



# Chancellor's Report

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## SUSLA RECEIVES \$450,000 GRANT FOR NEW ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM



The US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Economic Impact and Diversity announced the Minority Education, Workforce and Training (MEWT) grant on April 15, 2020. The MEWT Program funding includes \$4 million in financial assistance awards for public and state-controlled institutions of higher education.

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) was awarded \$475,000 for one year of performance with an option for additional years. "This grant represents one step in a broader effort by SUSLA to keep students in college and ultimately help them develop the skills they need to work in the energy and tech industry that are so vital to the Louisiana economy," stated Rodney A. Ellis, Chancellor. SUSLA received the grant to develop an associate degree program in process technology and certificate programs in power lineman, energy, and technology.

Future projects are foreseeable, contingent upon available funding and programmatic relevance of proposed projects. The topic of interest

includes stem education, capacity building, technical assistance, training, and workforce/pipeline analysis. Small businesses, nonprofits having a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS, private institutions for higher education, and for-profit organizations are eligible applicants.

Janice Sneed, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development, states, "We have researched, partnered with business, industry, educational institutions, and various energy stakeholders to develop a diversified energy workforce across the state of Louisiana. Minorities make up less than 9% of the energy workforce nationally and even less in our state and region. The Minority Education, Workforce, and Training Program (MEWT) grant award will shape a workforce pipeline to business and industry through certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs."

SUSLA's project, "Petroleum, Oil, Wind, Electricity, Renewable: Talent in Energy Careers (Powertec)," will begin July 1, 2020.

# SUSLA-DAVID RAINES HEALTH ANNOUNCE

## \$100K HEALTHCARE ENDOWMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 22, 2020

### **SUSLA, DAVID RAINES COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER PARTNER WITH BOARD OF REGENTS TO ESTABLISH \$100,000 ENDOWMENT TO TRAIN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

Shreveport, LA – Southern University at Shreveport, LA (SUSLA), in cooperation with David Raines Community Health Center (DRCHC) is pleased to announce the establishment of the David Raines Community Health Center First-Generation Endowed Undergraduate Scholarship in Nursing and Healthcare at SUSLA.

The fund is established to help remove financial barriers for students who are first in their family to attend college and seeking opportunities in the high-demand, front line career fields of healthcare. The endowment is made possible with a generous seed donation from David Raines Community Health Centers. The gift was leveraged with additional non-state funds and a \$40,000 match from the Louisiana Board of Regents. DRCHC CEO Willie White stated, “The DRCHC Board is extremely pleased to extend the organization’s commitment to providing scholarships through the establishment of the perpetual endowment that will benefit first generation college students.” “The DRCHC endowment will contribute to developing a much-needed health care workforce and continue the legacy of giving back to the community started by our namesake David H. Raines.”

The first-generation fund was established by the Board of Regents for the purpose of increasing college access and success for low-income and first-generation students. The objectives of this fund are:

- To provide scholarships that will increase the access of first-generation students with unmet financial need to higher education opportunities in Louisiana
- To provide eligible students with structured support through active and engaged advising; and
- To provide eligible students with meaningful employment during their education

SUSLA Chancellor Dr. Rodney states that, “The David Raines Community Health Center is a leader in providing access to quality healthcare to the citizens of the MLK and the surrounding communities. Each year, they partner with us to assist students enrolled in the Nursing and Allied Health Programs. This investment further demonstrates the organization’s commitment to providing for the long-term development of talent for the healthcare industry.”

The David Raines First-Generation Endowed Undergraduate Scholarship is a perpetual fund that will allow SUSLA to provide entry pathways for healthcare students into this high demand career field. For more information, contact SUSLA Chief Advancement Officer Stephanie Rogers at [srogers@susla.edu](mailto:srogers@susla.edu) .

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## SUSLA AND THE CITY OF SHREVEPORT OFFER RELIEF TO BUSINESSES WITH THE SAFE REOPEN FUND



On Friday, May 22, 2020, Mayor Adrian Perkins announced Shreveport's "Safe Reopen Fund." Southern University at Shreveport's Business and Entrepreneur Center established the fund to support the city's smallest businesses as they transition into a phased reopening and continue to grapple with the economic burdens imposed by COVID-19. "SUSLA is excited to have the opportunity once again to partner with the City of Shreveport in serving this community," said Dr. Rodney Ellis, Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport. "Programs like the Safe Reopening Fund is an example of SUSLA's commitment to workforce and economic development needs of the City of Shreveport."

The City of Shreveport's Department of Community Development will make an initial \$100,000 available for distribution in the form of forgivable micro-loans to small businesses. These funds are Community Development Block Grants that are earmarked for economic development. The loans will range from \$500-\$1,500 depending on business size and be used to cover the cost of personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees or as working capital to assist with their reopening. Loans are forgiven after 90 days if the recipient meets basic requirements, which include following the safe reopening guidelines prescribed by the State of Louisiana for their respective industry. Other requirements include sound bookkeeping and one consultation with a SUSLA small business advisor.

Visit [www.Shreve.Biz](http://www.Shreve.Biz) to learn more and apply.

**ARE YOU READY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE?  
COME BE A PART OF SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT.**

## SUSLA TEAMS UP WITH BLACK ROCKET TO OFFER VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP



Families typically rely on summer camps as ways to fill the days with engaging and educational activities. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, traditional summer camps will not take place, as usual, this year. Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) teamed up with Black Rocket to offer a Virtual Summer Stem Camp to help students, ages 8-14, jump-start their future in creative tech. Jasmine Horton, Continuing Education Coordinator, stated, "Black Rocket is a national leader in tech-education. We believe they would be great partners with SUSLA in helping students in Shreveport-Bossier and surrounding areas explore and learn new things virtually."

A live instructor will teach classes each week to keep students connected and engaged. Children can choose any of the tremendous cutting-edge courses below with topics such as coding, game design, eSports, virtual reality, and more. For additional information on program dates and times, [click here](#).

### CREATIVE TECH COURSES OFFERED:

**Battle Royale: Make Your First Fortnite Style Video Game**

**JavaScript Developer Jam**

**Minecraft Redstone Engineers**

**ROBLOX Makers**

**Code Breakers**

**Minecraft Modders**

**ROBLOX Coders & Entrepreneurs!**

**Video Game Animation**

**Make Your First Video Game**

**Python Programmers**

**Rocket Kart Racers: Design A Mario Kart Style Game**

**eSports Apprentice – Streamers & Gamers**

**3D Game Design with Unity**

**App Attack**

**YouTube Content Creators**

**Pokemon Masters: Designers & 3D Makers Unite**

**Code Your Own Adventure! Interactive Storytelling**

**Minecraft Designers**

**Inventor's™ League – Prototyping for the Future**

**Make Your First 3D Video Game**

**Minecraft Animators**

**Minecraft Designers**