

# Chancellor's Report

April 2026



# 20 REIMAGINE 30 SUSLA

## 7 Strategic Goals

**Goal 1**

**Foster a Climate of Academic Excellence**

**Goal 2**

**Increase Enrollment**

**Goal 3**

**Enhance Customer Service & Stewardship of Place**

**Goal 4**

**Adopt a Student-Centered Approach**

**Goal 5**

**Attract and Retain Qualified Faculty and Staff**

**Goal 6**

**Promote a Culture of Institutional Effectiveness**

**Goal 7**

**Improve Infrastructure, Facilities, Finance, and Resources**

# CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



Greetings,

As we reflect on the accomplishments of March and step into April, I am pleased to share the continued progress of Southern University at Shreveport in advancing our mission and strategic priorities. Throughout the month, our campus demonstrated a strong commitment to student success, leadership development, community engagement, and institutional excellence.

March was marked by a series of meaningful engagements that strengthened SUSLA's visibility and impact across the Shreveport community and the Southern University System. I had the honor of addressing the Shreveport Mayor's Women's Commission Luncheon, where we highlighted the importance of empowerment, leadership, and inclusive opportunity. This engagement, along with several campus-based initiatives, reinforced our role as a leader in education, advocacy, and community partnership.

We proudly celebrated the contributions and leadership of women through several signature events. The unveiling of the Gratitude and Affirmation Garden Wall provided a powerful space for reflection and appreciation, fostering belonging and connection across our campus community. Our annual Queen's Tea continued a cherished tradition that uplifts leadership, grace, and empowerment among students, faculty, staff, and community members, inspiring participants to embrace their potential as future change-makers.

Honoring our legacy and our people remained central throughout the month. Our Founders Day Program, featuring keynote speaker Ray L. Belton, PhD (former President of the Southern University System and Chancellor of both Southern University and A&M College and Southern University at Shreveport) offered a meaningful opportunity to reflect on our history and recommit to our mission with purpose and integrity. Additionally, the Employee Years of Service Luncheon recognized the dedication and service of our faculty and staff, whose daily contributions have a lasting impact on student achievement and institutional success.

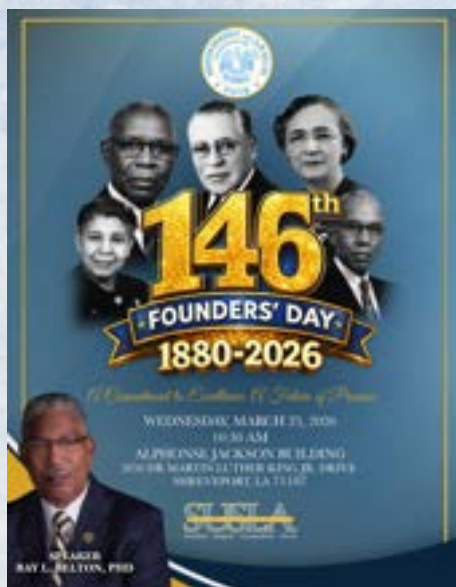
Collectively, these initiatives reflect our ongoing focus on building a culture of excellence and innovation at SUSLA. I extend my sincere appreciation to our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners whose commitment continues to move our institution forward. Together, we are strengthening Southern University at Shreveport and shaping a future defined by opportunity, achievement, and impact.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. A. J. Gantt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Dr. Aubra J. Gantt**  
Chancellor

# Founder's Day Convocation: Celebrating Legacy and Academic Excellence



Southern University at Shreveport commemorated the Southern University System's 146th Founders' Day. Under the theme, "A Commitment to Excellence: A Future of Promise," the Convocation reaffirmed the System's legacy. The Convocation also served as an opportunity to celebrate student achievement, leadership, and institutional pride.

Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt joined students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community leaders in honoring the vision of the University's founders and the collective progress of the campus. The program featured musical performances by Lemesa Fleury, Groove Magnolia (SUSLA's Jazz Ensemble led by Music Instructor Jibri Houston) creating a vibrant and reflective atmosphere.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Ray L. Belton, former President of the Southern University System and former Chancellor of both Southern University and A&M College and Southern University at Shreveport. Emphasizing mission-driven leadership and excellence, Dr. Belton reminded attendees, "We honor our founders' legacy by continuing the work that they put forth. May we continue to collectively honor our past, embrace the present, and look forward to a brighter future."

A central focus of the Convocation was the recognition of outstanding students whose achievements exemplify SUSLA's commitment to academic excellence and service. Health Information Technology student Jada Breazesale, Respiratory Therapy student Tynesha Williams, and student leader Kyndryck Green were honored with the Community Service Award for their dedication to leadership and service. The Scholarship Award was presented to Polysomnography student Emily King in recognition of her academic excellence and commitment to personal and professional growth.

The successful execution of the event reflected strong collaboration across Academic Affairs under the leadership of Dean Jo Ann Brown, Acting Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development, and the dedicated Founders' Day Committee.



# Founder's Day Convocation: Celebrating Legacy and Academic Excellence



# Celebrating Women's History Month: SUSLA Unveiled the Gratitude and Affirmation Garden Wall

In honor of Women's History Month, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) launched an inspiring initiative aimed at honoring and empowering women within the campus community and beyond. Located in the Fine Arts Building, the Gratitude and Affirmation Garden Wall provided a creative platform for students, faculty, and staff to contribute personal messages of appreciation and support for the women who made a significant impact in their lives.

This artistic display invited participants to celebrate the achievements of women by sharing kind words, affirmations, and expressions of gratitude. By encouraging the SUSLA community to articulate their admiration, the initiative fostered a collective spirit of respect and recognition, highlighting the vital role women played in shaping society.

In addition to contributing written tributes, visitors were encouraged to engage with the garden by picking or planting a flower. This simple yet meaningful action symbolized growth, positivity, and the profound legacy of women's contributions throughout history. The vibrant blooms not only beautified the space but also served as a visual representation of the hope and potential that women embodied.

The Gratitude and Affirmation Garden Wall stood as a testament to SUSLA's commitment to promoting appreciation and empowerment among its community members. By creating a space for personal expression and communal engagement, the initiative not only acknowledged the accomplishments of women but also encouraged ongoing dialogue surrounding their influence in various fields.

SUSLA proudly celebrated Women's History Month through this thoughtful initiative, underscoring its dedication to fostering an environment where admiration for women could flourish. The partnership of art, nature and community engagement encapsulated the essence of this celebration, reinforcing the importance of recognizing and uplifting the contributions of women both within and beyond the walls of the university.



# Building the Jaguar Pipeline: SUSLA Showcase Inspires Future Scholars

Southern University at Shreveport proudly hosted its annual SUSLA Campus Showcase, welcoming nearly 600 middle and high school students to campus for an engaging and informative introduction to academic programs, student life, and career pathways. The event reinforced the University's commitment to recruitment, access, and workforce preparation while strengthening the pipeline to higher education for students across the region.

Participants experienced hands-on demonstrations in career-focused academic programs, including cybersecurity, aerospace, and allied health, providing meaningful insight into the practical, high-demand fields that define SUSLA's academic offerings. In addition to academic exploration, students engaged with campus organizations and support services that contribute to a holistic student experience, including Upward Bound TRIO, cheerleading, and residential life at the Jaguar Courtyard. This comprehensive exposure allowed prospective students to experience the University's welcoming, student-centered environment firsthand.

The Showcase also highlighted the vibrant spirit of the SUSLA community through performances by the SUSLA Marching Band and the Jazzy Jags dance line, along with opportunities for fellowship, food, and celebration throughout the day. These activities created an energetic atmosphere that reflected the pride, culture, and sense of belonging that define the Jaguar experience.

Student leaders played a key role in connecting with visitors and sharing their personal experiences. James Jordan, SUSLA Freshman Class President and Student Ambassador, captured the essence of the campus community when he shared, "SUSLA feels like a family and makes sure you have everything that you need. The university is close to home and works with you to give you that extra help." His remarks underscored the University's mission to support students academically and personally as they pursue their educational and career goals.

The SUSLA Campus Showcase served as a vital opportunity to inspire future Jaguars, increase awareness of career-driven academic programs, and strengthen relationships with prospective students and their families. Through initiatives such as this, Southern University at Shreveport continues to demonstrate its dedication to empowering students, fostering growth, and preparing the next generation for success in higher education and the workforce.



# Building the Jaguar Pipeline: SUSLA Showcase Inspires Future Scholars



# Student Engagement in Campus Development

Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt recently made a significant impact at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) with a thrilling presentation that unveiled a captivating mock display of the new Health, Physical Education and Recreation Complex's gym floors. This visionary project was presented to key student leaders, including Miss SUSLA Nia Brown and the 58th Student Government Association President Kyndryck Green, along with other influential members of the SGA. Their input was sought to refine the graphics and final design of the complex's gym floors, making it a collaborative effort centered around student engagement.

The excitement of the event resonated deeply within the campus community. Chancellor Gantt took the opportunity to celebrate the exceptional leadership and dedication of these student leaders, acknowledging their pivotal role in guiding over 300 eager students from Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.'s Xinos and Kudos on a memorable campus tour. This phenomenal event not only ignited immense interest among prospective students but also showcased the unparalleled opportunities and vibrant future that define SUSLA.

Chancellor Gantt's enthusiastic presentation served as a catalyst for change, inspiring both current and future students about the transformative potential of their university experience. The unveiling of the new gym floors was not just a display of a physical space; it symbolized SUSLA's commitment to enhancing student life and fostering an environment where students can thrive.

As the campus continues to evolve and expand, the enthusiasm generated by this initiative marks a significant milestone in SUSLA's journey toward reaching new heights. Chancellor Gantt's visionary leadership is paving the way for a bright future, one that promises to enrich the lives of students and the community alike. The transformation of the campus, highlighted by this new complex, stands as a testament to the university's dedication to excellence and innovation in education.



# Student Engagement in Campus Development



## Miss SUSLA Attends SUNO's Inaugural Queentessential Women's Summit

Miss SUSLA, Nia Brown, attended the inaugural Queentessential Women's Summit at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) on March 6, 2026. This groundbreaking summit was designed to empower and inspire women leaders from across the Southern University System and beyond.

Hosted by SUNO, the summit represented a significant opportunity for Miss Brown to engage with fellow student leaders, gain invaluable insights from prominent speakers, and participate in discussions aimed at advancing women in leadership roles. Her attendance at this important event highlighted SUSLA's commitment to leadership development, community engagement, and strengthening connections within the broader Southern University family.

During the summit, Miss Brown had the chance to connect with a diverse array of participants, sharing experiences and ideas that enriched the dialogue surrounding women's leadership. Her involvement not only underscored her dedication to personal growth but also illustrated SUSLA's promise to cultivate students who are well-rounded and ready to make a meaningful impact in their communities and future careers.

The Queentessential Women's Summit served as a catalyst for fostering empowerment and collaboration among women leaders, aligning perfectly with SUSLA's mission to nurture future change-makers. Miss Brown's participation in this significant event reaffirmed the university's pursuit of excellence in developing leaders who will shape a better tomorrow.

As the Southern University System continues to prioritize women's leadership and empowerment, events like the Queentessential Women's Summit exemplify the transformative opportunities available to students. SUSLA remains dedicated to supporting its student leaders in their journeys to inspire and uplift others within their communities and beyond.



## Crowned in Confidence: SGA Queen's Royal Tea Celebrates Leadership and Empowerment



Leadership, grace, and empowerment were the hallmarks of the Student Government Association's (SGA) annual Queen's Royal Tea at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA). Crowned in Confidence set the tone for an event designed to uplift and inspire participants.

Attendees were welcomed by Kyndryck Green, 58th Student Government Association President, and Miss Nia Brown, 58th Miss Southern University at Shreveport. As guests entered, they were met with hats and elegant derby attire worn by students, faculty, staff, and special guests, including Camriana Taylor, Miss Green Oaks Performing Arts Academy, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

The ceremony began with a welcoming introduction and a curated selection of refreshments, including sandwiches, fresh fruit, chocolate-covered strawberries, and a variety of teas. Following the royal greeting presented by Miss Brown, the keynote address was delivered by Dr. Anjelica Hart, Department Chair of Social and Behavioral Sciences at SUSLA, whose remarks centered on confidence, purpose, and empowerment.

During her address, Dr. Hart engaged attendees in an interactive role-play activity, inviting participants to embody the spirit of a queen and affirm their personal strengths. The exercise encouraged reflection, confidence, and release from daily stressors. Dr. Hart concluded with a lasting message to the audience: "Stand in your power, stand in your purpose and never forget who you are. You're not becoming a queen; you already are one."

As the celebration concluded, attendees enjoyed dessert and fellowship, leaving the event inspired and empowered. The Queen's Royal Tea provided a meaningful platform to celebrate women's leadership while fostering community, confidence, and support. The SGA at SUSLA successfully curated an event that reinforced the belief that true leadership is grounded in self-empowerment and grace.

# Crowned in Confidence: SGA Queen's Royal Tea Celebrates Leadership and Empowerment



# Rooted in Purpose, Rich in Service: Honoring Those Who Sustain SUSLA's Mission



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) honored the dedication, impact, and enduring commitment of its faculty and staff during the Employee Years of Service Recognition Program held March 26, 2026, at the Petroleum Club of Shreveport. Guided by the theme “Rooted in Purpose. Rich in Service,” the program recognized 18 employees celebrating milestone service anniversaries of five, ten, and twenty years.

At the center of the celebration were the honorees, individuals whose years of service represent more than longevity. Their collective contributions reflect the consistency, institutional knowledge, and commitment required to sustain SUSLA's mission of access, opportunity, and student success. Through evolving priorities and changing landscapes in higher education, these faculty and staff members have remained steadfast providing the continuity that allows the institution to grow, adapt, and serve.

In her remarks, Chancellor Dr. Aubra J. Gantt emphasized that “the true strength of any institution is built over time, through consistency, through discipline, and through people who show up, day after day, committed to the work.” She affirmed that the honorees exemplify what it means to be both rooted in purpose and rich in service—individuals whose daily efforts create stability for students, reinforce academic standards, and strengthen the University's foundation.

The program also underscored that service at SUSLA extends beyond visible roles. From faculty who support student achievement in the classroom to staff who ensure seamless operations behind the scenes, each honoree contributes to an environment where students can thrive and the institution can fulfill its mission with integrity and purpose.

The ceremony was emceed by Dr. Michael Hicks, Assistant Professor in the Department of Education. Dr. Veloria Nanze, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, delivered welcoming remarks, and Dr. Tilisha Bryant, Director of Compliance, provided an inspiring reflection on purpose-driven service and collective impact. Musical selections by Groove Magnolia, SUSLA's Jazz Ensemble contributed to a celebratory and reflective atmosphere.

Special recognition was extended to Co-Chairs Stephanie Graham and Quiana Skidmore, along with the Years of Service Planning Committee, for their leadership in executing a meaningful and well-coordinated program. The event was sponsored by the Office of Chancellor as part of the Reimagine SUSLA initiative, reinforcing the institution's commitment to alignment under the framework of One Vision. One Purpose. One SUSLA. Every Student.

The Employee Years of Service Recognition Program stands as both a celebration and a reminder: the strength of Southern University at Shreveport is built collectively, through individuals whose commitment, consistency, and service continue to move the institution forward. Rooted in purpose and rich in service, this year's honorees represent the very foundation of SUSLA's continued progress.

# Rooted in Purpose, Rich in Service: Honoring Those Who Sustain SUSLA's Mission



*Rooted in Purpose, Rich in Service*



*Rooted in Purpose, Rich in Service*



*Rooted in Purpose, Rich in Service*



## Chancellor Gantt Serves as Keynote Speaker at the Shreveport Mayor's Women's Commission Luncheon



The Shreveport Mayor's Women's Commission hosted the Cora M. Allen Luncheon at the LSU–Shreveport Ballroom in celebration of Women's History Month. This year's theme, "Women in Education," highlighted the significant contributions of women to the field and served as a platform to inspire and uplift the next generation of female leaders.

The luncheon featured Dr. Aubra J. Gantt as keynote speaker, a distinguished leader in education known for her commitment to fostering inclusive and empowering learning environments. Dr. Gantt centered her remarks on the event's topic: "Celebrating women who know their worth, walk in their power, and lift others as they rise."

She emphasized that this charge is not symbolic but actionable, noting: "Knowing your worth is clarity. Walking in your power is purpose. Lifting as you rise is legacy."

Her remarks underscored the transformative role of education and mentorship in advancing women's leadership. She reflected, "I focus on creating an environment where students do more than enroll; they thrive," reinforcing her commitment to student success and institutional transformation.

Her message reframed achievement not as recognition alone, but as responsibility—calling attention to women who lead with intention, influence, and impact.

The luncheon convened educators, civic leaders, and community advocates in a shared celebration of resilience and advancement. Participants engaged in dialogue centered on barriers, breakthroughs, and strategies to strengthen pathways for women in education.

Through events such as the Cora M. Allen Luncheon, the Shreveport Mayor's Women's Commission continues to advance recognition and actionable support of women's contributions across education and public service. The presence of Dr. Gantt as keynote speaker reinforced the importance of visible female leadership in shaping aspiration and access for future generations.

The gathering highlighted lived examples of leadership, resilience, and institutional impact—demonstrating that women in education are not only participating in systems but transforming them.

As the event concluded, participants left reaffirmed in a shared commitment to collective advancement. Dr. Gantt's closing message, "When women lead with purpose, entire systems move forward," served as both reflection and directive.

Her overarching message—that women must not only succeed individually but intentionally elevate others—echoed throughout the program and aligned directly with the Commission's mission and the broader theme: lifting as we rise.



# Chancellor Gantt Serves as Keynote Speaker at the Shreveport Mayor's Women's Commission Luncheon



# SUSLA SBDC Shines at the 6th Annual 101 Women in Business Conference



The Southern University at Shreveport Small Business Development Center (SUSLA SBDC) recently participated in the 6th Annual 101 Women in Business Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This year, the conference was themed “Built to Last: Leading With Integrity, Positioning for Growth,” and it successfully attracted over 300 entrepreneurs and professionals eager to engage and enhance their business acumen.

Demonstrating its strong commitment to fostering entrepreneurial success, SUSLA SBDC took the lead on the Registration and Hospitality Committee, ensuring a seamless experience for all attendees. The conference commenced with an exciting Pitch Competition, offering business owners a platform to present their ventures to a panel of judges and an audience. Among the participants were LaQuanisha McCoy and Juanita Martinez, both entrepreneurs from Southern University. McCoy actively showcased her products as a vendor while competing in the pitch contest. Although she did not take home the top prize, McCoy described her experience as transformative, emphasizing how it empowered her and offered valuable exposure. Martinez also noted the conference as an exceptional opportunity to gain insights that would benefit her business journey.

Throughout the event, panel discussions tackled a range of important topics, including ethical leadership, the advantages of maintaining a small business, and the critical notion of financial literacy. These discussions served not only to educate but also to inspire attendees to think critically about their business practices and strategies.

Amanda Flynn, Director of SUSLA SBDC, expressed her enthusiasm for the event, highlighting its role as a significant platform for professional growth and empowerment. She also shared her excitement for plans regarding next year’s conference, which will take place in Shreveport.

The 6th Annual 101 Women in Business Conference reaffirmed its position as a vital resource for entrepreneurs, with SUSLA SBDC demonstrating its ongoing commitment to supporting business owners through diverse resources and training opportunities. As the spirit of collaboration and learning flourished at the event, participants left equipped with knowledge and inspiration to drive their businesses forward, embodying the conference’s theme of resilience and growth.



2026 LCCAC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS

# SECOND TEAM

ALL - CONFERENCE



CHELSE  
DAVIS

JAYLA  
MENDENHALL

2026 LCCAC MEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS



CO-PLAYER  
OF THE YEAR

*Tayshawn Gilchrist*

ALL  
CONFERENCE  
1ST TEAM

*Malin Vangate*

*Anissa Thomas*

ALL  
DEFENSIVE  
TEAM

*Josh Stevens*



2025-2026 LCCAC CONFERENCE

# COACH OF THE YEAR

*Rodney Boughton*



SUSLA'S  
**BLUE &  
GOLDEN**  
TIME OF DAY  
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026**

SCAN TO PURCHASE  
TICKETS



11:30 A.M. | Live Casino  
Food, Fun, and Entertainment  
711 Live Casino Boulevard  
Bossier City, LA 71111

**Dressy Casual: Blue and Metallic Gold**

*LIVE PERFORMANCE BY*  
National Recording Artists



Carl Thomas



Q Parker

Founding Member of 112



Jubu Smith

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**20**  
REIMAGINE  
**SUSLA**

**ALUMNI**



**GIVE TODAY**



**APPLY NOW**

