entergy's legal department earned numerous recognitions, including the 2025 Laurie D. Zelon Pro Bono Award from the Pro Bono Institute and Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year from the New Orleans Pro Bono Project. Brown serves on the board of directors for Tulane University and Energy Insurance Mutual and on advisory boards for energy law centers at Tulane and Louisiana State University. He chaired the New Orleans 2025 Super Bowl LIX Host Committee and frequently speaks on issues impacting the utility sector and the legal profession.

His numerous honors include the Financial Times' recognition as a top global general counsel (2020), the National Legal Aid and Defender Association's Exemplar Award (2020), the United Way Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award (2021), the Louisiana State Bar Association Distinguished Attorney Award (2019), and the New Orleans Bar Association Presidents' Award (2018).

Brown earned a B.A. from Southern University A&M College, a J.D. from the Southern University Law Center (where he served on the Law Review), and an MBA from Tulane University A.B. Freeman School of Business.

Entergy, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in New Orleans, delivers electricity to 3 million customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with a focus on growth, reliability, affordability, and sustainability.



Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award Honoree – Dr. Takeisha C. Davis – Dr. Takeisha Davis is the Chief Executive Officer of New Orleans East Hospital (NOEH), where she leads a team of more than 120 physicians and nearly 300 employees. Under her leadership, the hospital has achieved financial stability, expanded its services to meet the needs of the New Orleans East community, and established a dedicated physician group to serve the area's 90,000 residents.

A native of New Orleans and a proud daughter of New Orleans East, Dr. Davis is deeply committed to advancing health equity and access in the community where she was raised. She earned her undergraduate degree from Xavier University, a Doctorate of Medicine from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and a Master's in Public Health from Harvard University. She brings extensive expertise in clinical care, community engagement, and healthcare systems management.

Before joining NOEH, Dr. Davis spent a decade with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, where she served as Director of the Center for Community and Preventive Health, Medical Director, and Assistant State Health Officer for the Office of Public Health.

Dr. Davis serves on the Mayor of New Orleans' Healthcare Advisory Board and has received numerous recognitions for her leadership, including the City of New Orleans Women in Leadership Award. She was recently named to Becker's list of top female hospital and health system leaders nationwide for her exemplary oversight and transformative impact on healthcare delivery in New Orleans East.



Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award Honoree – Congressman Cleo C. Fields - Cleo Fields is an elected member of the United States House of Representatives, serving Louisiana's 6th Congressional District. With over three decades of public service, Fields has dedicated his career to improving the lives of Louisianans through leadership, vision, and action.

Cleo currently is working to address the needs of his constituents and advance the priorities of Louisiana.

A graduate of McKinley High School and Southern University, Fields earned his Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center in 1987. At just 24, he made history as the youngest person ever elected to the Louisiana State Senate. In 1992, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the youngest member of the 103rd Congress.

Cleo has been a tireless advocate for education, economic development, and community empowerment. He authored impactful legislation such as the Delta Initiatives Act and founded the Congressional Classroom—now the Louisiana Leadership Institute—to inspire and develop the next generation of leaders.

After a historic run for governor of Louisiana in 1995, Fields returned home to develop his law practice, The Fields Law Firm. However, Cleo's passion for service wasn't extinguished, as he was re-elected to the State Senate in 1997-2012 and again in 2019. His time in the senate has allowed him to serve as Chair of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, Chairman of Education, Local and Municipal Affairs and Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Cleo is married to his wife, Debra, and they have two adult sons, Brandon and Christopher. A long-time member of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, he remains deeply committed to serving his community and improving opportunities for all Louisianans.



Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award Honoree – Mr. Luther Speight, CPA – Luther Speight is the founder and managing partner of Luther Speight & Company CPAs, a distinguished accounting firm that has consistently upheld the highest standards of financial accuracy and integrity. Located at 1100 Poydras Street, Suite 1225, in New Orleans, LA 70163, the firm has become a beacon of financial expertise in the region.

Under Luther's adept leadership, Luther Speight & Company has expanded its services across Louisiana, Tennessee, and Georgia, offering a diverse range of accounting solutions, from consultation and auditing to comprehensive bookkeeping. With a robust team of 35 professionals, the firm is dedicated to ensuring client satisfaction and upholding the principles of financial precision.

An alumnus of Clark Atlanta University, Luther holds a BS in Accounting, which laid the foundation for his illustrious career in the financial sector. His CPA certification further solidifies his standing as a respected figure in the community. Luther's contributions to the accounting realm have been acknowledged on esteemed platforms, including Bloomberg. Moreover, his active involvement with organizations such as the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce emphasizes his dedication to fostering community growth and promoting business standards.

In addition to his professional accolades, Luther has always been passionate about giving back to the community. This passion led to the inception of the Luther Speight Scholarship. Founded with the aim of supporting the educational aspirations of deserving students, the Luther Speight Scholarship awards a one-time grant of \$1000 to USA-based students enrolled at any US university. Through this scholarship, Luther hopes to ease the financial burdens of higher education for students and inspire them to pursue their academic dreams.

Luther's journey, from his academic pursuits to establishing a successful multi-state CPA firm and now the Luther Speight Scholarship, serves as an inspiration for many. His unwavering commitment to excellence, both in his professional endeavors and philanthropic efforts, showcases his dedication to making a positive impact in the world of finance and beyond.



Event Chair – Lambert C. Boissiere, III

Gala Team- growing each day : Lambert C. Boissiere III, Ronald V. Burns, Sr., Richard Cortizas, Rachel Cousin, MsSkip Gibson, Reginald Grace, Councilman Eugene J. Green, Nick Harris, Adrian Long, Demetric M. Mercadel, Charles L. Rice Jr., Pat Talley, Jimmie M. Woods, Sr., and Terry L. Williams

Organization Facts - The Southeast Louisiana Council, Boy Scouts of America will provide youth development and leadership programs to approximately 3,500 young people in nine parishes through Cub Scouting, Scouts-BSA, Venturing, Exploring and Learning for Life programs during 2024.

"Funds invested in this event will support programs focused on serving inner-city youth.":

- Program Services – Camping, activities, training, insurance, uniforms, Scout books
- Support Services – Equipment, Salmen Scout Reservation, trained adult mentors.
- Individual Scouts - "An opportunity to help youth in need experience the life-changing benefits of Scouting."

EAGLE SCOUT SPONSOR \$20,000

Three full tables (24 Invitations), Video featuring your company congratulating honorees, Recognition in all event promotion, Company ad in Reception program, Logo signage at Reception, Special acknowledgment from the podium

Sponsorships

Category	Amount	Description
ARROW of LIGHT SCOUT	\$15,000	Supports a Cub Scout Pack of 75 youth for a year. Two full tables (16 guests) and a listing in the program and 5 minutes at the podium during dinner if desired.
BEAR SCOUT	\$10,000	Supports a Cub Scout Pack of 40 youth for a year. One full table (8 guests) and listing in the program.
WOLF SCOUT	\$5,000	Supports a Cub Scout Pack of 25 youth for a year. Admits 6 guests and listing in the program.
TIGER CUB SCOUT	\$2,500	Supports a Cub Scout Pack of 15 youth for a year. Admits 4 guests and listing in the program.
LION CUB SCOUT	\$1,000	Supports a Cub Scout Pack of 7 youth for a year. Admits 2 guests and listing in the program.
BOBCAT CUB SCOUT RANK	\$500	Supports 5 Cub Scouts for a year. Admits 1 guest and listing in the program.
INVESTOR	\$250	Supports 2 Cub Scouts for a year. Admits 1 guest and listing in the program.

Though I cannot attend, I am pleased to enclose a \$_____ contribution to Southeast Louisiana Council, BSA, in support of the Emerging Markets Scout District.

"Funds raised will support the Emerging Markets District, serving inner-city and rural youth in Greater New Orleans and the surrounding areas."

Registration Form for the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Gala

Sponsors are encouraged to invite their guests to enjoy the program who may consider making an investment in Scouting's youth development programs.

Company/ Organization Name _____

Contact Person _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Please choose one: _____ I/We will be attending. _____ I/We will not be able to attend.

() Eagle \$20,000 () Arrow of Light \$15,000 () Bear Scout \$10,000 () Wolf Scout \$5,000
() Tiger Cub Scout \$2,500 () Lion Cub Scout \$1,000 () Bobcat Cub Scout Rank \$500 () Investor \$250 Other \$ _____

online registration – www.bsa-selacouncil.org/whitney

Payment Method: _____ Mastercard _____ VISA Credit Card # _____

Exp. _____ CVV _____ Name on Credit Card _____

_____ Check Enclosed _____ Bill me **Scan the QR code to register and donate online:**

Return to: Boy Scouts of America P.O. Box 1146 Metairie, LA 70004 – Fax 504-889-1162. For more information, contact Todd Conner at (office) 504-889-0388 or (cell) 504-810-1683 or via email at todd.conner@scouting.org for more information.



Prepared. For Life.™

