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Former Entergy New Orleans Chief Executive Appointed To Board

New Orleans—Governor Bobby Jindal has appointed former Entergy New Orleans Chief Executive Daniel Packer to the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans.

Packer will serve a five-year term, succeeding James O. Campbell, one of four Orleans Parish members on the regional Board, which governs Port operations in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes.

Packer, who retired from Entergy in 2006, is currently President and CEO of Urban Solutions Inc., a multi-faceted firm involved with projects associated with an urban environment. He began his career with Entergy in 1982 as Waterford 3 Nuclear training manager. He later served as Waterford's plant manager, becoming the first African-American to manage a nuclear plant in the United States. He was named the company's CEO in 1998 and led the company through the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Prior to joining Entergy, Packer was a senior engineer with General Physics Corp. and worked as a training coordinator with Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Co. He also served in the U.S. Nuclear Navy Program from 1969 until 1975.

In 2005, Packer was honored as one of the "Most Powerful African-American Executives in Corporate America" by Black Enterprise, a leading business and investment publication. In 2001, he was the first African-American to become chairman of the New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm looking forward to this as a real opportunity to learn and to continue to serve the people of Louisiana," Packer said.

Port President and CEO Gary LaGrange welcomed Packer to the Board and lauded his selection.

"Mr. Packer will serve as a strong voice for the Port of New Orleans," LaGrange said. "He works tirelessly for this region and I believe he will be a great asset to the entire Port community."

A native of Mobile, Ala., Packer holds a bachelor's degree in business studies from Charter Oaks College and a master's degree in business administration from Tulane University. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1975.

Packer was honored with the YMCA Black Achievement Award in 1988, Tulane University's Weiss Award in 2001 and the Boy Scouts of America, Southeast Louisiana Council, Whitney Young Service Award in 2004. He is active in civic, social service and business groups and serves as chairman of the

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New Orleans Aviation Board for the Louis Armstrong International Airport.

He serves as a board member of First Guaranty Bank, and is a former member of the board of trustees for Loyola University New Orleans. Packer has also served on the boards of Keyston Energy, New Orleans Jazz Orchestra and the Fore!Kids Foundation. He is the former national chairman of the American Association of Blacks in Energy and was appointed by former Gov. Mike Foster to chair the Superdome Commission.

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