The American Dream is alive and well, and Dillard University College of Business will pay homage to it as it honors local entrepreneurs Paul Flower and Dorothy Perrault at the second annual Champions of the American Dream event on Thursday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the Georges Auditorium of the Professional Schools and Sciences Building. Attendance is free and open to the public.

Flower is the president and C.E.O. of Woodward Design+Build, the New Orleans architecture firm that helped build Dillard's Professional Schools and Sciences Building. Perrault, a Dillard alumna from the class of 1960, owns Perrault Kiddy Kollege, a local pre-school program with two locations in the Gentilly area. They were chosen for their success and persistence in business pursuits, their history of philanthropy, and their service as role models for the New Orleans community.

At the ceremony, both honorees will lecture on business entrepreneurship and participate in an audience Q&A session. A reception will follow in the atrium of the Professional Schools and Sciences Building.

Champions of the American Dream is an initiative of the Dillard University College of Business designed to recognize local business leaders. The event honors one Dillard alum and one non-alum annually. In 2011, Dillard recognized Beverly McKenna and Larry Lundy at its inaugural Champions ceremony.

Flower and Perrault were nominated by a committee consisting of Dr. Christian Fugar, dean of the College of Business; Dr. Walter Strong, executive vice president; Kemberly Washington, assistant dean for student programs in the College of Business; Ronald V. Burns Sr. of the board of trustees; Troy Baldwin, assistant vice president for development; and Travis Chase, senior officer for advancement services. Interim President James Lyons and the senior cabinet approved the nominations.