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**SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY**

at Shreveport

**CHANCELLOR'S  
REPORT**



3050 Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Drive  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71107



# SUSLA 7 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

Greetings,

This month's Chancellor's report reflects a true "Season of Thanks and Giving."

First and foremost, I express my sincere gratitude to our students, faculty, and staff. Thank you all for an impressive 2024 and your unwavering dedication to creating bright futures for our students and the communities we serve.

Our active commitment to "stewardship of place" distinguishes us as a truly local university, committed to serving.

In November and December, we engaged in various activities that demonstrated this commitment, including a successful holiday food drive and the development of innovative new opportunities for recruitment and retention, further enhancing the diversity of our student body.

Our season of giving was profoundly impacted by the generosity of our donors and stakeholders. Their collective gifts exceeded \$100,000 in this last quarter, and these contributions will directly impact the success of our current and future students. These funds will provide the necessary resources to create optimal learning environments where our students, faculty, and staff can thrive.

As we move into the new year, let us carry this spirit of giving and collaboration forward. I am confident that together, we will achieve great things in 2025.

*Dr. A. J. Gantt*

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt  
Chancellor



# SUSLA SPREADS KINDNESS WITH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) recognizes the importance of giving back to the community that supports it. This year, for World Kindness Day, SUSLA aimed to make a difference by kicking off their participation in the annual KSLA Food Drive. SUSLA's faculty, staff, and students came together to collect non-perishable food items to support local families in need. Participating in this year's KSLA food drive is a tangible way to show appreciation and support for the local community.

The food drive, which ran from November 13th to 22nd, received an outpouring of support from the SUSLA community. Collection bins were located on the main campus and the Metro Location, making it easy for faculty, staff, and students to contribute. The main campus received donations throughout the day from the community as well as students from the Allied Health and Nursing Programs, SGA, and the SUSLA Soundwave Band.

"I am incredibly proud of the SUSLA community for their generous support of the Holiday Food Drive," said Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, SUSLA Chancellor. "This initiative demonstrates the compassionate spirit of our students, faculty, and staff, and their commitment to making a positive impact on our community."

The "World Kindness Day" campus initiative, directed by Roshundra Davis, Director of Marketing and University Relations, addresses SUSLA's commitment to community service beyond this annual food drive. Ro Davis stated, "Our university aims to continuously engage in various outreach programs that benefit our local communities. These efforts demonstrate SUSLA's dedication to being a good neighbor and a valuable asset to the Shreveport-Bossier City region."

The collected food items will be donated to the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana to help provide meals for those in need during the holiday season. This initiative not only addresses food insecurity in the community but also fosters a sense of civic responsibility among SUSLA students, faculty, and staff.



Students from the Radiology Program line up at the main campus to make their donations together, bringing in over 200 cans and non-perishable items.



Faculty and Staff join together to drop off donations from each department.



### SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT SHOWS APPRECIATION TO GREEN OAKS PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY AND PROMOTES SUSLA'S ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) recently expressed its gratitude to the dedicated educators at Green Oaks Performing Arts Academy with a well-deserved pre-holiday lunch. The hard work and commitment of educators within our community are truly inspiring.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, SUSLA Chancellor, along with students and members of the administration team, served lunch to Principal Steven C. Grant and the entire faculty and staff at Green Oaks High School. This gesture of appreciation was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the SUSLA Advancement Department and generous sponsorships from Washington's and Smith's Paradise Funeral Home, The Smoking Oyster Restaurant and Catering, and Orlandeaux's Cafe. Their dedication to supporting SUSLA and the community is deeply appreciated.

Cheryl Taylor, Director of Advancement at SUSLA, highlighted the significance of this event, stating, "This initiative aims to foster stronger relationships with educators in our community and provide greater access to quality educational opportunities for students residing within the MLK Community."

In conjunction with this event, the SUSLA Welcome Center Team visited the Green Oaks High School campus to engage with students, promote dual enrollment opportunities, and assist them in the college application process. Dual enrollment offers numerous benefits, including the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school, significant cost savings on tuition, and a competitive advantage in the college admissions process. This initiative underscores SUSLA's commitment to providing accessible and affordable higher education opportunities for students within the Shreveport-Bossier City area.



*Growing Giants into Jags!*



## THE BAYOU CLASSIC: MORE THAN JUST A GAME A PLATFORM FOR NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

The Bayou Classic, the legendary showdown between Southern University and Grambling State University, is a celebration of tradition, unity, and opportunity. This year, the SUSLA Small Business Development Center (SBDC) proudly participated in the annual Business at the Bayou event, showcasing how this cultural and athletic highlight doubles as a vibrant space for business networking and collaboration.

Partnering with Southern University at Baton Rouge (SUBR), SUSLA SBDC shared valuable resources and services to empower entrepreneurs and small business owners. Attendees received information on business development, growth strategies, and access to professional guidance, aligning with the event's mission to foster economic development within the community.

"This experience truly showcased the multifaceted impact of the Bayou Classic," said Amanda Flynn, Interim Director at SUSLA SBDC. "We connected with current and potential clients, providing them with the tools and knowledge to achieve their business goals. The event reinforced the significance of collaboration in driving growth and opportunity."

In addition to participating in Business at the Bayou, the SUSLA SBDC engaged with attendees during game day festivities, extending the conversation about entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. The weekend exemplified how the Bayou Classic transcends sports, serving as a dynamic platform for community engagement, professional growth, and meaningful connections.

The SUSLA SBDC looks forward to continuing its mission of supporting local businesses and fostering economic success through collaborative efforts like those experienced at the Bayou Classic.



## BAYOU CLASSIC WEEKEND: CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE BEYOND THE GRIDIRON

Bayou Classic weekend is more than just a thrilling football rivalry; it's a time to celebrate those who go "above and beyond" for our Southern Universities. Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) seized this opportunity to recognize outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the institution. During the SU Board of Supervisors meeting, SUSLA received two significant donations. Attorney Jacqueline Scott presented a generous check for \$50,000 in honor of her brother. This contribution will directly support scholarship programs, providing much-needed financial assistance to deserving SUSLA students.

Mr. Roy Griggs made a substantial donation of \$70,000. Mr. and Mrs. Griggs have been long-time supporters of SUSLA, offering both financial assistance and invaluable mentorship to students. In recognition of his contributions, "Roy Griggs Day" was celebrated on campus on October 1st. This latest donation will specifically benefit students pursuing degrees in business.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, SUSLA Chancellor, expressed her

her gratitude for these generous contributions, stating, "Donations of this magnitude truly impact the success of the institution and its students, providing opportunities for expansions in academic and athletic programs, upgrades to infrastructure, and providing state-of-the-art campus amenities."

During the Board Meeting, Dr. Gantt presented the 2024 Above and Beyond Award to Charles Washington and the Grounds Department (accepted by John Lewis on their behalf). Marlon Davenport, SUSLA SGA President, and the Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP) Vice Chair, was presented with the 2024 Above and Beyond Student Award for his outstanding leadership and contributions to the student body. These awards recognize individuals who consistently demonstrate exceptional dedication to the Southern University System and a personal commitment to SUSLA's success.



Attorney Jacqueline Scott and Mr. Roy Griggs celebrate their generous donations.



Attorney Scott and her sister, Mary Ann Scott, presented their generous donation to honor their late brother, Milton Scott.



Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor with SUSLA SGA President Marlon Davenport, Computer Science Major, accepting the 2024 Above and Beyond Student Award.



# Holiday SOCIAL

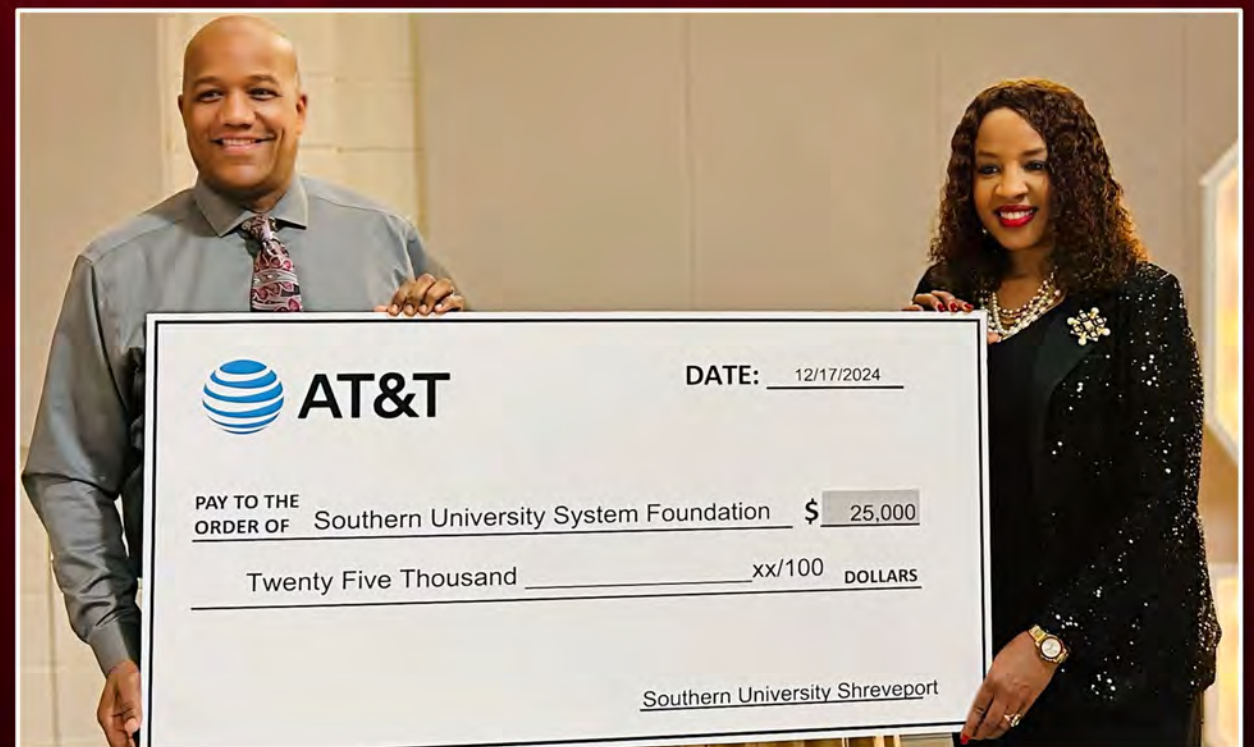
SUSLA's Holiday Social, sponsored by the Chancellor, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, is a special event where faculty and staff come together to enjoy delicious food, music, and camaraderie. This year's Holiday Social was a resounding success, thanks to the incredible efforts of the 2024 Holiday Social Committee. Their dedication and hard work created a truly festive and memorable event for faculty and staff. From the elegant decorations to the delectable spread of holiday treats, every detail was thoughtfully considered. The event is also an opportunity for administration to express their appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff, and the success of our students. Dr. Gant expressed these sentiments during her address as well as acknowledged the growth of the university and shared future plans for 2025.

Adding to the evening's festivities, President of AT&T Louisiana and Mississippi and long-time SUSLA supporter, David Aubrey, announced a significant investment in the university. A generous contribution of \$25,000 was presented to Dr. Gantt, to provide crucial financial aid to students pursuing degrees in Business, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (BSTEM) fields.

Generous support from donors like AT&T will undoubtedly play a vital role in shaping the future of Louisiana by fostering innovation and supporting the next generation of BSTEM professionals. This donation empowers SUSLA students to stay on track toward graduation and career success, ensuring that economic challenges do not prevent talented students from achieving their academic and professional goals.



Chancellor Gantt extended her gratitude to the committee for their tireless efforts in bringing the SUSLA Faculty and Staff community together at this year's social to celebrate the holidays and acknowledge the hard work of the past year.







# SUSLA SALUTES VETERANS AT SPECIAL PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) paid tribute to veterans on Monday, November 11th, with a special Veterans Day program held in the Alphonse Jackson Building. The event, a collaborative effort by Student Support Services, Academic Affairs, and Workforce Development, celebrated the service and sacrifices of local veterans, as well as SUSLA's veteran faculty, staff, and students.

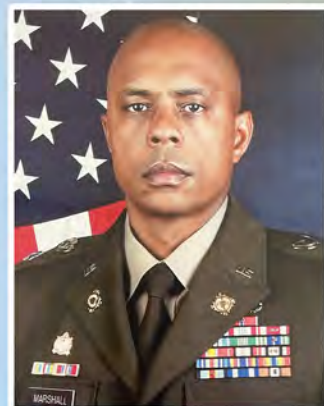
The Green Oaks Performing Arts Academy's ROTC Color Guard presented the colors, adding a sense of honor and tradition to the proceedings.

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Colonel David Marshall Jr., a distinguished graduate of Southern University Baton Rouge (SUBR), delivered the keynote address. His speech, titled "Veterans: Cut from a Different Cloth," highlighted the exceptional qualities that veterans possess: dedication, commitment, and leadership. He emphasized that these traits, cultivated through military service, are invaluable assets both within the military and in civilian communities.

On November 12th, students participated in a special event to give back to our local veteran community. Led by Dr. Rhonda Preston, Residential Life and Judicial Affairs Coordinator, a group of SUSLA students traveled to Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery to assist with grounds maintenance and respectfully retrieve flags from the graves of the brave men and women who served our country.

Dr. Preston emphasized the importance of this service, stating, "At SUSLA, we not only offer a variety of resources and services to assist veterans in their transition to civilian life and academic success, but we also demonstrate our respect for our veteran community by providing students with opportunities to participate in events that honor their service."

A diverse group of community partners, students, faculty, and staff attended each program, demonstrating SUSLA's strong commitment to supporting veterans and providing students with access to information about educational support and career opportunities within the United States Armed Forces.



## Priority 2

### HOLIDAY CHILDREN'S ART SHOW MAKES SUMAS MERRY & BRIGHT

This holiday season, the Southern University Museum of Art at Shreveport (SUMAS), located at the SUSLA Metro Campus, was transformed into a merry and bright holiday setting. The feature exhibit showcased the holiday spirit through a child's eyes. From ornaments crafted from natural materials like corn, pine cones, and magnolia seeds to trees adorned with decorations celebrating Louisiana products, history, and Jaguar Pride, the museum reflected the diverse cultures within our community. Beautiful children's holiday artwork adorned the exhibit walls, while festive holiday music created a joyful and engaging atmosphere for learning. A special nook featured the artwork of the children and grandchildren of SUSLA employees.

Under the guidance of Museum Coordinator Eric Francis and Priscilla Metoyer, local students actively participated in hands-on instruction, contributing their unique creations to this year's production. Each section of the exhibit was meticulously designed to provide state-of-the-art resources while adhering to all national, state, and regional safety and educational guidelines for children.

During the exhibits grand opening, Dr. Gantt greeted faculty, staff, students, and community partners and engaged with them throughout the exhibit. During the event Dr. Gantt extended a special thank, you to Mr. Francis and Ms. Metoyer for their dedication to this event.

SUSLA Practicum Students and Multicultural Center Staff collaborated to create a "World Tour" literacy exhibit. This interactive experience honored holiday customs from our local area, fostering reading and comprehension skills within a fun and developmentally appropriate setting.

Through this collaborative program, SUMAS and the Department of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences & Education (AHSSE) successfully educated the community about the vital role of the arts in early childhood education.



# NORMA J. BLAKE SCHOLARSHIP 2024

The Norma J. Blake Scholarship was established in 2023 to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Norma J. Blake. The scholarship was announced at the 21st Annual Gentlemen's Cooking Classic with a \$25,000 check presentation, made possible by the generous support of Mr. Frank Williams Jr. and the Southern University Shreveport Foundation.

This scholarship aims to provide financial assistance to second-year clinical students pursuing degrees in Allied Health and Nursing programs at Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA). Mrs. Monica Mickle, daughter of Mrs. Norma J. Blake, shared that her mother deeply respected these fields of study. While Mrs. Blake herself aspired to become a nurse, she prioritized supporting her husband, Dr. Harry Blake, who was a prominent figure in the Civil Rights Movement.

Mrs. Blake was a dedicated advocate for social justice, racial equality, and equitable access to education. She was a devoted wife, mother, and First Lady of Mt. Canaan Baptist Church for 52 years.

Each semester, a committee carefully reviews applications and selects a deserving second-year clinical student. The scholarship award is \$1,000, generously funded by the Blake Family and the Southern University Shreveport Foundation. During the presentation Dr. Gantt expressed her sincere gratitude to Ms. Monica Mickles and Mr. Williams. Ms. Mickles expressed her appreciation to Dr. Gantt for allowing her to present the scholarship and expressed her excitement for the advancement of Southern University at Shreveport.

This year, the committee is delighted to award the scholarship to Ms. N'Shayla Clay. N'Shayla is a high-achieving clinical student in the Surgical Technology Program at SUSLA, maintaining a 3.5 GPA. She is also a proud member of the Chancellors E.L.I.T.E.S, a new mentoring program at Southern University at Shreveport established by SUSLA's first female Chancellor, Dr. Aubra J. Gantt.

This scholarship is a lasting tribute to Mrs. Blake's commitment to education and her unwavering desire to support future generations of healthcare professionals.



# SUSLA SUNDAY BRINGS HIGHER EDUCATION TO THE COMMUNITY

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) is taking its commitment to community engagement to new heights with "SUSLA Sunday," a unique initiative spearheaded by Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, Chancellor. This innovative program aims to bridge the gap between the university and the local faith-based community, offering a convenient and accessible platform for individuals to explore educational opportunities.

SUSLA Sunday events are hosted by various churches within the Shreveport-Bossier community, providing a welcoming and familiar environment for potential students and their families. Recent events included successful gatherings at Morning Star Baptist Church and Mount Canaan Baptist Church.

At each event, attendees could inquire about academic programs, ask questions concerning financial aid options, wellness, and learn more about becoming a SUSLA student from SUSLA recruiters, current students, faculty, and staff who were available before and after services.

Dr. Gantt envisions SUSLA Sunday as a dynamic and engaging way to "Reimagine SUSLA!" within the heart of the community. By bringing higher education directly to the doorsteps of potential students and their families, SUSLA aims to foster stronger ties with the community and empower individuals to achieve their educational aspirations.



Thank you, Pastor Greg Oliver and the Mount Canaan Baptist Church Family.

Thank you, Pastor Theron Jackson and the Morning Star Baptist Church Family.



# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK & INTERNATIONAL FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) recently celebrated International Education Week (IEW) with a vibrant International Food Truck Day on Tuesday, November 19, 2025. The event took place on the main campus, offering a culinary journey around the globe.

The food truck festival, developed to encourage international students to engage in activities on campus and promote conversation between cultures and communities, featured . Attendees indulged in a diverse array of international cuisines, including Mexican, Cajun, and Caribbean delicacies. Food trucks were stationed on campus, providing a unique opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to savor flavors from different cultures.

Dr. Aubra J. Gantt, SUSLA Chancellor, expressed, "Events like the International Food Truck festival encourage learning opportunities between students, faculty, and staff and demonstrate our understanding of diversity and inclusion on SUSLA's campus."

Calvin B. Lester, Jr., Director of Multicultural and International Affairs, expressed enthusiasm about the event, stating, "We were excited to celebrate International Education Week by bringing together flavors from around the world. It was a chance to highlight the significance of international education and foster community connections through shared cultural experiences."

Beyond the delicious food, the event offered opportunities to learn about SUSLA's international programs, scholarships for international students, and ways to support international education initiatives.

SUSLA's celebration of International Education Week was a resounding success, showcasing the university's commitment to fostering global understanding and cultural exchange.



# SUSLA RECIEVES A WARM WELCOME AT THE LOUISIANA STATE FAIR

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) was thrilled to participate in Latino Day at the Louisiana State Fair! The event provided a fantastic opportunity for our Recruitment Team and the reimagined Welcome Center to connect with the community, share information about our diverse academic programs, and answer questions about the exciting opportunities available at SUSLA.

The fairgrounds buzzed with energy as attendees enjoyed live music and the vibrant atmosphere. Amidst the festivities, the SUSLA team engaged with numerous community members, providing valuable insights into our academic offerings, financial aid options, and the unique benefits of a SUSLA education.

Thirandar Francis, Welcome Center Director, emphasized, "At SUSLA, we are dedicated to serving the Shreveport-Bossier community by providing an accessible and affordable education that prepares our students for success in the global workforce. Events like Latino Day at the Louisiana State Fair allow us to connect with potential students from all backgrounds and showcase the diverse opportunities available at our university."

Vita Riner, Executive Director of the Hispanic Heritage Association, warmly welcomed SUSLA to the event and encouraged fairgoers to visit the campus recruiters to learn more about their higher education goals.

This successful outreach initiative demonstrates SUSLA's commitment to serving the diverse needs of the community and fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students.





## SUSLA BASKETBALL SEASON IS POWERED BY SCHOOL SPIRIT

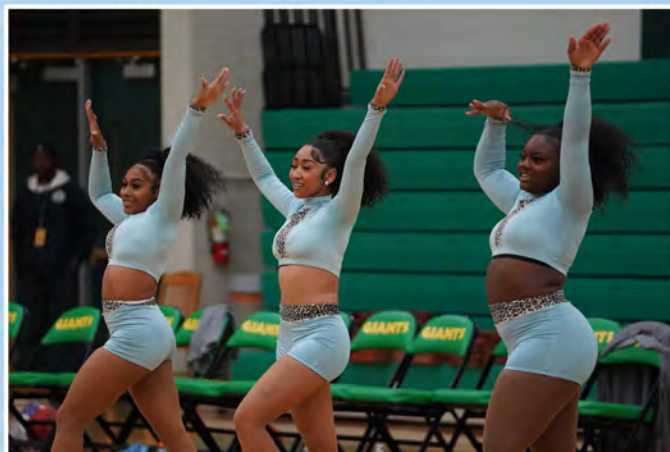
The Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) Jags basketball teams faced a tough challenge on December 9th as they hosted Hinds Community College in a doubleheader at the Green Oaks Performing Arts Academy Gym. Despite the spirited support of a packed crowd of students and fans, both the Lady Jags and the Men's team fell short in their respective matchups.

The Lady Jags battled hard but ultimately lost to Hinds 71-79. Coach Matt Hines, Lady Jags Head Coach, acknowledged the team's effort while emphasizing areas for improvement. "We fought hard tonight, and I'm proud of the energy and resilience we displayed," Coach Hines said. "However, we need to focus on tightening up our defense and improving our execution on offense. We will learn from this experience and come back stronger."

The Men's team also faced a tough opponent in Hinds, ultimately falling 89-77.

Adding to the excitement of the evening, the SUSLA Jazy Jags took to the court during halftime, captivating the crowd with their dynamic and energetic dance routine. The cheer team joined the Jazy Jags on the sidelines, further amplifying the festive atmosphere. The return of spirit groups to SUSLA's campus this fall has been met with excitement and curiosity. Both the cheer and dance teams' performances and personalities will surely attract potential new students excited to try out in the spring.

While the results may not have been in their favor, the doubleheader provided a valuable opportunity for both teams to gain experience and continue to develop their skills. The enthusiastic support from the student body and the community demonstrated the strong spirit of the SUSLA Jags and the unwavering support for their athletic endeavors.



## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT CELEBRATES PHI THETA KAPPA INDUCTION

On November 12, 2024, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) hosted its Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony, a significant event for the Beta Beta Nu Chapter. The ceremony welcomed 25 new members and their families, showcasing the chapter's commitment to academic excellence.

Distinguished guests included Dr. Aubra Gantt, Chancellor of SUSLA, and Dr. Sherlynn Hall, Vice Chancellor, who lent their support to the occasion. SGA President, Marlon Davenport, inspired the inductees with a message emphasizing the importance of leadership.

The SUSLA Beta Beta Nu Chapter, with a membership of 500 students, is dedicated to fostering a supportive environment for its members. This year, the chapter is actively engaged in a college project and mentorship programs for dual-enrollment students.

The chapter operates under the guidance of Interim AHSSE Dean Dr. Anjelica Hart and Mr. Sherman Houston, History Instructor. Dr. Hart emphasizes, "Joining student organizations is an invaluable part of the college experience. It allows students to connect with peers, explore their passions, develop essential skills like leadership and teamwork, and contribute positively to their community. These experiences go beyond the classroom and provide a well-rounded education that prepares students for success in all aspects of life."

Founded in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa is a renowned honor society with a presence on nearly 1,300 community college campuses across 11 nations.

