News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 13, 2006
CONTACT: Loretta Heyward, Communications Director
                                              heywardl@savstate.edu
                                              912/356-2448

Savannah State to offer Bachelor of Arts degree in homeland security and emergency management

SAVANNAH – Savannah State University (SSU) has been authorized to offer a major in homeland security and emergency management. The new Bachelor of Arts degree major, which will debut in the fall of 2007, was approved by the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents (BOR) at the monthly meeting on Sept. 13.

"The undergraduate degree in homeland security and emergency management is well warranted given the ongoing threats of foreign and domestic terrorist actions as well as the predictions of more frequent and intense weather-related disasters," said Jane M. Gates, interim vice president for Academic Affairs at SSU. "This new major is a significant step in helping to create a new generation of policy makers, managers and scholars who are prepared to confront the devastation that cuts across economic, social and racial lines in the aftermath of a major crisis."

Housed in the Department of Political Science, Public Administration, and Urban Studies, the homeland security major will engage faculty from the three colleges – Business Administration, Liberal Arts & Social Sciences and Sciences & Technology – to equip students with theoretical and applied knowledge to assume leadership roles in effectively managing all hazards, whether the cause is a natural disaster, a public health emergency, technological failure, or actions by domestic or foreign terrorists. Students will study the basics of homeland security and emergency management from a number of perspectives including causes and effects of natural disasters, foreign and domestic terrorist threats against the U.S., infrastructure protection and intelligence analysis. As a result of this multi-disciplinary program, graduates will be prepared to continue their formal education or assume entry-level positions and advance to positions of increasing responsibility and authority in a variety of organizational settings in the expanding area of homeland security and emergency management.

In addition to the required homeland security and emergency management courses, students must attain competence in at least one designated critical language: Arabic, Chinese, Farsi or Spanish. Students will also have to complete an internship with local, state or national agencies that have responsibilities for homeland security and emergency management.

Savannah State will be the first HBCU in the country and the first institution in the state of Georgia – public or private – to offer the Bachelor of Arts degree in homeland security and emergency management. The new bachelor's degree program is modeled after a similar program at the Virginia Commonwealth University.

Established in 1890, Savannah State University is the oldest public historically black college or university (HBCU) in the state. The university's 3,100 students are enrolled in 22 undergraduate and five graduate degree programs in three colleges: Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Business Administration and Sciences and Technology.

-SSU-