

Board of Tulane member starts new scholarship for New Orleans students

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Board of Tulane member Kim M. Boyle, left, and Celia Scott Weatherhead speak at the investiture of Thomas A. LaVeist, dean of the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and Weatherhead Presidential Chair in Health Equity on Oct. 31, 2018. (Photo by Sally Asher)

New Orleans lawyer Kim M. Boyle, a member of the Board of Tulane, is creating a scholarship fund to improve diversity at Tulane and help deserving students from disadvantaged families.

The Ernest and Connie Boyle Scholarship Endowed Fund will be used to support deserving Tulane students from the greater New Orleans area, with preference given to graduates from New Orleans public high schools.

In choosing recipients, special consideration will be given to students who are members of underrepresented groups at Tulane, such as African Americans; who will contribute to the diversity of Tulane; or who have overcome obstacles such as socioeconomic or educational disadvantage.

“Education has played such an important role for me both personally and professionally,” Boyle said. I want to pay it forward and do what I can to help deserving students receive a quality education at Tulane. I would not be an attorney without the tremendous sacrifices of my parents, family members, and others and I am so thankful to be in a position where I can give a little of that back.”

Boyle is creating the fund in honor of her beloved parents — Connie Williams Boyle, a retired middle school teacher, and Ernest Boyle, Jr., who is deceased, but was a retired postal worker as well as an accomplished alto saxophone player and veteran of the Korean War.

“Kim Boyle has been a model of engaged leadership in the Louisiana bar, on the Tulane campus, and in our Law School community,” Tulane Law School Dean David Meyer said. “She’s been remarkably generous in mentoring students and lending her support and expertise to programs at the Law School, including in our expanding initiatives focused on diversity and inclusion. It is fitting that she would generously provide scholarship aid to enable more talented students from diverse backgrounds to enrich the Tulane community.”

Boyle graduated from Princeton University in 1984 with a bachelor of arts degree and holds a law degree from the University of Virginia. She is a partner in the labor and employment group of Phelps Dunbar.

In addition to serving on the Board of Tulane, she is a member of the Albert and Tina Small Center Advisory Board, the Presidential Commission on Race and Tulane Values and the Campus Recognition sub-committee.

Boyle is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association and served as its first female African American president from 2009 to 2010. She is also a member of the New Orleans Bar Association and served as its first African American president.

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