

# Chancellor's Report

March 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,

I am delighted to reflect on a remarkably productive month, defined by significant engagements and strategic advancements across our campus.

We were honored to host Congressman Cleo Fields for his impactful “Congress to the Classroom” initiative, providing students invaluable insights into government and civic engagement. Our campus also welcomed Dr. Orlando McMeans, Interim President of the Southern University System, and Dr. Marlin Ford for an insightful visit that reinforced strategic partnerships and discussed forward-looking initiatives, including our 2+2 nursing program.

The vibrant Black History Month celebrations culminated in our transformative Annual Black History Convocation, featuring Chairwoman Tabatha Taylor as keynote speaker and an inspiring performance by the Woodlawn Leadership Academy choir.

In a key initiative for campus well-being, SUSLA formalized its partnership with David Raines Community Health Centers, bringing essential medical and behavioral health services to all students, faculty, and staff via the "Wellness on Wheels" Mobile Health Unit every last Thursday of the month.

Our academic programs continue to thrive, with the Roy Griggs School of Business Speaker Series hosting an illuminating session with Mr. John Atkins. Furthermore, SUSLA's excellence was recognized with the Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport (SUMAS) receiving a prestigious Institute of Museum and Library Services grant. The Workforce Development division also secured a significant \$500,000 EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant.

These collective achievements underscore SUSLA's unwavering commitment to academic distinction, student welfare, and community impact. Together, we continue to build a legacy of excellence and 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



## SUMAS Awarded \$99,768 IMLS Grant for Collection Preservation

The Southern University Museum of Art (SUMAS) at Southern University at Shreveport has been awarded a \$99,768 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), strengthening the museum's ability to preserve and protect its culturally significant collections. The award is part of a national initiative that distributed more than \$1.7 million in funding to Historically Black Colleges and Universities to support museums, archives, and cultural preservation efforts.

SUSLA's award also received national recognition in a news article highlighting the institutions selected for the competitive funding. The article noted that "the Southern University Museum of Art (SUMAS) will improve the care and preservation of the art, artifacts, and other significant works that are part of the collection located in a site of historical importance on the Southern University Shreveport campus."

The grant will support critical infrastructure upgrades that strengthen environmental conditions for the museum's collections. Planned improvements include enhanced environmental monitoring systems to track temperature and humidity, upgrades to cold storage equipment used to preserve sensitive works, and improved collection management practices to ensure long-term stewardship of the museum's holdings.

Beyond preservation, the project expands opportunities for students and the community to engage with the museum's collections while increasing national visibility for SUSLA's arts and heritage programming. The recognition of SUMAS in national media underscores the growing impact of the museum and reflects SUSLA's continued commitment to preserving cultural heritage while strengthening educational resources for future generations.

## SUSLA Secures \$500,000 EPA Brownsfields Job Training Grant

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) Workforce Development program has been awarded a significant \$500,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Brownfields Job Training (JT) initiative. This crucial funding will empower individuals in communities affected by environmental degradation, providing them with essential training and employment opportunities.

The EPA Brownfields Job Training Program enables SUSLA to equip local residents with the skills needed for careers in environmental assessment, cleanup, and remediation. The comprehensive curriculum will cover safety protocols, environmental regulations, and hands-on technical skills, addressing the challenges posed by contaminated sites. Key to this initiative are targeted training, strong community engagement, strategic partnerships with local businesses and agencies, and a focus on sustainable practices and green job creation.

This substantial investment not only strengthens the local economy but also reaffirms SUSLA's commitment to fostering community resilience and environmental stewardship. By providing vital job training, the university will enhance career prospects for individuals and contribute positively to a cleaner, brighter future for the region.

# Interim President Dr. Orlando McMeans Visits SUSLA for Strategic Engagement

Southern University at Shreveport welcomed Dr. Orlando McMeans, Interim President of the Southern University System, and Dr. Marlin Ford, Research Assistant Professor / Urban Agricultural Specialist, ANR of the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center, for a strategic campus visit focused on academic alignment, enrollment, growth and system wide collaboration.

The Student Government Association discussed student priorities and concerns. Dr. McMeans also met with Chancellor Gantt and the Executive Leadership Team to discuss institutional progress, system-level priorities, and explore collaborative initiatives, particularly strategies to expand and strengthen Associate-to-Bachelor's 2+2 transfer pathways across Southern University System campuses.

The visit concluded with a comprehensive tour of SUSLA's dynamic learning environments and state-of-the-art facilities, highlighting the ongoing growth and innovation under Chancellor Gantt's leadership.

SUSLA remains steadfast in its commitment to excellence in higher education and workforce development. We extend our gratitude to Dr. McMeans for his visit and for his support of SUSLA's bold, visionary initiatives.



# Interim President Dr. Orlando McMeans Visits SUSLA for Strategic Engagement



# SUSLA Launches On-Campus Health Partnership with David Raines Community Health Centers

Southern University at Shreveport has launched a new partnership with David Raines Community Health Centers to expand access to medical and behavioral health services, placing student wellness at the forefront while ensuring services are available to faculty, staff, and students. The “Wellness on Wheels” Mobile Health Unit made its inaugural campus visit at Jaguar Courtyard Housing, establishing a convenient and student-centered point of access for care. The mobile unit will now serve the campus on a recurring monthly schedule, providing primary care, preventive screenings, consultations, and behavioral health support.

By bringing healthcare directly to campus, SUSLA is removing barriers that often prevent students from seeking timely care. This initiative supports student success by:

- Increasing access to essential health services
- Addressing wellness factors that influence retention and academic performance
- Promoting a culture of proactive and preventive health engagement

While student access remains the primary focus, the availability of services to faculty and staff strengthens the overall campus environment and reinforces SUSLA’s commitment to holistic community well-being.

This partnership reflects SUSLA’s continued investment in student-centered infrastructure and its dedication to building a supportive, healthy campus community aligned with long-term academic success.



# SUSLA Hosts 300+ Prospective Students for Immersive Campus Experience

Southern University at Shreveport welcomed more than 300 students from Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.'s Xinos and Kudos for an immersive campus experience designed to introduce prospective students to the University's academic programs, student life, and career-focused learning opportunities. The visit served as an important engagement opportunity to strengthen recruitment pathways and increase early exposure to higher education opportunities available at SUSLA.

Throughout the day, participants toured several academic areas, including the Dental Hygiene clinic, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training facilities, and Engineering Technology labs, where they observed hands-on learning environments that prepare students for in-demand careers. The visiting students were guided through the campus by a collaborative SUSLA team that included members of the Student Government Association (SGA), Miss SUSLA, faculty, and staff, who provided insight into academic programs, student leadership opportunities, and campus resources. Their engagement created an interactive experience that allowed prospective students to ask questions, explore career pathways, and connect directly with current members of the SUSLA community.

The campus visit concluded with the students attending a Lady Jags basketball game, providing an opportunity to experience the energy and the sense of community that defines the SUSLA student experience.

By welcoming students to campus and providing direct exposure to academic programs and student engagement opportunities, this initiative strengthens SUSLA's enrollment strategy, supports ongoing partnerships with youth-serving organizations, and encourages prospective students to envision themselves as future members of the SUSLA community.



# SUSLA Hosts 300+ Prospective Students for Immersive Campus Experience



# Roy Griggs School of Business Launches Spring Speaker Series

The Roy Griggs School of Business (RGSB) proudly inaugurated the Spring 2026 Speaker Series with Mr. John Atkins, a distinguished Partner at Atco Investment Company, LLC, as the featured guest speaker. This event aimed to provide RGSB students with valuable insights to the intricacies of the business world.

During the engaging session, Mr. Atkins shared profound examples of what motivates him at his core, emphasizing the pivotal role of goal-setting in achieving success. He encouraged students to write down both short-term and long-term goals, underscoring the importance of keeping these objectives in a safe place and reviewing them periodically to maintain focus and direction in their pursuits.

Additionally, Mr. Atkins discussed his personal journey into the business realm, detailing the challenges and triumphs that shaped his career. He highlighted the relevance of "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" and how these principles can serve as a practical guide for anyone seeking success in the competitive business landscape.

The RGSB community is deeply grateful to Mr. Atkins for his invaluable knowledge and perspective. His contributions significantly advanced our mission to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of business practices in today's marketplace. We look forward to hosting more speakers in the future who will continue to inspire and educate our students on their paths to success.



# Congressman Cleo Fields

## “Congress to the Classroom”



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) recently had the distinct honor of hosting Congressman Cleo Fields as part of his “Congress to the Classroom” initiative. Congressman Fields, who represents Louisiana’s 6th Congressional District, is visiting 52 schools across the district over 52 weeks to create meaningful opportunities for students to engage directly with their elected representative and gain firsthand insight into the democratic process. The program brought together SUSLA students and invited local high school students for an enriching and interactive learning experience focused on government, public policy, and civic responsibility.

A renowned advocate for education and youth empowerment, Congressman Fields shared his personal journey into public service, reflecting on the challenges he encountered and the pivotal moments that shaped his leadership path. He emphasized perseverance, discipline, and vision as essential qualities for success and encouraged students to “think big and fight hard to reach your dreams.”

A dynamic question-and-answer session allowed students to engage in substantive dialogue regarding governmental operations, civic engagement, and the impact of policy decisions at the local, state, and national levels. The exchange reinforced the critical role institutions of higher education play in preparing students to become informed citizens and future leaders who contribute meaningfully to their communities.

To commemorate the occasion, each participating student received a Congressional Certificate of Recognition to mark the significance of the visit and the civic engagement fostered through the program. Chancellor Aubra J. Gantt expressed sincere appreciation for Congressman Fields’ commitment to education and youth empowerment, noting that opportunities such as this directly advance the University’s mission to cultivate leadership, scholarship, and community impact. She emphasized that connecting students with public officials strengthens their understanding of civic responsibility and inspires purposeful engagement beyond the classroom.

The “Congress to the Classroom” tour reflects SUSLA’s ongoing dedication to expanding experiential learning opportunities, strengthening civic awareness, and fostering impactful partnerships that prepare students to lead and serve at the local, state, and national levels. Through initiatives such as this, the University continues to shape informed, empowered citizens equipped to make a lasting difference.



# Celebrating Resilience: SUSLA's Annual Black History Convocation

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) recently held its annual Black History Convocation, a dynamic celebration of heritage, resilience, and future leadership. Organized by the SUSLA Student Government Association (SGA) and the Lyceum Committee, this significant event convened students, faculty, staff, and community members for an afternoon dedicated to honoring the contributions and achievements of the African American community.

The convocation featured a compelling keynote address by Chairwoman Tabatha Taylor, District A Representative of the Shreveport City Council. Chairwoman Taylor engaged the audience with her insightful reflections on the enduring strength and vital contributions of African Americans, emphasizing the importance of civic engagement and proactive leadership. Her inspiring message served as a call to action, encouraging attendees to actively participate in shaping a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

Adding a profound artistic dimension to the ceremony, the Woodlawn Leadership Academy Choir delivered an exceptional performance that resonated with the spirit of Black History Month. Under the skilled direction of Mr. Zachary Burton and accompanied on the keyboard by Mr. Kionte Mims, the choir's moving repertoire elicited a standing ovation, underscoring the powerful connection between artistic expression and historical narrative.

This annual convocation serves as a cornerstone of SUSLA's Black History Month celebrations and reflects the institution's unwavering commitment to promoting a comprehensive understanding of African American history and its profound impact on society. The collaborative efforts of the SGA and the Lyceum Committee highlight SUSLA's dedication to fostering student-led initiatives and enriching cultural programming.

Overall, the event successfully intertwined historical reflection with contemporary leadership and artistic excellence, leaving attendees inspired and reaffirming their collective journey toward a more equitable and informed future.

# Celebrating Resilience: SUSLA's Annual Black History Convocation



# SUSLA Jaguars Crowned 2025-2026 LCCAC Conference Champions



Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) is proud to announce that its men's basketball team has emphatically claimed the 2025-2026 Louisiana Community College Athletic Conference (LCCAC) Championship title. This momentous victory culminates a season of exceptional performance, unwavering dedication, and outstanding teamwork.

The Jaguars' dominant run through the LCCAC season showcased their athletic prowess and commitment to excellence, culminating in a well-deserved conference championship. The team's hard work, strategic execution, and resilience were evident throughout their campaign, embodying the spirit of competition and sportsmanship. "This championship is a direct reflection of the tireless effort, discipline, and unity our student-athletes demonstrated every single day," stated Coach Rodney Broughton Jr. "Their commitment to each other and to the program's vision has been truly inspiring. We are incredibly proud of what they have accomplished on the court and how they represent SUSLA."

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Southern University at Shreveport Chancellor, extended her heartfelt congratulations to the team and coaching staff. "This is a truly significant achievement for our athletic program and the entire university community," said Dr. Gantt. "Our Jaguars exemplify the spirit of excellence that defines SUSLA, balancing their academic pursuits with exceptional athletic performance. Their success elevates our institution and inspires us all."

The LCCAC championship now positions the SUSLA Jaguars for further post-season competition, as they prepare to represent the university at higher levels of regional play.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND  
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**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**

MS. TRALICIA ALLEN, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

MR. ZUMMIE LAW, III, GRAPHIC SERVICES

MS. PATRICIA FLANAGAN, EDITOR

MS. STEPHANIE GRAHAM, DIRECTOR OF GRANTS AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

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**20**  
REIMAGINE  
**SUSLA**

**ALUMNI**



**GIVE TODAY**



**APPLY NOW**

