



Dr. Aubra J. Gantt
CHANCELLOR

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT

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June 11, 2025

Dennis J. Shields, President
Southern University System
4th Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building

Re: July 2025 Board Package Submission

Dear President Shields,

The following item is being submitted by Southern University (SUSLA) for inclusion in the **July, 2025 BOARD PACKAGE**:

1. Chancellor's Report

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aubra J. Gantt", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt
Chancellor

Attachment



SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY
at Shreveport

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



May-June 2025

SUSLA Priorities



Priority 1

INCREASING ENROLLMENT:

A vibrant and diverse student body is the heart of any successful institution.



Priority 2

ADOPTING A STUDENT-CENTRIC APPROACH:

By putting students' needs, aspirations, and success first, we can provide them with a holistic and impactful educational journey.



Priority 3

ATTRACT QUALIFIED EDUCATORS & PROFESSIONALS AND RETAIN TALENTED EMPLOYEES:

A strong academic community begins with outstanding educators and professionals.



Priority 4

PROMOTING A CULTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS:

By fostering a culture of continuous improvement, we can enhance our processes and ensure that we are delivering on our promise of excellence.



Priority 5

ENHANCING CUSTOMER SERVICE AND STEWARDSHIP OF PLACE:

Providing exceptional service to our students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders is paramount as well as an understanding that what is good for the community is good for SUSLA.



Priority 6

CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FACULTY AND STAFF:

Collaboration and communication between our faculty and staff are essential for a cohesive and productive academic environment.



Priority 7

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES:

Providing state-of-the-art facilities is crucial to creating an optimal learning environment.



CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible activities that showcased our university's commitment to excellence and service.

We began with HBCU Day at the Capitol, where our team highlighted SUSLA's impact on education and workforce development, proudly representing our innovative programs. I believe this event reinforced the vital role HBCUs play in shaping opportunities and lifting communities.

Operation Kindness kicked off with "Pizza with the Chancellor," truly inspiring me to see our students, faculty, and staff come together to promote kindness and service across our campus and beyond. It's a simple yet powerful reminder: kindness costs nothing but can transform lives.

Our celebration of community and perseverance was embodied in our "Paint Your Heart" neighborhood project. Seeing faculty, staff, and students come together, rolling up their sleeves to beautify a home in the MLK neighborhood, reaffirms my belief that when we unite, we create positive change that lasts.

Our Spring 2025 Commencement we celebrated the largest class in over fifteen years, with 447 graduates embarking on new journeys. Watching our students, especially dual enrollment scholars balancing demands with resilience, fill me with hope for the bright futures they are stepping into.

I was also proud to here of the announcement of Dr. Kenie Moses being selected for the prestigious 2025-2026 ATE Future Leaders Fellows program. His leadership and dedication motivates and inspires his colleagues. I am confident he will help elevate STEM education at SUSLA and across the nation.

Finally, as we launch our "ARE YOU IN?" campaign, I would like to sincerely thank all of our donors for their generous support thus far. Your contributions are truly appreciated and play a vital role in helping us achieve our mission. I am encouraged by the collective spirit that unites us all in building a brighter future.

May has proven that together, in faith, service, and collaboration, SUSLA's potential is limitless. I am more motivated than ever to see our university continue to thrive and uplift our community.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt
Chancellor

OPERATION KINDNESS KICK-OFF

PIZZA WITH THE CHANCELLOR SPARKS SPIRIT OF GIVING!

Students, faculty, and staff came together for a heartwarming event Pizza with the Chancellor celebrating the launch of Operation Kindness at SUSLA. Led by our very own Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor, and Mrs. Nell Shehee, founder of Operation Kindness, the event was filled with energy, inspiration, and a shared commitment to making a difference.

During the gathering, Dr. Gantt revealed exciting plans to support our community with feeding local schools, cleaning neighborhoods, reading to kids, and spreading kindness across our campus and beyond. Her passion and dedication energized everyone in attendance!

Attendees enjoyed delicious pizza, laughter, and meaningful conversations before heading back to classes and work. It's a simple reminder that kindness costs nothing but can make an enormous impact.

Mrs. Shehee reminded us all, "It costs nothing to be kind," and urged everyone to keep that spirit alive every day. Together, we can build a more compassionate community, one act of kindness at a time.

Let's continue to share kindness, support each other, and make SUSLA a place where compassion thrives!



HBCU DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, and representatives from Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) joined leaders from across Louisiana for HBCU Day at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, a celebration of the vital role Historically Black Colleges and Universities play in shaping the state's educational landscape and workforce development. The event brought together policymakers, educators, and students to highlight the unique contributions of Louisiana's HBCUs. Dr. Gantt represented the university alongside Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed, Dr. Monique Guillory, President of Dillard University; Dr. Martin Lemelle Jr., President of Grambling State University; and Rick Gallot, President of the University of Louisiana System. Together, they showcased the institution's contributions to the state's educational ecosystem. The gathering also provided an opportunity to emphasize the value of HBCUs in fostering opportunity and innovation.

SUSLA's Aerospace Technology Center was prominently featured at the event with an interactive booth displaying its aviation training programs and industry partnerships. The exhibit demonstrated how SUSLA prepares students for high-demand careers while meeting regional workforce needs. The Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport (SUMAS) also participated, showcasing the cultural and artistic contributions of the university. A special shout-out to SUSLA for winning the friendly table decorating competition! It was a hit with Lt. Billy Nungesser, showcasing our creativity and spirit! The table decorations were done by SUMAS staff Priscilla Metoyer and Eric Francis, with help from the Chancellor's E.L.I.T.E.S., William Center Scholars, and Aerospace students.

The day served as a powerful reminder of the collective impact of Louisiana's HBCUs.



Are You In?

MAY 29TH - AUGUST 28TH

Cheryl Taylor, Chief Advancement Officer, and Tralicia Allen, Director of Marketing and University Relations, made a special appearance on Loving Living Local, a local news show in Shreveport, to officially kick off SUSLA's Are you In campaign!

This exciting fundraiser runs until August 28th, and SUSLA is calling on the community to help us raise funds for the university. **ARE YOU IN?** To join this incredible movement that will help pave the way for a brighter future for our students, faculty and staff.

Together, we can make a real difference. Every donation brings us closer to our goal and supports programs, facilities, and opportunities that elevate SUSLA and serve our community.



<https://www.givecampus.com/schools/SouthernUniversity/su-give-day-2025/pages/southern-university-at-shreveport>

SUSLA Chancellor's ELITES Painting Smiles & Making a Difference!

The SUSLA Chancellor's ELITES stepped out into the MLK neighborhood to participate in the "Paint Your Heart" event! Together, they not only beautified a home but spread love, positivity, and community spirit through the power of art.

Our incredible leader Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of SUSLA, along with committed faculty and staff members came out to lend a hand and show that teamwork truly makes the dream work!

With brushes in hand and hearts full of passion, we rolled up our sleeves to make a lasting impact. It's more than just painting walls; it's about creating a brighter, more connected community, one brushstroke at a time.

The Chancellor's ELITES team finished strong! "Paint Your Heart 2025" was a huge success because of a lot of dedication, collaboration, and unwavering spirit. Together, we proved once again that when we work together, amazing things happen.



FUTURE EDUCATORS SIGNING DAY

On May 2, 2025, excitement filled the air as Dr. Anjelica Hart, Interim Dean of AHSSE, and the enthusiastic Ms. Yvette Allen, a Student Success Coach and Adjunct Education Instructor, proudly represented Southern University Shreveport Louisiana (SUSLA) at the highly anticipated Future Educators Signing Day! This inspiring event took place at the Caddo Teaching Academy, nestled in the vibrant Wanda Gunn Professional Development Auditorium.

Amidst cheers and applause, Caddo Parish's own rising stars, John Dent, Jr. and Halani Summage, took center stage as they made a heartfelt commitment to the Elementary Education programs at Southern University Baton Rouge (SUBR) and SUSLA, dedicated to teaching grades 1-5. With smiles beaming, Dr. Hart and Ms. Allen warmly welcomed the students into a world of opportunities, where they each signed their commitment letters, a moment that marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in their educational journeys!

As the students received trendy SUSLA swag, the atmosphere was electric with the promise of their bright futures ahead! With the Fall 2025 semester just around the corner, John and Halani stand ready to embark on their transformative adventure in education, armed with knowledge, passion, and an unwavering commitment to inspire the next generation!



DR. MOSES SELECTED FOR ATE FUTURE LEADERS FELLOWS PROGRAM

Southern University at Shreveport's very own Dr. Kenie Moses, Department Head of Engineering & Technology, has been selected to participate in the 2025-2026 cohort of the prestigious ATE Future Leaders Fellows program. This announcement was made by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), with funding provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF) through its Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program.

The ATE Future Leaders Fellows program is designed to support two-year college professionals who are seeking to enhance their leadership skills and contribute to a national effort focused on STEM technician education and capacity building.

Participants in the program will have the opportunity to engage in the AACC's John E. Roueche Future Leaders Institute (FLI) or Future Presidents Institute (FPI). These forums aim to cultivate future leaders by fostering skills in leadership, innovation, and community engagement. Fellows also serve as ambassadors to raise awareness about the landscape of STEM technician education, as well as the opportunities and resources available through the NSF ATE program.

The initiative's overarching goal is to develop community college leaders equipped with the competencies necessary to support industry partnerships, bolster STEM capacity, and foster an innovative campus culture, all essential for preparing students for the evolving workforce.

Dr. Moses' selection underscores his leadership and commitment to advancing STEM education at Southern University at Shreveport and beyond.



2025 ATE Future Leaders Fellows



ARON KAMAJAYA
Program Director,
Biotechnology
Los Angeles Pierce
College, CA



ELLIE C. KOSS
Assistant Director,
Grants Office
Columbus State
Community College, OH



MASON LEFLER
Associate Vice President
for Educational
Innovation
Bridgerland Technical
College, UT



KENIE MOSES
Department Head
of Engineering
& Technology
Southern University
at Shreveport, LA



TONY WOHLERS
Vice President and Dean
of Academic Affairs
SUNY Corning
Community College, NY



The Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement Brunch Celebrates Leadership and Character!

Bright and early, our campus was alive with excitement as we gathered to honor our brightest scholars during the prestigious Mike Jones Leadership Award Brunch, sponsored proudly by the Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement.

The atmosphere was electric as we welcomed our keynote speaker, Mr. Christopher B. Hebert, Chairman of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board. His powerful insights on the importance of making good decisions and the vital role that strong values play in shaping our lives left everyone inspired and motivated to lead with integrity.

The highlight of the morning was the proud moment when Jaden Hamilton, registered nurse, was named the recipient of the Mike Jones Leadership Award. Jaden embodies exceptional character, relentless hard work, and unwavering dedication, true qualities of a future leader. Jaden's accomplishments inspire us all!

We are grateful to Ted Scott, Director of the Williams Center for Undergraduate Student Achievement, for all of his hard work in organizing this great award ceremony and for the countless hours he puts into the organization. Mr. Scott's dedication to uplifting our students is truly commendable.

We also want to express our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of SUSLA, along with faculty, staff, and families who came out in full support of our scholars. Your presence and encouragement mean the world and reinforce our collective commitment to student success.

Special gratitude to Tony and Tina Williams for their unwavering dedication to giving back to the community that raised them. Mr. and Mrs. Williams' generosity continues help grow and uplift the SUSLA family.

We were also honored to have the Williams family and Lt. Colonel Mike Jones' family in attendance, standing beside us as symbols of leadership and service. Together, we are shaping the leaders of tomorrow, leaders who will carry forward the legacy of integrity, service, and excellence.





CARE SOUTH PRESENTATION

The Southern University at Shreveport Division of Allied Health Sciences and Nursing proudly celebrated our ongoing commitment to educational excellence and our valuable ongoing partnerships with healthcare organizations. Established by Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt last year, this partnership exemplifies SUSLA's dedication to fostering collaborations that benefit our students and community. We extend a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Matthew Valliere, CEO of CareSouth, for generously providing financial support to ten deserving students!

This incredible opportunity has offered vital financial assistance to students enrolled in the clinical portions of their programs, allowing them to focus on their education and professional development. Each of the ten SUSLA students received a \$1,250 scholarship, awarded through a competitive application process that highlighted their overall GPA, and good academic standing. This year's talented recipients represent a wide range of programs, including Dental Hygiene, Health Information Technology, Medical Laboratory Technician, Nursing, Polysomnography, Respiratory Therapy, Radiologic Technology, and Surgical Technology.

During the ceremony, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of SUSLA, thanked Mr. Valliere for his generosity and willingness to invest in our students in the healthcare field. Dr. Gantt also warmly welcomed students, faculty, and staff, emphasizing the importance of our mission and the bright futures of these scholars.

We sincerely appreciate the ongoing support from CareSouth and look forward to seeing all our scholarship recipients thrive in their respective fields!



TRIO UPWARD BOUND NORTH ACADEMIC COMPONENT 2025 SENIOR WALK/SIGNING DAY

TRiO Upward Bound North 3rd Annual College Signing Day/Senior Walk took place Saturday, May 10, 2025, at Southern University Shreveport. The theme was Improving Test Scores Through TRiO College Readiness. The Keynote speaker was District 3 Caddo Parish School Board Member Dr. Terence Vinson. He delivered an inspiring and motivational speech to UB North participants. Upward Bound North had eighteen graduating seniors. These students worked hard throughout the academic component to complete their high school diploma. We are proud to announce that all Upward Bound North graduating seniors are ready for post-secondary education fall semester of 2025. UB North seniors will begin their college experience here at SUSLA with TRiO Upward Bound Summer Bridge Scholarship. Students will have the opportunity to earn six college credit hours during summer school. Upward Bound North, had one Booker T. Washington High School graduating senior earn their Associate Degree through SUSLA Early College program. Four UB North seniors have committed to SUSLA Jaguar Nation fall 2025. TRiO Upward Bound North staff wish all graduating senior participants the very best in their future endeavors as they transition to post-secondary education.



TRiO



SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY
at Shreveport

Spring Commencement 2025

In a truly historic and jubilant celebration of education, perseverance, and bright futures, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) hosted its Spring 2025 Commencement. This milestone event marked the largest graduating class in over ten years. The ceremony was held at the Shreveport Convention Center amidst a festive atmosphere, filled with pride, hope, and bright futures.

A host of esteemed guests and community leaders joined the festivities, including President Dennis J. Shields of the Southern University System; Dana Bailey, a member of the SU Board of Supervisors; Sheriff Henry Whitehorn, SU System Board of Supervisors Member; former SU System Board of Supervisors member Dottie Bell; Dr. R. Timothy Jones, Pastor of Peaceful Rest Baptist Church; Mr. Roy Giggs, entrepreneur and CEO of Griggs Enterprise, Inc., and McDonald's; Caddo Parish School representatives; Ms. Mary Trammell; Mr. Grady Smith; Ms. Crystal Washington; Mr. Nicholas Smith; Ms. Crystal Barnes; Mr. Sam Harris; along with numerous other community leaders and supporters dedicated to higher education and community development.

The highlight of the event was an inspiring keynote speech by Bishop Joseph Warren Walker III, renowned leader of the historic Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee, and the International Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship. Bishop Walker's powerful words resonated deeply with graduates, faculty, staff, and attendees, encouraging them to continue striving for greatness in their personal and professional lives.

This year's graduation was truly unforgettable as it was the largest class in over a decade, with a total of 447 students earning their degrees and certificates.



Among graduates, 369 are traditional students who dedicated years of hard work to reach this milestone. Additionally, 78 outstanding dual enrollment scholars successfully balanced high school and college coursework, exemplifying resilience, commitment, and academic excellence.

The event showcased the unwavering dedication of SUSLA to providing accessible, high-quality education and supporting student achievement. As these graduates step into new opportunities, SUSLA remains committed to fostering a vibrant learning environment and elevating community success. Congratulations to the Class of 2025, your journeys are just beginning, and the future is bright!





5TH ANNUAL KOKA TOGETHERNESS PRAYER

The 5th Annual KOKA Togetherness Prayer Breakfast was filled with purpose and unity, as community leaders and officials gathered to celebrate resilience, hope, and community bonds. The event is part of KOKA'S 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration, saw a huge turnout of mayors, law enforcement officers including Sheriff Henry Whitehorn, SU System Board of Supervisors Member, firefighters, elected officials, and representatives from surrounding areas. Sheriff Henry Whitehorn, SU System Board of Supervisors Member was one of many recognized as a key member of Shreveport and Bossier City community and he was prayed over during the event.

SUSLA was honored to serve as a sponsor of this impactful community program. Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, delivered greetings during the event, highlighting the importance of collaboration and faith in strengthening our community. Several members of the SUSLA team were also present to show their support for both the Chancellor and KOKA.

Participants engaged in prayer, reflection, and renewed their commitment to service and resilience, underscoring the city's collective dedication to building a stronger community.



*We Are One Strengthening Ties &
Creating Memories*

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION BBQ



In a spirited celebration to honor the hardworking faculty and staff of SUSLA, kicked off National Barbecue Day with a mouthwatering BBQ extravaganza hosted by the Chancellor's Office. The event was held outdoors, where everyone gathered to relax, connect, and enjoy some amazing food and fun.

The team eagerly indulged in classic burgers, hot dogs, downhome sausage, fresh crawfish, and a variety of beverages that was generously sponsored by Coca-Cola. Laughter and good cheer filled the air as colleagues danced to lively tunes, played engaging games, and exciting door prizes.

Dr. Gantt expressed her heartfelt appreciation, telling everyone, "Thank you for all that you do for SUSLA and it doesn't go unnoticed, we grill and chill in your honor!" It was a perfect day to celebrate the dedication, passion, and spirit of the SUSLA family.

This fun filled day not only satisfied appetites but also fortified bonds of the faculty and staff. With smiles all around, SUSLA truly showed how it celebrates its greatest asset.



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APPLY NOW

