

April 21 - April 27, 2003

# Southern's Timbuktu Academy receives U.S. Presidential Award

Baton Rouge — President George W. Bush recently awarded the 2002 United States Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Mentoring (PAEMSEM) to the Southern University and A&M College's Timbuktu Academy.

Recognized for its success in producing, strengthening and maintaining scholars in the area of science, mathematics, engineering and technology, Southern's Timbuktu Academy was one of six university programs receiving the annual award last week at the White House.

The national award honors long-term commitment of personal and organizational activities to increase participation of underrepresented groups in mathematics, engineering and science.

Timbuktu Academy founder Diola Bagayoko, Ph.D., was recognized in 1996 with the individual PAEMSEM award by U.S. President Bill Clinton for "embodying excellence in mentoring underrepresented students and encouraging their significant achievement in science, mathe-

tics and engineering."

As a result of the Academy's success in mentoring, the Louis Stokes Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation (LS-LAMP), created in 1996, has implemented the Academy's 10-Step Systemic Mentoring Model in its statewide effort to increase minority participation in scientific fields. Using this model, LS-LAMP has supported more than 3,700 undergraduates in their studies, providing mentors, financial assistance, research opportunities, and guidance.

Bagayoko, SU System Distinguished Professor of Physics and Chancellor's Fellow, and Academy directors Ella Kelley, Ph.D., and Robert Ford, Ph.D. say the Timbuktu Academy was established more than 10 years ago to prepare minority students for competing globally in studying science and math. Kelley is interim chair of Southern's chemistry department, and Ford is project director of LS-LAMP, a statewide consortium of 11 colleges and one research facility.

Timbuktu Academy has mentored

more than 800 pre-college students and has helped more than 100 minority undergraduate students obtain degrees in the SMET areas. Seventy Academy scholars have earned or are pursuing advanced degrees in the scientific fields at leading institutions, include Purdue, University of Iowa, MIT and Georgia Tech. Along with rigorous academic studies, Timbuktu and LS-LAMP students conduct research annually at national science laboratories around the world.

The Timbuktu Academy and LS-LAMP are housed at Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge. The Timbuktu Academy is funded by the Department of the Navy Office of Naval Research. LS-LAMP is funded by the National Science Foundation and the Louisiana Board of Regents.

To learn more of the Timbuktu Academy, visit <http://www.phys.subr.edu/timbuktu.htm>. Information on LS-LAMP is available at [www.ls-lamp.org](http://www.ls-lamp.org) and Southern University at [www.subr.edu](http://www.subr.edu). ♦