

# Chancellor's Report

May 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 move into May, I am excited to reflect on our recent achievements and the progress we continue to make as a leading institution dedicated to student success and community engagement.

This month, we had the honor of hosting the SU System Board of Supervisors' board meeting in Shreveport. This gathering provided a valuable opportunity for us to showcase our initiatives, discuss forward-thinking strategies, and strengthen our commitment to excellence in education across the Southern University System.

I am also pleased to announce that our Blue and Golden Time of Day Scholarship fundraiser/friendraiser was a resounding success. This event not only raised vital funds for our scholarship programs, but it also fostered connections among faculty, staff, elected officials, and community members, reinforcing our shared commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for all.

Additionally, we celebrated the accomplishments of our students during the Honors and Awards Convocation. This event showcased the brilliance and resilience of our students, acknowledging their hard work and dedication. A special highlight was the selection of Marlisha Black as the first student intern of the Roy Griggs School of Business. We are immensely proud of her achievement and excited about the valuable experiences she will gain through this internship.

Furthermore, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) for their generous donation of computers to support our educational initiatives. This contribution will greatly enhance our students' learning experiences and equip them with the essential tools needed for their academic journeys.

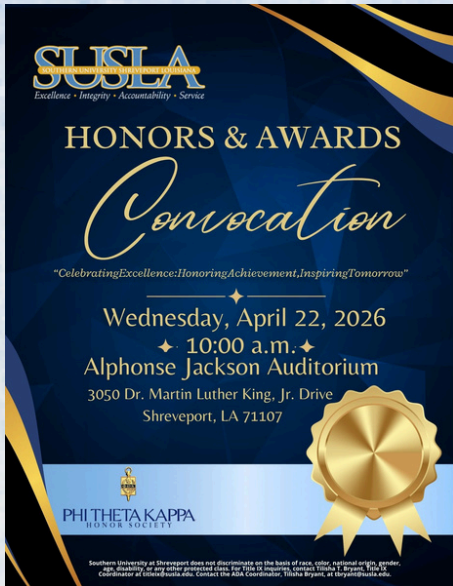
As we continue to advance our mission at SUSLA, let us remain focused on building meaningful partnerships and creating innovative opportunities for our students. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our institution. Together, we are paving the way to Reimagine SUSLA.

Warm regards,

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

**Dr. Aubra J. Gantt**  
Chancellor

# Honors and Awards Convocation: A Celebration of Student Excellence



Southern University at Shreveport recently hosted its annual Honors and Awards Convocation, a prestigious event dedicated to honoring the brilliance, resilience, and academic excellence of its students. The ceremony served as a celebration of achievement, bringing together students, faculty, staff, family, and friends in a powerful display of support for the honorees.

Throughout the event, attendees applauded the dedication and hard work of students who have excelled in their studies and contributed to the university community. The convocation not only highlighted individual success but also fostered a sense of pride among the Southern University family.

A particularly noteworthy moment of the evening was the induction of outstanding students into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, an international organization that recognizes scholarly achievement, leadership, and service among community college students. This prestigious recognition underscores the commitment of these exceptional individuals to academic excellence and their potential as future leaders.

Special recognition was given to Dean Jo Ann Brown and her team for their tireless efforts in organizing such a memorable and impactful ceremony. Their dedication ensured a seamless event that truly celebrated the accomplishments of Southern University at Shreveport students.

As the university continues to nurture and support its students, the Honors and Awards Convocation stands as a testament to the vibrant academic community that thrives at Southern University at Shreveport. Together, we celebrate the achievements of our students and look forward to their continued success in their academic and professional endeavors.



# Honors and Awards Convocation: A Celebration of Student Excellence



## Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt Attends Volunteers of America's Cherish the Children of God Breakfast

Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt, Ed.D recently participated in the Cherish the Children of God Breakfast, an inspiring event hosted by Volunteers of America North Louisiana. The breakfast provided a platform for community leaders to gather and discuss the critical importance of supporting children and building lasting partnerships within the community.

“It was an honor to share the occasion with distinguished guests, including Federal Judge Carl E. Stewart of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and The Honorable Jerry Edwards Jr., United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana,” remarked Dr. Gantt. Their presence underscored the significance of collaboration among various sectors in addressing the needs of youth.

During the event, attendees engaged in meaningful conversations about initiatives aimed at uplifting and empowering the next generation. The collective commitment to fostering a supportive environment for children emphasizes the role that community partnerships play in shaping brighter futures.

As Chancellor Gantt emphasized, it is essential for individuals and organizations alike to continue championing initiatives that prioritize the well-being of youth. The Cherish the Children of God Breakfast served not just as a gathering, but as a call to action for all attendees to invest in the lives of children and promote programs that enhance their development and success.

Moving forward, Southern University at Shreveport remains dedicated to collaborating with organizations like Volunteers of America North Louisiana, as well as other stakeholders, to ensure that our children receive the support and resources they need to thrive. Through collective efforts and shared vision, we can make a lasting impact on our community and the lives of future generations.



## **SUSLA's Marlisha Black Selected as the First Student Intern of the Roy Griggs School of Business**

Marlisha Black, a distinguished student at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA), has been proudly named the inaugural student intern for the Roy Griggs School of Business. This momentous selection highlights the School's ongoing commitment to fostering career development and providing students with unique opportunities to gain practical experience in their fields of study.

Ms. Black will begin her internship at Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana, where she will engage in various professional activities that will enhance her academic knowledge and skill set. This partnership not only benefits Ms. Black but also exemplifies the Roy Griggs School of Business's dedication to community engagement and the preparation of students for successful careers.

The establishment of this internship program underlines the School's mission to equip students with real-world experience that complements their educational journey. By facilitating such opportunities, the Roy Griggs School of Business aims to create pathways for students to explore their career interests and develop essential skills necessary for success in today's competitive job market.

As the Roy Griggs School of Business continues to expand its initiatives, the selection of Marlisha Black as the first student intern is a significant step forward. The School looks forward to supporting her as she embarks on this exciting professional journey and anticipates celebrating her achievements along the way.

Congratulations to Marlisha Black on this notable accomplishment! The future is bright for this talented student as she takes her first steps into the professional world.



## Student Government Association at Southern University at Shreveport Honors Lives Lost to Tragedy

The Student Government Association (SGA) at Southern University at Shreveport united in remembrance and reverence to honor the eight young children whose lives were tragically taken on Sunday, April 19, in a Shreveport neighborhood. This somber gathering served as an opportunity for the campus community to come together in solidarity and support.

In a heartfelt ceremony, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor joined students, faculty, and staff in a moment of silence to reflect on the devastating loss experienced by the families affected. Dr. Gantt offered words of comfort, strength, and encouragement, emphasizing the importance of community in times of grief and the need for compassion and support for one another.

As a meaningful tribute, SGA members placed eight pinwheels in front of the SUSLA monument sign, with each pinwheel representing a precious life taken far too soon. This poignant gesture is a reminder not only of the lives lost but also of the collective responsibility we all share to foster environments free from violence and harm.

This initiative reflects SUSLA's unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive and compassionate community that prioritizes the safety, well-being, and support of all individuals. The SGA's actions demonstrate the university's dedication to raising awareness about the impact of violence and advocating for the protection of those most vulnerable.

As we honor the memory of these young children, let us also reaffirm our commitment to creating a nurturing and safe environment for everyone in our community. Together, we can strive to ensure that such tragedies are addressed and that every individual is valued and protected.



## Above and Beyond Award Recipient: Ms. Tracey Grayson



Southern University at Shreveport is proud to announce that Ms. Tracy Grayson, Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, has been honored as the Above and Beyond award recipient for April. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who consistently exceed expectations in their dedication to students and the university community. We are fortunate to experience the warmth, commitment, and unwavering advocacy that Ms. Grayson embodies. Known for her knowledgeable and capable approach, Ms. Grayson continually demonstrates a profound dedication to maintaining high standards and fostering an inclusive environment that promotes student success.

Reflecting on her role and commitment to students, Ms. Grayson stated, “Going above and beyond isn’t a title—it’s a mindset. I serve wherever I’m needed, because our students deserve nothing less.” This philosophy is evident in her daily interactions, as she provides guidance and support to students throughout their academic journeys. Her ability to connect with students on a personal level has made a significant impact in creating a supportive atmosphere where students feel valued and empowered to excel.

Congratulations to Ms. Tracy Grayson on this well-deserved honor! We celebrate your exceptional contributions to our university and thank you for your continued commitment to excellence in serving our students and the Southern University community. Your efforts truly make a difference in the lives of our students and exemplify the core values of our institution.

## From Classroom to Career: SUSLA Respiratory Therapy Students Engage in System-Level Leadership at April 2026 Board Meeting



At Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA), intentionality guides the design and delivery of every academic program. The institution remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that programs are not only accessible, but also aligned with real economic opportunity. This approach is grounded in a clear principle: what students learn in the classroom must translate directly into the skills and competencies required for immediate and competitive success in the workforce.

A strong example of this commitment is SUSLA’s Respiratory Therapy program, which continues to prepare students for high-demand careers in healthcare. During the April 2026 meeting of the Southern University System Board of Supervisors, eight Respiratory

Therapy students, accompanied by their program director, Contika Shyne, were present to observe the institutional governance process firsthand. Their attendance offered a meaningful opportunity to witness leadership in action, gain insight into system-level decision-making, and better understand the investments that support their educational journey.

Their presence was both purposeful and symbolic. At SUSLA, students are encouraged not only to benefit from the institution, but also to engage with it—to see themselves as active participants in a broader system dedicated to their success. By fostering this level of awareness and inclusion, SUSLA reinforces its commitment to student-centered excellence and workforce-aligned outcomes.

## Jazz in the Spotlight

# SUSLA Hosts Inspiring Tiny Desk Concert and Master Class Experience

The Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) campus came alive as students, faculty, and staff gathered for a special Tiny Desk Concert hosted by Groove Magnolia in collaboration with the SUSLA Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Mr. Jibri Houston. The event also featured guest artist Sarah Gardner, whose exceptional talent added depth and distinction to the performance. In addition to the concert, students were afforded the opportunity to engage in a dynamic master class led by Gardner, providing a more intimate and instructional experience. During the session, students gained valuable insight into musical technique, performance, and artistry—further enhancing their educational and creative development.

The atmosphere throughout the event was electric, filled with energy, artistry, and passion, as performers delivered captivating jazz renditions that resonated throughout the venue. Each piece contributed to a vibrant musical experience that not only entertained but also fostered connection and community among attendees.

This event reflects SUSLA's ongoing commitment to providing meaningful cultural and artistic experiences for both the campus and the broader community. By showcasing the extraordinary talents of its students and faculty while also offering hands-on learning opportunities, the concert and master class served as both a celebration of jazz and a demonstration of the University's role in enriching the cultural fabric of the region.

This dynamic experience was made possible through the University's Title III-sponsored microgrant "Music Enhancement Program," which continues to expand access to high-impact, co-curricular learning opportunities that enrich student development and engagement in the arts.

Through initiatives like this, SUSLA continues to cultivate an environment where creativity thrives, one that uplifts, inspires, and strengthens the spirit of the University community.



# General Dynamics Information Technology Supports SUSLA Through Technology Donation



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) extends its sincere appreciation to General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) for its generous donation of 15 laptops and monitors, a contribution that enhances access to critical technology and supports student success and workforce readiness.

In a recent meeting, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor, joined Jay Johnson, Vice President of GDIT, and Denzel Thompson, Field Service Technician, to discuss opportunities to further strengthen the partnership. Conversations focused on expanding collaboration, securing additional resources, and identifying innovative approaches to enhance academic programs and student support services.

GDIT's support underscores the importance of corporate engagement in higher education and highlights the impact of collaboration between academic institutions and the business community. Such partnerships play a vital role in expanding opportunity, strengthening learning environments, and preparing students for career success. SUSLA remains committed to cultivating partnerships that drive innovation, expand resources, and support long-term growth for both its students and the region.

## Empowering Entrepreneurship at Southern University at Shreveport: Level Up Event

The Small Business Center and the Roy Griggs School of Business at Southern University at Shreveport proudly hosted "Level Up: CEO Talks and Student Showcase," a compelling celebration of innovation, ambition, and the entrepreneurial spirit. This event provided an inspiring platform for SUSLA student entrepreneurs to showcase their businesses and products to an engaged audience of fellow students, faculty, and staff.

Throughout the showcase, student entrepreneurs took center stage, displaying their creativity and drive. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our distinguished panel of speakers: Ryan Williams, CEO of Seedlinks Behavior Management, LLC; Myron K. Lawson Sr., Owner of Myron K. Lawson State Farm Agency and Lawson Realty, LLC; Attorney Quincy Cawthorne, Esq., of Doran & Cawthorne, P.L.L.C.; Dr. Velma Kirksey-Tarver, President of The Institute for Global Outreach and CEO of Quality Office Supplies; and Herb Meadows, CEO of Genesis Academy and Meadowlyn Events. Their willingness to share wisdom and expertise significantly contributes to shaping the next generation of trailblazers.

This event exemplifies Southern University at Shreveport's commitment to nurturing entrepreneurship and supporting students on their professional journeys. By fostering connections between emerging entrepreneurs and established industry leaders, SUSLA empowers its students to pursue their dreams and make meaningful contributions to the business landscape.



# SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM'S APRIL BOARD MEETING



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

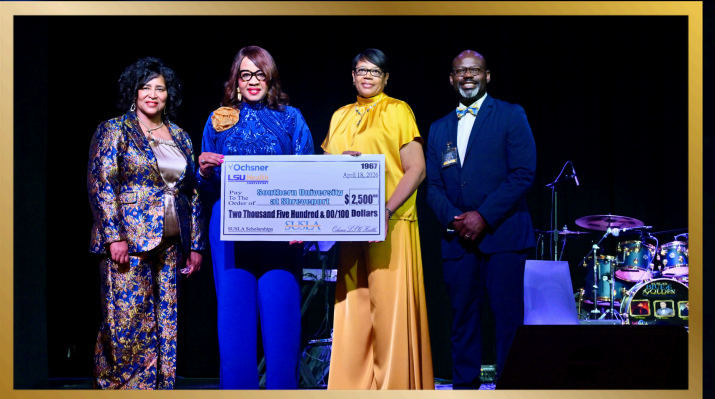
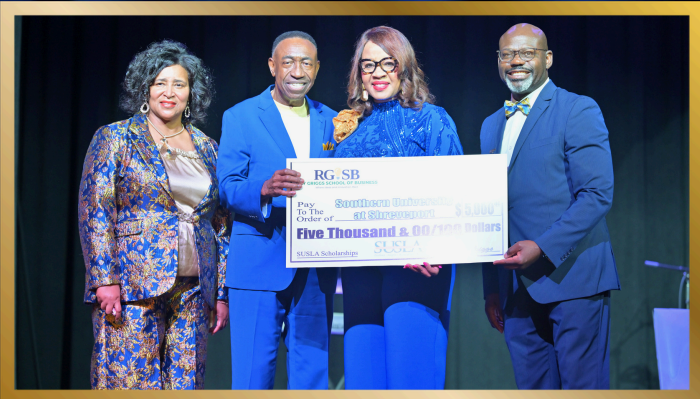
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026



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

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026





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**20**  
REIMAGINE  
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**GIVE TODAY**



**APPLY NOW**

