



Fleur-de-lis Ambassadors commit to second year

NEW ORLEANS - A program that sends civic, business and elected officials across the country to promote New Orleans' recovery will return for a second year.

Tulane University President Scott Cowen and City Councilman Arnie Fielkow were co-founders of the Fleur-de-lis Ambassador Program last year. Cowen said 2007 was "an amazing first year" for the program.

The 2008 ambassadors:

- State Rep. Neil Abramson, D-New Orleans;
- Latoya Cantrell, president of Broadmoor Improvement Association;
- John Casbon, president and CEO of First American Transportation Title Insurance Co.;
- **Darlene Cusanza, executive director of Crimestoppers;**
- Jimmy Fitzmorris of Fitzmorris & Associates;
- State Sen. Cheryl Gray, D-New Orleans;
- Sandra Gunner, president and CEO of the New Orleans Chambers of Commerce;
- Byron Harrell, president and CEO of Baptist Community Ministries;
- Marvalene Hughes, president of Dillard University;
- Alden McDonald, president of Liberty Bank and Trust;
- John Payne, Central Division president of Harrah's;
- Greg Rigamer, president of GCR & Associates Inc.;
- Nolan Rollins, president of Greater New Orleans Urban League;
- Timothy Ryan, chancellor of the University of New Orleans;
- Charles Teamer, Dryades Savings Bank board chairman;
- Warner Thomas, president and chief operating officer of Ochsner Health System;
- Denise Thornton, president and CEO of The Beacon of Hope Resource Center; and
- Tim Williamson, president of Idea Village.

In 2007, the ambassadors traveled to Boston; Birmingham, Ala.; Jacksonville, Miss.; Atlanta; Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles; and New York.

Targeted cities for 2008 include Chicago; Houston; Dallas; Miami; Memphis, Tenn.; Philadelphia; San Francisco; St. Louis; and Tampa and St. Petersburg, Fla.

This year, a new component will be added to the program: visits to cities in Louisiana in order to promote regional partnerships.