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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**New Orleans, La** - On Saturday, May 7, 2022, Xavier University of Louisiana will host its official 95<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony in person at the University Convocation Center. There will be two separate graduation ceremonies, the first at 10 a.m. for the College of Pharmacy and the second at 2 p.m. for those graduating from the College of Arts and Sciences. Four individuals will receive honorary degrees.

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Fund (CDF) and CDF Action Council; Tremé Center and a stalwart of the Civil Rights movement in New Orleans and nationally; Malcolm J. Broussard executive director of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy; and United States Senator Dr. Bill Cassidy, co-founder of the Greater Baton Rouge Community Clinic. Graduates of the class of 2020, who were recognized during a virtual commencement ceremony, are also invited to participate in the in-person commencement events.

Dr. Wilson and Dr. Smith will be presented at the College of Arts and Sciences ceremony, with Dr. Wilson serving as commencement speaker. Broussard and Senator Cassidy will be presented at the College of Pharmacy ceremony, with Senator Cassidy serving as commencement speaker.

Beyond his leadership of the CDF, Dr. Wilson is also the board chair for the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) and the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE). After earning his doctoral science at Xavier University of Louisiana in 1999, Dr. Wilson received a Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Duke University. Previously, Dr. Wilson was president & CEO of Deaconess Foundation, a faith-based philanthropy for child well-being and racial justice in St. Louis. In 2015, Dr. Wilson was appointed co-chair of the Ferguson

calling for sweeping changes in policing, the courts, child well-being and economic mobility. He currently serves on the boards for Duke Divinity School, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Smith, a life-long resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, has been involved with the Civil Rights Movement dating back to the late 1950s when he joined the New Orleans chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) while still a teenage student at Southern University of New Orleans. From boycotting stores that refused to hire or serve Blacks to sit-

integral to the Civil Rights Movement from 1960 onward. Thereafter, Smith challenged Federal desegregation laws across the South as a member of the Freedom Riders. On May 24, 1963, Smith met with Attorney General Robert Kennedy and a host of celebrities and civil rights leaders in New York City to discuss the state of civil rights in the United States. In 1968, Smith founded Tambourine and Fan to instill important culture, history, and tradition in New Orleans youth. His decades-

Smith has mentored countless individuals across the city over the years.

Broussard has been a forerunner in leading groundbreaking pharmacy initiatives. He earned his Bachelor of Science of Pharmacy and in 1999, was appointed to the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy as executive director. He concurrently served as the president, president-elect, and treasurer for three years as an executive committee member of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®). He developed NABP® pharmacy regulators internationally through his participation in the Fédération Internationale Pharmaceutique. He is a member of the House of Delegates of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the Louisiana Pharmacists Association (LPA), serving on the board of directors and as president. During his career, he has received several awards and accolades, including the NABP® vice; the 2018 Lester E. Hosto Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Pharmacy; and the 1985 and 2006 Pharmacist of the Year Awards from the LPA.

distinguished career has long included efforts to improve and transform the lives of Louisiana families. Cassidy attended Louisiana State University (LSU) for undergraduate and medical school. In 1990, he joined the faculty of LSU Medical School,

