



**DILLARD**  
**UNIVERSITY**

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**PATTI LABELLE SET TO PERFORM AT  
DILLARD UNIVERSITY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY GALA**

**NEW ORLEANS** – Grammy-Award winning artist Patti LaBelle will perform at Dillard University's 150th Founding Anniversary Gala on Saturday, May 11, at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, 601 Loyola, 6:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/du150gala>.

The black-tie event will be hosted by hip-hop legend and Dillard University Board Trustee member, MC Lyte (Lana Michelle Moorer). The proceeds of the event will go to the Student Assistance for Financial Emergencies (SAFE) Fund. The SAFE Fund was established in 2013 to help at-risk students who were on the verge of dropping out of the University because they could not pay their outstanding balances. Since its inception, the SAFE Fund has helped 300 students to remain enrolled at Dillard and over 100 students have graduated.

“While there is federal, state and institutional aid available, sometimes a [financial] gap still exists because funding runs out. SAFE is used to help make up that difference so that students can persist and ultimately graduate from Fair Dillard,” said David D. Page, Dillard's vice president of Enrollment Management. “The support of our alumni, family/friends, and donors is critical and ultimately makes this happen.”

This will be the second time Patti LaBelle has performed for a Dillard University Founding Anniversary event. The Philadelphian superstar first performed at the University's 140th Founding Anniversary in 2009. Throughout her entertainment career, LaBelle is noted for using her iconic gift for philanthropic efforts.

The Gala will serve as a party with a purpose, where video and photographic footage of past University Presidents and campus life will be featured; distinguished alumni will also be honored. Gala attendees will experience an evening of elegance and class with a *laissez les bons temps rouler* flair to it. On this evening, Dillard will celebrate its past, present, and future with excellent cuisine and fellowship.

The 150th Black-Tie Gala is sponsored by the Hyatt Regency and WDSU Channel 6- NBC Affiliate. To purchase gala tickets, please visit, <http://bit.ly/du150gala>.

*Dillard University, located in New Orleans at 2601 Gentilly Blvd., is a private four-year liberal arts historically black institution with a history dating back to 1869. For more information, please visit [www.dillard.edu](http://www.dillard.edu). Also, follow us on Twitter, Facebook @DU1869 and Instagram: Dillard University.*