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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Xavier University of Louisiana Celebrates Black History Month with Unveiling of a Statue of Distinguished Alumnus and Former University President Dr. Norman C. Francis

New Orleans, LA For nearly 100 years, Xavier University of Louisiana has been a pioneer in higher education, accumulating top

by Russell Whiting to honor

my legacy here at Xavier University. It is an honor that I could not have imagined as a seventeen-yearold boy in Lafayette, Louisiana, when my father put me on a segregated rail car to go study at my Dr. Francis said

MacDonald, and where we raised our six kids. Xavier is and will always be a place that we will love and will support. Thanks to everyone who helped make this day a reality. You have touched my heart in ways that will live forever.

his significant contributions

resident, the event will celebrate , written in the culture of excellence that

a long history of producing Black and brown excellence through its students, many of whose achievements are lauded and recognized today. Xavier graduates have gone on to become university presidents, federal judges, doctors, professors, pharmacists, high-level officials in the military, Congress members, and even a U.S. Cabinet Secretary, and the U.S. Surgeon General, among many other impressive positions. Some make Black history with accolades such as MacArthur Genius grants and The U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The celebration of Dr. Francis is only one of the many events the university will host during its extensive celebration of Black History Month.

To kick off the festivities,

