



*Press Forward. Fear Nothing.*  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Congressman Troy Carter to address the graduates at Xavier University of Louisiana’s 2023 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony, OMB Director Shalanda Young to bring remarks from the White House**

**New Orleans, La** - On Saturday, May 27, 2023, Xavier University of Louisiana will host its 96<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony for the College of Arts and Sciences at the University’s Convocation Center at 12 p.m. for undergraduates of the College of Arts and Sciences. Troy A. Carter, Sr. ('86), U.S. Representative for Louisiana’s Second Congressional District, will serve as commencement speaker.

Shalanda Young, Director of the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB), will honor the university and its assembled graduates and bring remarks on behalf of the White House.

Rep. Troy Carter, who earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from Xavier in 1986 and a master’s of science degree in management from University of Holy Cross, and studied at Harvard’s JFK School of Government and Carnegie Mellon’s School of Urban and Public Affairs, has exemplified Xavier excellence for decades. A New Orleans Native, in 1991, Rep. Carter became the first African American elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives from the 102<sup>nd</sup> District in Algiers and the youngest-ever floor leader representing New Orleans. Furthermore, he was the first African American to be elected to the New Orleans City Council representing District C, the Louisiana State Senate from District 7, Louisiana’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District from the Westbank of New Orleans (Algiers), and the first congressman whose spouse is a Brigadier General in the U.S. army. Rep. Carter was elected to the State Senate for Louisiana’s 7<sup>th</sup> District, where he served as Senate Minority Leader and Caucus Chair. During his time as a legislator, Rep. Carter has authored, co-sponsored, and passed hundreds of bills. He currently serves as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president of the Congressional Black Caucus, with strong advocacy for African Americans and other marginalized communities. He is a staunch advocate for criminal justice reform, women’s healthcare, civil rights, LGBTQIA+ equality, and environmental justice reform.

“I am overwhelmed with gratitude to be invited by my alma mater, Xavier University of Louisiana, as [one of] this year’s Commencement Speaker[s]. I would not be who I am today without my outstanding education at XULA,” said Carter.

As Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, Shalanda Young is responsible for the implementation of the President of the United States’ agenda and budget across the federal government. President Joe Biden nominated Young to serve as the Director of OMB in November 2021, and she was

confirmed on March 15, 2022. She is the first Black woman to hold this position. Prior to her tenure in the Biden Administration, Young served as Clerk and Staff Director for the House Appropriations Committee, overseeing the \$1.3 trillion annual appropriations bills, necessary disaster aid, and major aspects of COVID-19-related spending. A native of southern Louisiana, Young moved to D.C. almost twenty years ago to serve as a Presidential Management Fellow at the National Institute of Health (NIH). She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Loyola University New Orleans and her master's degree in health administration from Tulane University.

The Baccalaureate Mass will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2023; the University Honors and Awards Ceremony follows the Baccalaureate Mass. To get more information about the scheduling of these events, visit [www.xula.edu/commencement](http://www.xula.edu/commencement). Xavier's Spring 2023 commencement ceremonies are ticketed events and are not open to the public. The event will be livestreamed on Xavier's commencement homepage and the university's [YouTube](#) channel.



The poster features a dark background with a building facade. At the top right is the '100' anniversary logo with the motto 'Press Forward. Fear Nothing. 1925 - 2025'. The main text reads 'SAVE the DATE XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA 2023 COMMENCEMENT SATURDAY, MAY 27 | 12:00 PM XAVIER UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION CENTER'. On the left is a portrait of Troy A. Carter, Sr. Below it is the text: 'COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES CEREMONY COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER TROY A. CARTER, SR. '86 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR LOUISIANA'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'. On the right is a portrait of Shalanda Young. Below it is the text: 'COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES HONORED GUEST SHALANDA YOUNG WHITE HOUSE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET'.

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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 American and Native Americans to receive a 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 (2,749 undergraduates and 849 graduates) 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 is to provide 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](http://www.xula.edu) or contact Regi Reyes at (504) 520-5425 or [rreyes@xula.edu](mailto:rreyes@xula.edu).*