

Chancellor's Report



SUSLA
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA

Excellence • Integrity • Accountability • Service • Diversity

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SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS: INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS WITH OCHSNER LSU HEALTH SHREVEPORT



Southern University at Shreveport has partnered with healthcare officials to implement safety standards in preparation for employees, students and visitors safe return to campus. Fulfilling a vision of Chancellor Rodney Ellis to ensure the campus is executing the highest standards of safety and best practices, professionals from Ochsner LSU Health conducted the first round of Pre-Return Safety Informational Sessions. Professionals provided details on regarding topics including; “What Is COVID-19 and its Symptoms,” “Steps CDC Recommends for Preventing the Spread (of COVID-19)”, “Steps SUSLA is taking to Mitigate the Spread...”, and “What Is Phase III?” The team, accompanied by University Administration, answered questions from the audience, who were admitted with temperature checks, wearing of masks, and observed safe-distance seating guidelines.

Dr. Antonius Pegues, V.C. for Finance & Administration, stated, “I appreciate the commitment the Chancellor has made to ensuring everyone’s safety while on campus at the various SUSLA campus sites. We have all stepped up efforts to keep our campus community safe. Our dedicated faculty and staff have spent months planning and implementing countless health and safety measures to safely bring everyone back to campus.

Ochsner has been great about working with Facilities and Advancement & University Relations to organize sessions, implement and evaluate best-practices. We will continue to seek professional advice from experts like them and other healthcare partners to ensure compliance.”

The expectation is that everyone follows campus and public health guidelines. The SUSLA COVID-19 health and safety policy requires all campus community members to follow public health orders from the state, parish, and city public health officials and all directives from the university intended to prevent or mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Additional small group sessions will take place to continue the educational process. All sessions are recorded and posted to the University website under the COVID-19 link.



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SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS

INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

- **COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS**
 - **WHAT IS PHASE III?**
 - **“ASK THE EXPERT” Q & A**
(EXPERTS WILL ALSO REMAIN ON CAMPUS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
IN A CONFIDENTIAL SETTING)

Thursday, Sept 24, 9 AM
JACKSON AUDITORIUM

(capacity limits, social distance guidelines strictly observed, masks required)

Virtual: Sessions will be recorded and made available on the University's website for viewing.

SUSLA CONTINUES ONLINE CLASSES THROUGH OCTOBER 5TH



SUSLA CLASSES OFFERED 100% ONLINE THROUGH OCTOBER 5TH

Southern University at Shreveport, LA (SUSLA) extends 100 percent, online classes, through October 5. In early August, Administrators delayed fall plans for in-person classes out of an abundance of caution. They used three guiding principles to make their decision: (1) protect the campus community; (2) offer access to education to the greatest extent possible; (3) create flexibility at both the individual and institutional levels.

“Our decision-making continues to be based on the advice of public health experts, and what we are learning every day about the virus spread in the state. We must follow the data, and keep our students, faculty, and staff safe,” stated Rodney Ellis, Chancellor.

SUSLA continues to work with regional medical partners and follow the guidance and directives of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Louisiana Health Department, and Governor John Bel Edwards to ensure the safety standards are properly implemented. After October 5, classes will be in one of the following instructional modes: online with a schedule/remote, entirely online, or hybrid lab flex schedule.

It is important to note that delaying in-person instruction may be revisited as University Administrators continue to follow the reported impact of recommended statewide health precautions in the coming month.

#ComeBeSouthern

SUSLA PROVIDES FREE TUITION & LAPTOPS TO HELP STUDENTS



**FREE TUITION
& LAPTOPS***

**CLICK HERE
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

SUSLA awarded nearly 1,000 students with either free tuition or a free laptop! A special Review Committee, Chaired by Angelique Feaster-Evans with reps from various campus departments, was formed to review candidates and make the selection of recipients. Starting with criteria publicized during the promotion period, final recipients were randomly selected lottery-style. The project was funded with public/ private partnerships leveraging Cares Act funds with private donations from corporations and individual donors. “Annual partners such as AT&T, Caddo Commission, Capital One, JP Morgan Chase, City of Shreveport, SUSLA Alumni Association, SUS Foundation, and many others, including SUSLA employees, make it possible to help students succeed amid unprecedented difficulties over the past few months,” says Chancellor Rodney Ellis.

ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT COUNSELORS SHIFT TO VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIRS



College admissions counselors use every available form of technology to engage virtually with students due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) found various ways to connect with applicants in a mostly online admissions process digitally. Over the past few weeks, SUSLA's admissions and recruitment counselors have participated in numerous virtual college fairs.

As campus life ground to a halt, SUSLA quickly launched virtual events for students and families, offering group sessions and one-on-one video chats with admissions officers over Zoom, a popular videoconferencing tool.

"A student's ability to visit campus is one of the highest indicators of their likelihood to enroll. COVID-19 forced us out of the traditional ways in which we have engaged with and recruited students. Now, more than ever, we are meeting them where they are in the digital world. Whether it is Zoom, texting, emailing, or virtual tours, we are prepared to provide information to prospective students," says Jorge Sousa, Director of Admissions & Recruitment.

OPPORTUNITY STARTS HERE.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION HOSTS VOTERS' REGISTRATION DRIVE



The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a voter's registration drive on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, outside the student union in recognition of National Voter's Registration Day 2020. During the event, the SGA focused on three areas: registration, education, and mobilization.

Mr. Latari Fleming, Dean of Students & Campus Activities Director, said, "We wanted to make sure that students had a chance to register to vote on campus. It was also vital for us to inform students about important dates regarding the upcoming election."

SUSLA Alumni Association Inc. members were also on hand to assist students with questions. "This election is very crucial, and we need everyone eligible to vote to let their voices be heard," stated Mrs. Yvette Allen, SUSLA Alumni Association, Inc. Executive Secretary. The event was 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Many students were excited about registering, and they look forward to voting in the election this year.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- September 30:** Deadline to Complete the 2020 Census
- October 05:** Deadline to Register to Vote (Mail/In Person)
- October 13:** Deadline to Register to Vote (Geaux Vote Website)
- October 20-27 (excluding Sunday):** Early Voting
- October 30 (by 4:30 PM):** Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot
- November 02:** Deadline to Return Absentee Ballot by Mail
- November 03:** ELECTION DAY

SU GIVE DAY: TEAMS DELIVER FOR SUSLA STUDENTS/PROGRAMS

AMOUNT RAISED: \$359, 501 | GOAL: \$150,000

*(*Includes restricted income for endowments and programs income to Sep. 30)*

THANK YOU CAPTAINS!



SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

CONTACT YOUR TEAM CAPTAINS TODAY



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HOW TO GIVE: <https://foundation.sus.edu/southern-university-at-shreveport-louisiana/>

BROOKSHIRE'S SUPER ONE DONATES \$30,000 TO SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT



Southern University at Shreveport is the proud recipient of a \$30,000 donation from the Brookshire Grocery Company (BGC). The gift is part of the Brookshire's Super One "Focus on the Future" Program and will be used to establish an endowment for students pursuing a degree in Business and related career fields.

Brad Brookshire, Chairman and CEO for Brookshire Grocery Company said, "We are very excited to launch a lasting program which will help thousands of students achieve their dreams for years to come," "We support our local communities and value education which is one of our top philanthropic efforts. So many families and individuals have been financially impacted by the pandemic. We are proud to be able to help those aspiring towards their dreams."

Starting in the fall of 2021, students enrolled in Business majors at SUSLA will receive undergraduate tuition assistance from the "Focus on the Future" scholarship. Recipients will be rewarded based on financial need and leadership. The "Focus on the Future" scholarship will help SUSLA graduates become future leaders.

"I want to thank Brookshires, whose remarkable generosity will enable countless deserving students to benefit from Southern University at Shreveport. We appreciate the support as we continue to provide high-quality academic programs for our students despite

the COVID-19 pandemic challenges. The university is focused on enhancing student success and producing more students who are prepared to meet the needs of our state and our communities. This is truly a transformational gift," stated Dr. Rodney Ellis, Chancellor.

Southern University at Shreveport is committed to a set of core values: Excellence, Integrity, Accountability, Service, and Diversity that serve as guiding principles for achieving strategic goals and objectives. One of the six core values of BGC is "Results-Driven with a Future Focus" meaning BGC strives for positive results every day which allows the company to better serve their customers, communities, and employee-partners. The core values from SUSLA and BGC play an extraordinary role in our city, and in the lives of students. The company partnered with over 40 universities and colleges in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas for a donation of more than \$1 million.

The gift will be leveraged with other secured matching funds and a grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents to become fully endowed at \$100,000.

For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at srogers@susla.edu.

SUSLA RECEIVES \$50,000 DONATION FROM ALPHA KAAPA ALPHA NATIONAL ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION



With the investment of a \$50,000 donation, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated has partnered with Southern University at Shreveport to establish the AKA HBCU Endowment. The gift is part of the organization's HBCU for Life: A Call to Action initiative. Under this project, the organization has committed to promoting and sustaining historically black colleges and universities. Alpha Kappa Alpha set a goal of providing \$10 million to support HBCU's, which includes establishing an endowment at Southern University at Shreveport and on the campus of each accredited four-year HBCU.

SUSLA Chancellor Dr. Rodney Ellis states, "We are extremely grateful for this generous gift from AKA. The investment will not only help answer the call to action to provide access to students in need; it is also an endorsement of the tremendous talent developed at HBCU's. We extend sincere appreciation to International President Dr. Glenda Glover and, to our community, AKA partners for their stalwart support."

For two consecutive years, the national organization made history by raising over \$1 million in one day to support HBCU's. Last February, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated distributed thirty-two endowment in furtherance of the administration's HBCU for Life: A Call to Action program target. The recognition of partnerships with HBCU's is part of the organization's month-long celebration.

For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at srogers@susla.edu.

**WELCOME OUR SEPTEMBER 2020 NEW HIRES AT
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT**



Buddy Anderson
Certification/Dual Enrollment Instructor
AEROSPACE

Monica Sutton
Part-time MLT Phlebotomy Instructor/Clinical Instructor
ALLIED HEALTH

Jowi McCray
Part-time MLT Phlebotomy Instructor/Clinical Instructor
ALLIED HEALTH

Dr. John Gailotos
Dean of Workforce Development & Associate Professor of Chemistry
DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/BSTEM



TOBIAS GARDNER
SGA President



WILLIAM ALLRIDGE III
SGA Vice President



RAYLON SCOTT
Miss SUSLA



JENIFER PICKENS
Miss Sophomore



LAMAYA BAILEY
Miss Freshman



TERRIA BLAKE
Sophomore Class President



MARKESHIA JETER
Sophomore Class VP



JAQUAN DAVIE
Freshman Class President



JAKEMEION JACK
Freshman Class VP



KEYONNA VINSON
Student Center Board VP

Not Pictured: **CORY GRIFFIN**, Student Center Board President

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 53RD SGA, MISS SUSLA & THE ROYAL COURT





SUSLA STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

In 2017, Ja'Braylyn Gipson graduated from North Webster High School in Springhill, Louisiana. After graduation, he knew that attending college would be his ticket to success. Ja'Braylyn enrolled at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) in 2018, and graduated in 2020 with an Associate's Degree in Human Services. Although his time spent at SUSLA impacted his life in a positive way, there were a few road blocks he faced in earlier years that made him question his ability to succeed.

As a young child, Gipson struggled with his speech. "When I was growing up, I had a lot of problems talking. A lot of people helped me out, and I'm happy they did," said Ja'Braylon. "I want people to know that it doesn't matter if you have a disability or not; you can do whatever you want to do. It's ok to ask people for help. People are going to say you can't do something, don't worry about it, prove them wrong," said Gipson.

During his time at SUSLA, J'Braylon was introduced to the Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement (WCUSA), a program established by Southern University Alumni Tony and Tina Williams. WCUSA's primary goal is to assist at-risk minority males. They render a variety of services, such as mentorships, financial support, and community service partnerships.

Ja'Braylon said, "My friend told me about the Williams Center, and I thought I'm going to try it out. It was one of the best things that happened to me at SUSLA. Ted Scott and Tony & Tina Williams changed my life! I enjoyed every moment at SUSLA, from the Williams Center, the faculty, and staff.

Gipson is now at Southern University in Baton Rouge, pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work. "I didn't have a lot of male role models growing up. My mother was a single parent, and my uncles helped from time to time. The reason I wanted to become a social worker is because of my aunt and Godmother. They were in that field, and I saw how they helped others. I also didn't see very many males in that role. I want to be a positive male role model for the next generation," said Ja'Braylon. He plans to continue his education by pursuing a master's degree after receiving his bachelor's.



Photos of SUSLA Alumni, Ja'Braylon Gipson

#ComeBeSouthern



The Chancellor's Report is a monthly publication from the
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