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# Suber plans for bright future for college

From Staff Reports

It has been almost three months since Dr. Dianne Boardley Suber was inaugurated as the president of St. Aug's, and she has begun to implement her plans to make the college a first-rate institution.

Suber's vision for St. Aug's is to develop and expand a school that has a reputation for training exceptional teachers who can work anywhere in the world. This vision includes ensuring that the school offers a quality educational experience for its students. The expected result will be to have businesses to graduate schools honored to have a St. Aug's graduate.

In her inaugural speech, Suber stated that her expectation for the college was to make St. Aug's "a premiere institution of excellence and education."

"We will find the resources to assure that St. Augustine's remains a premier institution, not just a premier historically black college.

No stranger to education, Suber has had a great deal of experience in teaching and administration. She started her career as a kindergarten teacher and was appointed assistant principal four years later, becoming the youngest assistant principal in Newport News area.

Six years later she was promoted to principal.

During her tenure, she says she was able to learn a lot about planning and administrating. After her years as Principal, Suber accepted a job at Hampton University, her alma mater, as vice president of administration services.

While at Hampton Suber realized she had two choices, she could become a school

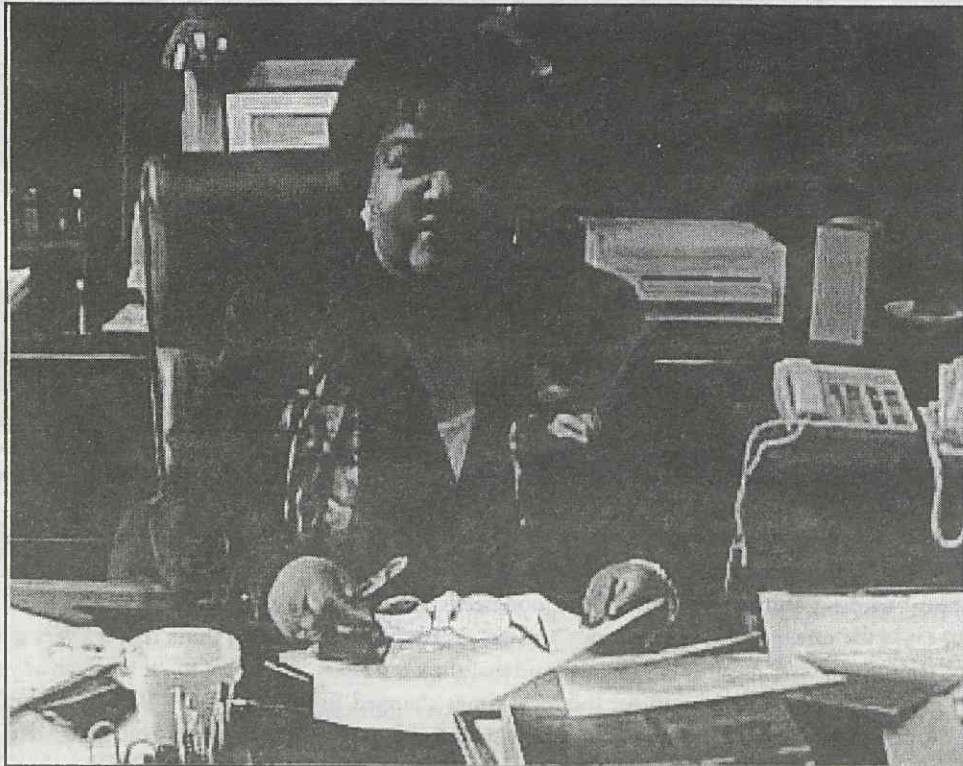


Photo by Annette Hinkson

President Dianne Suber gets a chance to get some work done in her new office. She hopes to make St. Aug's a top-flight educational institution

superintendent or a college president. Suber chose to become a college president.

"I didn't want to be the president of just any college," Suber said. "But the right college."

For her, St. Aug's was the right place—one with a connection to her family's history.

"Let's take a trip back into time," Suber said, remembering the details of an incident involving one of her parents' pre-integration trips to the South. "It was a time when black families traveling on the railroad from the South to the North. There were not many places they could to stay. One of the famous places to stay was right here at St. Aug's in the dorms."

Suber's said that when her parents stayed here, they were two of the many travelers residing on the campus. She said that college administrators at the time would leave for break and purposely leave the dorms unlocked for travelers coming through. This gave Suber an automatic appreciation for the college.

And after visiting the college and getting to know the college community, St. Aug's is where she chose to come.

Suber wants all of the graduates of the college to be comparable to any student, anywhere in the world. But for that, there must be change.

She said that appropriate and necessary adjustments in any entity, whether it be a

college or a business, have to continually made in order for the institution to change and grow.

"The only thing constant is change," Suber said.

Suber also believes that there is no limit to what students can accomplish and offers words of advice and inspiration.

"Always strive to be competent and strategize to be in the right place at the right time," she said. "Develop a network of men and women. Reach back and pull somebody along, and prepare somebody to take your place."

Suber is a graduate of Hampton University and is one of the many members of her family members to attend the school, including her parents, her older daughter Nicole, and her sister. Suber's youngest daughter is a sophomore at the university and her brother is currently working on his associate's degree in aviation at Hampton.

**"We will find the resources to assure that St. Augustine's remains a premier institution, not just a premier historically black college.  
 President  
 Dianne Boardley-Suber"**

# Students protest Saturday classes

Diana Christie  
 Staff Writer

St. Aug's students weren't upset they have to attend Saturday classes to make up the days missed because of the January snowstorm, only about the manner in which they were notified.

Some students feel they should have been notified by letter or by e-mail about the decision. This would have enabled them to make any necessary changes in their schedules without having to deal with aggravation.

"I have a weekend job, and my boss was very upset about the short notice but he understood," Kyle Hassell, a junior communication major said. Hassell said that his boss realized the importance of his education and accepted the

changes.

Although Hassell's boss understood the importance of Saturday classes, not everyone was so understanding.

Kelli Spriggs, a junior sociology major, was one of a number students who were disturbed by lack of notification and felt an explanation from administrators was needed.

"I want fellow students to understand they have a right to be properly notified about issues concerning them," Spriggs said. "Students are the reason why this institution exists."

The group of students decided to talk to their fellow classmates and start a petition for a formal apology and proper notification. They managed to collect 190 signatures for their petition in one day at the Falcon Cafeteria. The students said that their main concern was the lack

**"One must stand for something or fall for anything.  
 Kelli Spriggs, junior sociology major"**

of communication between the administration and students.

"Learning about Saturday classes the Wednesday before was a big inconvenience and very unprofessional," Shanika Perry, a junior computer science major said.

The decision to have Saturday classes was made abruptly in case there were any more severe weather conditions in the near future, according to Graham Watt,

executive assistant to the president.

"The decision was made in the best interest of the students," he said.

Watt also said that according to the Southern Association of Southern Colleges and Schools—an organization that accredits colleges—missed classes must be made up.

Students feel that even though this may have been a last-minute decision, they still should have received written documentation on the matter.

"How could the decision be made with the students best interest in mind and we weren't officially notified?" Spriggs said. "I found out about Saturday classes because someone told me. Why didn't I, as a student, receive a letter?"

included a formal apology from the administration for the manner

in which they were notified about Saturday classes, official proof about why the classes have to be made up and the college's inclement weather plan published in the school catalog or student handbook.

At a Feb. 1 meeting, members of the group received a verbal apology from Dr. Suber. Dr. Watt issued a memorandum to all students listing the dates and times of the Saturday make-up classes.

Although the students only achieved one of their goals, they weren't disappointed. They believe other students may be inspired by what they have done and be encouraged to stand up for what feel is right.

"One must stand for something or fall for anything," Spriggs said.